

Wiltshire Council

Environment Select Committee

3 September 2019

Task Group and Programme Boards Representatives Updates

Purpose

To provide an update on recent task group and programme board activity and propose any decisions requiring Committee approval.

1. Homelessness Strategy Task Group

Membership:

Cllr David Halik

Cllr Deborah Halik

Cllr Gordon King

Cllr Pip Ridout

Cllr Tom Rounds

Cllr Graham Wright (Chairman)

Supporting Officer: Natalie Heritage

Terms of Reference:

1. To support the development of a Homelessness Strategy which aims to prevent and reduce homelessness in Wiltshire by considering:

- a) Partnership working arrangements - which can help to facilitate a holistic response to the causes of homelessness and the accessibility of advice and information around homelessness and housing options
- b) Projections of homelessness in the county
- c) The availability of suitable and appropriate accommodation
- d) Provision for the needs of vulnerable groups deemed as most at risk of homelessness
- e) The reasons why individuals become either at risk of or homeless

2. To meet every 8 weeks or on an ad-hoc basis as appropriate, until the conclusion of the Cabinet's work in in drafting a Homelessness Strategy September 2019.

Recent activity:

The Task Group met on 23 July and 5 August. July's meeting saw the Task Group discussing the Homeless Heath Needs Assessment with Public Health and Housing. This meeting provided the Task Group with the opportunity to triangulate the evidence that they had already researched during the course of their work.

August's meeting was used to discuss the draft final report with the Executive and Officers and to consider the responses to the Homelessness Strategy Consultation. The Task Group's final report is included with the papers for this meeting of the Environment Select Committee.

2. Global Warming and Climate Emergency Task Group

Membership:

Cllr Clare Cape
Cllr Tony Deane
Cllr Sarah Gibson
Cllr Jacqui Lay
Cllr Brian Mathew
Cllr Nick Murry
Cllr Fred Westmoreland
Cllr Graham Wright (Chairman)

Terms of Reference (**proposed**):

1. Develop recommendations and a plan seek to achieve the target of making the county of Wiltshire, excluding the area administered by Swindon Borough Council, net carbon neutral by 2030;
2. The task group's work will include, but not be limited to, performing investigations into the following areas:
 - a) Renewable Energy generation, energy use and efficiency
 - b) Planning
 - c) Transport & Air Quality
 - d) Waste
 - e) Land Use
 - f) Business & Industry
3. Undertake a carbon/renewables audit;
4. Agree parameters with the relevant Cabinet Member and Portfolio Holder that represent the council impact on the climate that can be accurately reported to council on a regular basis.

Recent activity:

Since the last Environment Select Committee meeting on 18 June 2019 the Global Warming and Climate Emergency Task Group has formally met twice on 20 June and 15 July. The members have also attended four external meetings.

The task group will be engaging with the following Cabinet and Portfolio Holder throughout their work: Cllr Richard Clewer, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services,

Heritage, Arts & Tourism, Housing and MCI; and Cllr Ashley O'Neill, Portfolio Holder for Climate Change.

On 20 June the task group received information from Tracy Carter, Wiltshire Council's Lead Officer for Carbon Reduction. It received an update on the council's ECO Board, which is now focusing on carbon reduction and mitigation. It also noted that there is a window of opportunity to recommend schemes for consideration in the 2020/21 council budget. The task group discussed its potential methodology, investigating the work of other local authorities and the creation of a press release to inform the public about what the council doing to address climate change.

The task group agreed its following six areas of enquiry agreed and its allocated lead members from the task group:

- Renewable energy generation, energy use and efficiency – Cllr Murry & Cllr Gibson
- Planning – Cllr Murry & Cllr Gibson
- Transport and air quality – Cllr Mathew & Cllr Lay
- Waste – Cllr Mathew & Cllr Lay
- Land Use – Cllr Deane
- Business and industry - TBC

At its following meeting on 15 July the task group discussed their six key areas of enquiry. A list of internal council officer leads aligned to each of the task group's areas of enquiry was provided for the task group and the relevant members of the task group will meet with these officers as part of their work. The task group developed and agreed its methodology, which includes baselining activities, scoping exercises and agreeing recommendations.

The task group has sent representatives to the following external meetings:

Meeting	Date
Wessex Community Energy Network Meeting	12 th July
Swindon and Wiltshire LEP European Regional Development Fund – Information Session	12 th July
NFU Mutual Climate Change and Agriculture in Wiltshire	12 th July
Climate Innovation Forum 2019	3 rd July

On 11 July some members of the task group met with members of the Extinction Rebellion Group. At this meeting they discussed the work of the task group, public engagement and the future work of the task group.

With support from the council's Communications team the task group's activity will now be covered in periodic council press releases. These will detail the activity of the

council to address climate change and becoming net carbon neutral by 2030, along with the progress made by the task group. The first of these is available through the following link: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/news/articles/council-pledge-to-be-carbon-neutral

The task group has now set up four meetings to meet with internal officers designated as climate change leads allocated to the following four areas of the task group's areas of enquiry:

- Renewable energy generation, energy use and efficiency
- Planning
- Transport and air quality
- Waste

The Chairman of the task group, Cllr Graham Wright, will be attending a meeting of the Chairman of Wiltshire Council's Area Boards to discuss the potential for Area Boards to include the topic of climate change on their agendas. This follows from the item received by Bradford-on-Avon Area Board on Climate Change.

Currently there are two formal meetings of the Task Group scheduled for 12 September and 7 October. The task group will update this committee on the outcomes from these meetings and the other work during this period at the next Environment Select Committee on 5 November. Progress with the council's overall work to address climate change will be reported to Cabinet and Full Council in the Autumn.

3. Late-Night Taxi Fares Task Group

Membership:

Cllr Derek Brown OBE
Cllr Brian Dalton
Cllr Matthew Dean
Cllr Peter Evans
Cllr Ian McLennan
Cllr Graham Payne (Chairman)

Terms of Reference:

In the context of the Salisbury recovery effort and reports of high late-night fares being charged in the Salisbury area,

1. To investigate whether the current schedule of late-night tariffs for Hackney carriages, as adopted by the Licensing Committee in 2014,
 - a) Is supportive of Wiltshire's night time economy (NTE)
 - b) Is comparable to, and competitive with, night time centres in adjoining counties
 - c) Provides a fair system across all parts of the county.
2. To make any evidenced recommendations for improvement as appropriate.

Recent activity:

An update on the Licensing Committee Working Group, who now have taken ownership of this task, can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Proposal:

- 1. To note the update on task group activity provided.**
 - 2. To endorse the proposed terms of reference of the Global Warming and Climate Emergency Task Group.**
 - 3. To note that as Cllr Allison Bucknell has taken up a position within the council's Executive, she is no longer a member of the Global Warming and Climate Emergency Task Group.**
-

Report authors:

Natalie Heritage, Senior Scrutiny Officer, T: 01225 718062 / E:

Natalie.Heritage@wiltshire.gov.uk

Adam Brown, Senior Scrutiny Officer, T: 01225 718038 / E:

Adam.Brown@wiltshire.gov.uk