

Wiltshire Council

Environment Select Committee

5 November 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. Global Warming and Climate Emergency Task Group

Membership:

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

Terms of Reference:

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 Environment Select Committee last met, the Task Group has undertaken the following meetings:

4 September 2019	Energy generation, energy use and efficiency Fact-finding meeting with officers to discuss the council's current and planned activity around energy generation and use. This topic was covered in detail in a report to Cabinet on 15 October 2019, which can be viewed here .
9 September 2019	Planning Fact-finding meeting with officers to discuss how council planning policies can influence development and transport choices in terms of their carbon footprint. It was agreed that members of the task group and the Executive will take part in carbon reduction workshops as part of the forthcoming review of the Local Plan, which guides decisions on whether or not planning applications can be granted (workshops scheduled for November).
11 September 2019	Waste Fact-finding meeting with officers to discuss the county's current waste management arrangements and opportunities for reductions in carbon emissions. The meeting covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improvements over the past decade to recycling rates.• Forthcoming recycling improvements e.g. more household plastics.• Likely changes to Central Government policy, driving more recyclability of packaging and more food recycling.• Emerging plastic recycling technologies. The Task Group subsequently received a presentation from the Portfolio Holder for Waste following his visit to a facility that chemically recycles waste plastics. The council will be monitoring progress with this technology.• The locality of recycling facilities and associated emissions from its transportation.• The length of the council's waste management contracts and the current/potential specifications.• Waste management is currently reported only in waste tonnage rather than carbon footprint.

16 September 2019	<p>Meeting with Area Board chairmen Task Group chairman's meeting with the chairmen of the county's 18 area boards to discuss local engagement on climate change. Around 9 area boards have either held or are planning meetings focused on climate change.</p>
7 October 2019	<p>Full Task Group meeting Considered the following reports to Cabinet on 8 October 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Council Carbon Reduction - Corporate Property Energy Efficiency and Generation Programme • Wiltshire Council Carbon Reduction - Update on actions to reduce carbon generation in Wiltshire <p>Received a presentation from the Portfolio Holder for Waste regarding new plastic recycling technologies.</p>
8 October 2019	<p>Air-quality and Transport Fact-finding meeting with officers to discuss the policies that shape Wiltshire's air-quality and transportation behaviours. It was agreed that the Task Group will contribute to the development of the council's new Local Transport Plan through a workshop to consider options in December/January.</p>
8 October 2019	<p>Energy efficient housing Fact-finding meeting with officers to discuss the council's influence over the carbon impacts of housing. It was agreed to hold a further meeting to consider the relevant work programmes for each area (below).</p>
22 October 2019	<p>Energy efficient housing Further meeting with officers and Executive members to discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance and improvement of existing council housing stock • Specification of new build council houses • Building specifications followed by the Stone Circle development company (wholly-owned council company) • Private sector housing renewal and affordable warmth programmes. <p>It was agreed to hold further meetings to discuss each area in detail, plus a meeting to discuss the idea of a wholly-owned Energy company.</p>

Forthcoming activity:

November/December	Evidence gathering Meeting to consider the outcomes of a public Climate Change Workshop event recently held in Trowbridge.
7 November	External event Member(s) attending 'Zero Carbon Future', a talk by Paul Allen, Project Coordinator for Zero Carbon Britain at the Centre for Alternative Technology
8 November	External event Member(s) attending a climate change councillor workshop, also delivered by Paul Allen from the Centre for Alternative Technology
8 November	External event Member(s) attending the Bristol Energy Network Conference – 'A just energy transition: responding to the climate emergency'
22 November	External event Members attending the Local Authority Climate Change Conference, Bristol
27 November	External event Member attending the National Climate Change Conference: Securing Our Future, London
November/December	Energy efficient housing Series of internal meetings to discuss the areas listed under 22 October above further.
December 2019	Planning Climate change councillor workshop on the Local Plan review.
December 2019	Transport Task Group members involved in workshops to develop the Local Transport Plan 4.
2 December 2019	Full Task Group Agenda

Proposal:

- i. **To endorse Cllr Tony Jackson replacing Cllr Allison Bucknell and becoming a member of the Global Warming and Climate Emergency Task Group**
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Report author:

Henry Powell, Senior Scrutiny Officer, T: 01225 718052 / E:
Henry.Powell@wiltshire.gov.uk