

Wiltshire Council

Environment Select Committee

4 January 2023

Climate Emergency Task Group Update

Purpose

1. To update the Environment Select Committee on the work of the Climate Emergency Task Group since November 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 [8 November 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

Wiltshire Council's Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan (25 November 2022)

8. The task group was asked by the council's Climate Team to review and comment upon the current Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan which was last revised in 2016. This was ahead of a re-drafting of the plan in early 2023.
9. The task group highlighted the following, that:
 - The existing plan be completely re-written.
 - The plan continues its risk based approach concentrating upon key risks.
 - Other risk management documents should be integrated and co-ordinated, to avoid overlaps or gaps, possibly by maintaining a central risk register.
 - Consideration be given to how the plan is developed with partners internally and externally.
 - It is clearer about what mechanisms that will be in place to support and include organisations and businesses in Wiltshire.
 - The plan be developed at pace as it will have an impact upon emerging policies and plans, like the Local Plan and the Local Transport Plan

Forward work plan

10. The forward plan is attached at Appendix 1.

Proposals

That the select committee:

- 1. Note the update on the Task Group activity provided above.**
- 2. 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

Feb 2023 (tbc)	Targeted support to fuel-poor households to improve energy efficiency (Warm & Safe Wiltshire) & Bidding for retrofit funding To understand programmes supporting households in the county.
April 2023 (tbc)	Climate Change Adaptation Plan To review the council's draft plan.
28 April 2023	Update on council's response to climate emergency To receive the update report going to Cabinet (May 2023).
tbc 2023	Zero-carbon housing To understand how local authorities have addressed this in local planning.
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.