

Wiltshire Council

Environment Select Committee

8 November 2022

Climate Emergency Task Group Update

Purpose

1. To update the Environment Select Committee on the work of the Climate Emergency Task Group since September 2022.

Background

2. The Climate Emergency Task Group (CETG) is a task group reporting to the Environment Select Committee. The task group's initial terms of reference were endorsed by the Select Committee on 3 September 2019 and were revised on 9 November 2021.
3. The task group has produced two reports with recommendations:
 - Energy and Transport & Air quality (29 September 2020)
 - Planning (13 January 2021)
4. At its meeting on 14 June 2022 the Select Committee approved the continuation of the task group 2022/23.
5. The task group's last update to the Select Committee was on [20 September 2022](#).

Membership

6. The membership of the task group from July 2021 is as follows:

Cllr Clare Cape
Cllr Sarah Gibson
Cllr Tony Jackson
Cllr Jacqui Lay
Cllr Brian Mathew
Cllr Nick Murry
Cllr David Vigar
Cllr Ian Wallis
Cllr Graham Wright (Chairman)

Terms of Reference:

7. The task group's revised terms of reference were endorsed by the Environment Select Committee on the 9 November 2021. These are:
 - i. To help shape and influence the development of Wiltshire Council's programme (in all relevant areas) for meeting its objective of making Wiltshire Council carbon neutral and seeking to make the county of Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030 (excluding the geographical area administered by Swindon Borough Council).*
 - ii. To scrutinise the delivery of this objective through the Climate Strategy (2022-2027) and its delivery plans, as well as key plans, policies, and programmes, such as the Local Plan, Local Transport Plan and Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy. Including the way in which the Council is measuring progress and how it is performing and reporting against baselines.*
 - iii. To provide recommendations on other aspects of decarbonising the county including partnership working and community-led approaches as well as acting as a national role model.*

Recent Activity

Use of council land for environmental mitigation (16 September 2022)

8. The task group received a briefing from Mike Dawson Head of Estate & Development regarding a review of council land ownership. The task group was also joined by Lynn Trigwell, Head of Natural & Historic Environment. There is demand to use council land for environmental mitigation opportunities. The council is currently developing a framework looking at the options for developing such an approach.
9. Mitigation options being explored are:
 - Nitrogen and phosphate mitigation (including in water courses) as offset for new developments
 - Bio-diversity net gain – woodland, wetland, grassland, hedgerows, rivers
 - Green energy production – solar, wind, bio-mass
 - Nature based off setting – carbon off-setting, capture, sequestration
 - Air quality improvements – including tree planting
 - Stacking – deliver more than one of the above.
10. The task group raised a number of issues including renewable energy, tree planting (and replacing diseased trees) and woodland creation. The task group also considered enabling carbon friendly changes on council farms and development led net-gain.

Forward work plan

11. The task group met to discuss its forward work plan on 14 October 2022. The task group revised the plan to better align it with the task group's terms of reference which focuses on the delivery of the Climate Strategy and other strategies and programmes key to the climate agenda.
12. The new plan creates an effective focus for the task group and adds value to delivering the net zero programme.
13. The forward plan is attached at Appendix 1.

Proposals

1. **To note the update on the Task Group activity provided above.**
2. **To note the Task Group's draft forward work plan, see Appendix 1.**

Cllr Graham Wright, Chairman of the Climate Emergency Task Group

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APPENDIX 1

Climate Emergency Task Group – Forward Work Plan

25 Nov 2022	Climate Change Adaptation Plan To review the council's current plan, revised in 2016, to inform re-drafting 2023.
tbc 2023	Targeted support to fuel-poor households to improve energy efficiency (Warm & Safe Wiltshire) To understand programmes supporting households in the county.
tbc 2023	Bidding for retrofit funding To understand the scale of the issue and the potential delivery partnerships.
tbc 2023	Zero-carbon housing To understand how local authorities have addressed this in local planning.
28 April 2023	Update on council's response to climate emergency To receive the update report going to Cabinet (May 2023).
tbc 2023	Local Plan To understand the key elements of the plan addressing the climate emergency agenda and the overall relationship to Neighbourhood Plans.
Summer 2023	Local Transport Plan To understand the future strategy in particular active travel, electric vehicles charging.
Oct 2023	Update on council's response to climate emergency To receive the update report going to Cabinet (Oct 2023)
tbc	Update British Army Sustainability To update task group following briefing on 6 May 2022.
tbc	Natural England Funded Pilot Meeting to consider the pilot projects looking at rolling out local nature recovery planning, bio-diversity net gain and the environmental toolkit
tbc	Bio-gas To explore the potential for bio-gas as a replacement for natural gas and use in vehicles.