

## **Wiltshire Council**

### **Environment Select Committee**

**20 March 2024**

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### **Climate Emergency Task Group**

#### **Background**

1. The Climate Emergency Task Group (CETG) is a standing 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.
2. The task group has produced two reports with recommendations:
  - Energy and Transport & Air quality (29 September 2020)
  - Planning (13 January 2021)
3. At its meeting on 6 June 2023 the Select Committee approved the continuation of the task group 2023/24.
4. The task group's last update to the Select Committee was on [11 January 2024](#).

#### **Membership**

5. The membership of the task group 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:**

6. The task group's revised terms of reference were endorsed by the Environment Select Committee on the 9 November 2021. These are:
  - a) 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).

- b) 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.
- c) 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**

### **Meeting with See Through Carbon (16 January 2024)**

10. The task group met with [See Through Carbon](#) on the 16 January 2024.
11. The task group heard about:
  - The importance of carbon auditing and the significance for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).
  - The benefits of carbon audits.
  - See Through Carbon's approach to carbon auditing and how it sees carbon audits developing in the future.
  - The six pilot programmes it is undertaking with different sectors i.e., SMEs, live music, industry, health services, local government and agriculture.

### **Update on the Climate Change Adaptation Plan (23 February 2024)**

10. On the 23 February 2024 the task group considered the council's emerging [Climate Change Adaptation Plan](#) which will supersede the Plan last amended in 2016.
11. The task group were updated about:
  - The project plan
  - Progress to date
  - Next steps
12. The task group considered definitions of climate adaptation and why developing a new plan was important i.e., increasing vulnerability to the effects of climate change. A new adaptation plan will be important in mitigating the risks identified in the council's strategic risk register.
13. The task group heard about how the plan will be developed and how it will be embedded into the work of the council.
14. The task group asked about engagement with the wider community, in particular farmers and town and parishes councils. Whether adaptation actions

might add to emissions and how the council is using current networks and tools to add value to the development of the plan.

## **Forward work plan**

12. The Climate Emergency Task Group forward plan is attached at Appendix 1.

## **Speed Limit Assessments Task Group**

### **Background**

13. At its meeting on 11 January 2024 the select committee resolved to set up a Task Group to look at the Speed Limit Assessments process.

14. The first meeting of the task group was on held 1 March 2024.

### **Membership**

Cllr Helen Belcher OBE  
Cllr Johnny Kidney  
Cllr Jonathon Seed (Chairman)  
Cllr Martin Smith  
Cllr Derek Walters  
Cllr Bridget Wayman

### **Terms of Reference**

15. Draft terms of reference were discussed and agreed at its first meeting (1 March). These are set out below:

- a) To support a review of the Speed Limit Assessment process.
- b) To review the current processes.
- c) To consider the following areas and to make recommendations on how:
  - Speed limit assessments can support a safe system approach i.e., safe vehicle, road use, speeds, roads, and post-crash response.
  - Speed limit assessments can help develop public confidence in road safety measures.
  - Relevant evidence and guidance are used during a speed limit assessment.
  - Local needs and conditions are examined during an assessment.
  - Community views and feedback, including those of relevant local services e.g., police, are considered and how these are weighted and seen to be taken into account with other relevant criteria.
  - Community impacts are considered.
  - Lessons can be applied from the current pilot programmes.
  - Final decisions are reported to local communities.

- d) To make recommendations to the Environment Select Committee by 4 June 2024.

## **Recent activity**

### **Scoping meeting (1 March 2024)**

16. The task group received a presentation from Cllr Caroline Thomas (Cabinet Member for Transport Street Scene & Flooding), Parvis Khansari (Corporate Director – Place); Sam Howell (Director – Highways & Transport) and Dave Thomas (Head of Highways Asset Management & Commissioning). This covered a number of areas, including:
- Background and context to speed limit assessments
  - The current process
  - Recent changes to the process
  - Issues arising from that process
17. The task group would like to better understand the assessment process, including what evidence is used, how it is interpreted and what guidance is provided. It would also like to explore how communities and interested parties are involved and informed of the process.
18. After its initial discussion the terms of reference were drafted, and a work programme will be developed.
19. The task group aims to help support a system that retains public confidence and that operates in a consistent and transparent manner.

## **Proposals**

### **That the select committee:**

- 1. Notes the update on the Task Group activity provided above.**
- 2. Notes the Climate Emergency Task Group's forward work plan in Appendix 1**
- 3. Appoints the membership of the Speed Limit Assessment Task Group as listed in the report.**
- 4. Approves the terms of reference of the Speed Limit Assessment Task Group.**

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**Cllr Graham Wright, Chairman Climate Emergency Task Group**

**Cllr Jonathon Seed, Chairman, Speed Limit Assessment Task Group**

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## APPENDIX 1

### Climate Emergency Task Group – Forward Work Plan

15 March 2024	<b>Air Quality Action Plan</b> Outcome of the consultation process.
Early 2024(tbc)	<b>Local Transport Plan</b> To understand the future strategy in particular active travel, electric vehicles charging.
Early 2024	<b>Local Nature Recovery Strategy</b> Each statutorily required local nature recovery strategy is specific and tailored to its area.
Early 2024	<b>Climate Change Adaptation Plan</b> To review the council's draft plan.
Spring 2024	<b>Tree &amp; Woodland Programme</b> Programme begins autumn 2023, with update on progress available spring 2024.
Summer 2024	<b>Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2 (HUGS2)</b> Update on the government funded programme for retrofitting.
Summer 2024	<b>Bio-diversity Net Gain</b> Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is a new planning policy with the potential to change the face of nature recovery in England.
October 2024	<b>Annual update on the Council's response to the Climate Emergency</b>
2025	<b>Carbon Offsetting Strategy</b> Update on the development of the strategy.
tbc	<b>Soft Plastic Recycling</b>
tbc	<b>Alternative fuels</b>
tbc	<b>Natural England Funded Pilot</b> Meeting to consider the pilot projects looking at rolling out local nature recovery planning, bio-diversity net gain and the environmental toolkit.

tbc	<b>Biogas</b> To explore the potential for biogas as a replacement for natural gas and use in vehicles.