

**Wiltshire Council**

**Environment Select Committee**

**12 January 2022**

---

## **Climate Emergency Task Group Update**

### **Purpose**

1. To update the Environment Select Committee on the work of the Climate Emergency Task Group since November 2021.

### **Background**

2. The Climate Emergency Task Group (CETG) is a 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.
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.
5. The task group's last update to the Select Committee was on [9 November 2021](#).

### **Membership**

6. 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)

## Terms of Reference:

7. The task group's revised terms of reference were endorsed by the Environment Select Committee on the 9 November 2021. These are:
  - i. *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).*
  - ii. *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.*
  - iii. *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.*

## Implications and outcomes of COP26

8. On 22 November the task group considered the emerging outcomes and implications for Wiltshire of COP26 (UN Climate Change Conference) which took place in Glasgow 31 Oct-12 Nov 2021. This conference was a key moment to take stock of progress on tackling the climate emergency since the Paris Agreement of 2015. A number of task group members attended the conference.
9. The UK government had before COP26 published a number of key policies and strategies. These included:
  - Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener
  - Decarbonising Transport: A Better, Greener Britain
  - Heat & Building Strategy
  - Environment ActThese will have a key impact upon how the UK will tackle carbon emissions.
10. Globally there are now clear commitments to phase out fossil fuels which will impact on future investment decisions. However, at the conference many non-governmental delegates questioned the pace of action given the immediate impacts of climate change.
11. The task group agreed to convene a future meeting with external experts to further review and understand the implications of recent policy announcements.

## The draft Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2030

12. On the 10 December the task group received a presentation from Lynn Trigwell, Landscape & Design Manager and Paul Robertson, Landscape Officer regarding the draft Green & Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Strategy. This was an update following the public consultation (1 September to 17 October 2021) and outlined the consultation process, the feedback received and how the strategy would be revised following the consultation.
13. The task group discussed the number of responses received and how the consultation had been promoted through social media. They were also interested in further developing engagement with the National Farmers Union (NFU) and suggested the council work with cluster and monitor farms in the county. The need for quick wins through defined actions and more clarity on the funding of the strategy was also discussed.
14. The final draft Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy will go to Cabinet on 1 February for approval, before going to full Council for adoption.

### **The draft Climate Strategy 2022-2027**

15. On 15 December the task group had a presentation from Ariane Crampton, Head of Carbon Reduction regarding the final draft of the Climate Strategy. This covered the recent public consultation process (1 September to 17 October 2021), responses to the consultation and how the strategy had subsequently been amended.
16. Overall, there had been a positive response to the strategy through the consultation with a considerable number of responses from a broad cross-section of people from across the county. This has meant that the final draft has further updates, some clarifications and additional information.
17. The task group had itself responded to the consultation, see the update report from [9 November 2021](#) for further details.
18. The task group recognised the work that had gone into producing the final draft. The task group raised the issue of including interim targets tracking progress up to 2030. Work is on-going regarding developing a range of measures and targets. There was also a discussion about how to translate some of the objectives in the strategy into localised action, which is already progressing in some areas, and how to learn from the experience of others. It was noted that the consultation responses showed strong support for a number of the strategic objectives - notably around zero carbon housing – and therefore the potential for swifter targeted action.
19. The final draft Climate Strategy will go to Cabinet on 1 February for approval, before going to full Council for adoption.

### **Forward work plan**

20. The task group is currently scoping a number of areas it would like to revisit and look at in more depth. A forward plan will be included in the next update.

## Proposals

1. To note the update on the Task Group activity provided.

---

Report author: Simon Bennet, Senior Scrutiny Officer, T: 01225 718709,  
E: [simon.bennett@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:simon.bennett@wiltshire.gov.uk)