

**Wiltshire Council**

**Environment Select Committee**

**7 September 2021**

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## **Global Warming & Climate Emergency Task Group Update**

### **Purpose**

1. To update the Environment Select Committee on the work of the Global Warming & Climate Emergency Task Group since May 2021.

### **Background**

2. The Global Warming & Climate Emergency Task Group (GWCE) is a task group reporting to the Environment Select Committee. The task group's terms of reference were endorsed by the Select Committee on 3 September 2019.
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 15 June 2021 the Select Committee approved the continuation of the task group.

### **Membership**

5. 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)

6. Cllr Graham Wright was elected Chairman by the task group at its meeting on 23 July 2021.

### **Terms of Reference:**

- i. 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.
- ii. 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
- iii. Undertake a carbon/renewables audit;
- iv. 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**

**29 July 2021**

### **Draft Climate Strategy 2022-2027**

7. In September 2021 the council will begin a consultation on a climate strategy. The task group saw and was able to comment upon a draft version of the strategy.
8. The document is intended to be concise, clear, and accessible setting out the international and national background and policy context. Locally it provides the current position regarding carbon emissions.
9. The strategy has seven delivery themes:
  - Transport
  - Homes and built environment
  - Natural environment, food, and farming
  - Energy
  - Green economy
  - Waste
  - Carbon neutral council
10. Each of the themes have a set of objectives and areas of focus for the council and includes how the council will use its influence and work in partnership to affect change.
11. The task group suggested some changes in emphasis and language within the draft in order to strengthen its messages. The Chairman of the task group will

be taking part in the members briefing on the Climate & Natural Environment Plan Consultation (9 September 2021).

**5 August 2021**

### **Draft Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy**

12. The Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy is a high-level strategic document setting out the vision, goals and principles for Wiltshire. Broadly 'green' relates to vegetation and 'blue' to water, including rivers, canals, streams. The strategy is about how to support, preserve and restore green and blue infrastructure. There can be multiple benefits for people, places, and nature through protecting the environment for the future.
13. Strategy has three main goals (by 2036):
  - adaption and resilience to climate change;
  - halting loss of and improving biodiversity;
  - contributing to health and well-being.
14. In order to achieve these goals, there are five priorities:
  - creating more and better green spaces in our towns;
  - planting the right trees in the right places;
  - supporting walking and cycling;
  - encouraging environmentally sensitive farming;
  - supporting a green economic recovery.
15. Delivering of the vision is set out under six delivery themes:
  - flooding and water management;
  - sustainable farming and land management;
  - nature recovery and landscape management;
  - woodland and trees;
  - healthy living;
  - economic recovery and valuing natural capital.
16. The task group suggested that town and parish councils, a key partner, would benefit from a briefing about the strategy. It also suggested that the strategy have a title or strap line explaining the strategy in laymen's terms. It would also benefit from an explanation about how the strategy links to the developing Local Plan.

### **Proposals**

1. **To note the update on Global Warming & Climate Emergency Task Group activity provided.**
2. **To note that the following councillors have been appointed to the Global Warming & Climate Emergency Task Group:**
  - 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)**

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