

## **Wiltshire Council**

### **Environment Select Committee**

**23 April 2019**

---

### **Referral from Full Council and OS Management Committee: Notices of Motion on Climate Change, the Environment and Global Warming**

#### **Purpose**

1. To present two Notices of Motion passed by Full Council on 28 February 2019 that reference involvement from Overview and Scrutiny (OS).
2. To invite Environment Select Committee to establish a task group to undertake the work outlined, as requested by OS Management Committee on 26 March 2019.
3. To present information to support councillors' consideration of how the actions set out in the motions could be addressed, set out in Appendix 1.

#### **Background**

4. On 28 February 2019 Full Council debated and passed two Notices of Motion pertaining to Climate Change (in full at Appendices 2 and 3), both of which referred to involvement from OS.
5. A Notice of Motion titled, 'Acknowledging a Climate Emergency and Proposing a Way Forward' was proposed by Councillors Dr Brian Matthews and Gavin Grant (Appendix 2). Following debate, Full Council resolved to,
  - 1) "Acknowledge that there is a 'Climate Emergency'".
  - 2) Seek to make the County of Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030.
  - 3) Request and support the work of Overview and Scrutiny to set up a task group of the Environment Select Committee to develop recommendations and a plan to achieve this along with undertaking a carbon / renewables audit.
  - 4) Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible.
  - 5) Work with other local government authorities (both within the UK and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C.

- 6) Continue to work with partners in the private sector and civil society across the County and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans.
  - 7) Report to Full Council on a six-monthly basis with the actions the Council is taking and will take to address this emergency and reporting these against the Carbon / Renewables Baseline audit.”
6. A Notice of Motion titled, ‘Environment and Global Warming’, was proposed by Cllrs Philip Whitehead and Jerry Wickham (Appendix 3). Following debate, Full Council resolved the following:

“Wiltshire Council acknowledges the public concern in respect of the environment and global warming and proposes that Wiltshire Council implement the following this year:

To refer to the Leader to consider the establishment of a portfolio holder or cabinet member with responsibility for environmental issues with a remit to:

- 1) Agree parameters with Overview and Scrutiny that represent the council impact on the environment and can be accurately reported to council on a regular period, to potentially include
  - a) Carbon generation/use by the council.
  - b) Energy use year on year by the council.
  - c) Reports on the use of vehicles by the council in respect of their environmental impact.
  - d) Report on the use of the council’s car share system particularly in respect of methods to increase its use.
  - e) Monitor and report on air quality across the county to inform future decision
  - f) Monitor and report on any major development and technology used for the management of waste in Wiltshire to report on any local impact.
- 2) Investigate and report on the viability of purchasing our power from “Green Suppliers”
- 3) Investigate the adoption of building and planning recommendations to allow for electric charging points on new build property to facilitate future use of electric vehicles.
- 4) Investigate the potential adoption of renewable energy generation for Council property
- 5) Investigate the adoption of building and planning recommendations to allow for sustainable systems to be compulsory on new build property.
- 6) Investigate the commercial viability of installing electric car chargers across Wiltshire to encourage and enable the use of electric vehicles in Wiltshire.

- 7) To enhance the current air quality strategy and request that any air pollution responsibilities that are passed to Wiltshire Council are fully funded by central government.”
- 8) Instigate a Green Campaign to support and stimulate the generation of sustainable ideas across Wiltshire.

### **Main considerations**

7. The involvement **specifically requested of OS** was therefore as follows:
8. In passing the Notice of Motion proposed by Cllrs Matthews and Murry, Full Council,

*Requested and supported the work of Overview and Scrutiny to set up a task group of the Environment Select Committee to develop recommendations and a plan to achieve making the County of Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030 along with undertaking a carbon / renewables audit.*

9. In passing the Notice of Motion from Cllrs Whitehead and Wickham, Full Council asked the Leader to consider the establishment of a portfolio holder or cabinet member with responsibility for environmental issues with a remit to,

*Agree parameters with Overview and Scrutiny that represent the council impact on the environment and can be accurately reported to council on a regular period, to potentially include*

- a) *Carbon generation/use by the council.*
- b) *Energy use year on year by the council.*
- c) *Reports on the use of vehicles by the council in respect of their environmental impact.*
- d) *Report on the use of the council's car share system particularly in respect of methods to increase its use.*
- e) *Monitor and report on air quality across the county to inform future decision*
- f) *Monitor and report on any major development and technology used for the management of waste in Wiltshire to report on any local impact.*

10. Under Part 8 of the council's Constitution OS Management Committee is responsible for considering all referrals from Full Council and for coordinating the OS forward work programme. The relevant Notices of Motion were therefore considered by OS Management Committee on 26 March 2019 and, following debate, the Committee resolved as follows:

“As requested by Full Council, OS Management Committee to ask Environment Select Committee to,

- a) form a task group to develop recommendations and a plan to achieve making the county of Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030 along with undertaking a carbon / renewables audit; and

- b) agree parameters with the relevant Cabinet Member or Portfolio Holder that represent the council impact on the environment and can be accurately reported to council on a regular basis, to potentially include those measures suggested in the motion to Full Council.”

## **Proposal**

- 11. Committee to consider the background information set out in Appendix 1.
- 12. As requested by OS Management Committee, Committee to form a task group to
  - a) develop recommendations and a plan to achieve making the county of Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030
  - b) undertake a carbon / renewables audit
  - c) if appropriate, discuss parameters with the relevant Cabinet Member or Portfolio Holder that represent the council impact on the environment and can be accurately reported to council on a regular basis, to potentially include those measures suggested in the motion to Full Council.

---

Report author: Henry Powell, Scrutiny Lead, [henry.powell@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:henry.powell@wiltshire.gov.uk), 01225 718052

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1            Information on the council’s approach to addressing climate change
- Appendix 2            Notice of Motion: ‘Acknowledging a Climate Emergency and Proposing a Way Forward’
- Appendix 3            Notice of Motion: ‘Environment and Global Warming’