

General Scrutiny Committee – 20 January 2020

Title of review	Climate Emergency Review
<p>Scope</p> <p>To develop a cross party task and finish group to ensure that the skills, knowledge and ideas of elected members inform the future actions to deliver the Council's new carbon reduction commitments.</p> <p>The review will focus on the following issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and propose a checklist of criteria to inform: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A review of existing council strategies and plans, b. The development of new strategies and plans, c. Future decisions. 2. This checklist will help assess and increase the contribution of policies, strategies and decisions by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, directly and indirectly, and increasing resilience to climate change, b. Enhancing the ability of our environment to sequester carbon, slow down water flows, promote wellbeing and support biodiversity. 3. Review the networks of major partners, their emissions and their engagement, plans and strategies to recommend how best to develop a joint countywide strategy to meet net zero carbon by 2030. 	
<p>Reason for review</p>	<p>The review will support policy development by providing the task and finish group's findings and recommendations to the cabinet member for Environment, Economy and Skills (Cllr Trish Marsh) and the Energy & Active Travel team.</p>
<p>Links to the corporate plan</p>	<p>The review will contribute to the design and delivery of the Council's new climate change commitments, as set out in the 'Executive Response to the Climate Emergency' and links to the current and future objectives contained within the 2016-2020 and emerging new corporate plan, as detailed below:</p> <p>Executive response to the Climate Emergency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The executive commits to an accelerated reduction of the council's own carbon emissions and the aspiration to become carbon neutral by 2030/31. • The council will work with strategic partners, residents and local organisations to develop a revised countywide CO2 reduction strategy aspiring for carbon neutrality by 2030. <p>Corporate plan 2016-2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in the Council's energy consumption and carbon footprint. <p>Emerging corporate plan:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to tackling the climate emergency by investing in low carbon projects to further reduce our carbon footprint and reduce running costs.
Summary of the review and terms of reference	<p>Summary:</p> <p>On 8 March 2019, Herefordshire Council declared a climate emergency following unanimous support for a climate emergency resolution at full council. On 12 July 2019, Herefordshire Council passed a subsequent zero carbon citizen's assembly resolution.</p> <p>On 26 September, Cabinet approved the executive's response to these resolutions, setting out a number of actions and policy commitments including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An accelerated reduction of the council's own carbon emissions and the aspiration to become carbon neutral by 2030/31. The executive approves the policy approach of using 100% renewable energy sources where there is a business case that demonstrates that the investment provides the best carbon reduction return on investment. The council will work with strategic partners, residents and local organisations to develop a revised countywide CO2 reduction strategy, aspiring for carbon neutrality by 2030. A further report will be brought forward by April 2020, exploring different engagement options including a citizen's assembly, citizen's jury, citizen's panel, youth panel and a public summit and will explore the benefits and resource requirements of each. That general scrutiny committee is invited to consider building into their work programme and/or establishing a task and finish group to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the draft carbon management plan; Review partners' plans and strategies to recommend how best to develop a joint countywide strategy; Develop and propose a checklist of criteria for the development of new and review of existing council strategies to assess their suitability to deliver on carbon reduction. <p>Progress to date following the Climate Emergency Declaration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council has achieved a 43% reduction in its organisational carbon footprint, achieving the previous carbon reduction target two years earlier than projected. An updated Carbon Management Plan is currently in development. A new Herefordshire Carbon Reduction Working Group has been established with strategic partners to commence the development of a new countywide carbon reduction strategy. An options appraisal for community engagement models is currently underway. Planning Services are developing a 'Climate Change Measures Compliance Checklist' to support the implementation of existing climate change planning policies SS7 and SD1 within the Core Strategy.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of new carbon reduction initiatives have been developed and implemented including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A new grant scheme to support residents to install first time central heating systems; ○ The highly successful Beryl Bike scheme; ○ A new renewable energy grant scheme; ○ A new grant scheme to support residents to install first time central heating systems; ○ A programme of energy efficiency and solar PV installations across the council's estate. • As a result of these and other initiatives the current forecasts for the Council's carbon emissions in 2019/20 and 2020/21 are for a 50% and 60% reduction, respectively. <p>Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All council services and activities contribute towards the Council's and countywide carbon emissions. • All services will be impacted by the effects of climate change. • As such all future policies, strategies and decisions need to give due regard to the impacts of these and how they align to the delivery of the Council's climate change commitments. • It is essential that the development of a countywide carbon reduction strategy is undertaken in partnership with local partners, organisations and residents, building on the strong progress and partnership working to date. <p>The delivery of the Council's climate change commitments will be done undertaken across all services and will offer significant opportunities to reduce cost, improve efficiency and to enhance health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Terms of Reference:</p> <p>The review will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explore and understand the carbon emissions associated with the delivery of the Council's services and activities. 2. Understand the issues, opportunities and future challenges that climate change presents to the county. 3. Identify which council policies and strategies have the most significant impact on reducing the county emissions and increasing resilience. 4. Propose a checklist of criteria to inform future policy, strategy and decision making to ensure due consideration of the Council's carbon reduction commitments. 5. Provide findings and recommendations on the plans, strategies and engagement plans of major partners to support the development of the countywide carbon reduction strategy. <p>Membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC • Cross Party Members including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cllr William Wilding (Hereford Independents) ○ Cllr Jenny Hewitt (Hereford Independents) ○ Cllr Elissa Swinglehurst (Conservatives)
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cllr Toni Fagan (Green) ○ IOC nomination awaited
What will NOT be included	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of all existing council strategies and plans
Potential outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informed future decision making • Understanding of future challenges • Informed development of the countywide carbon reduction strategy • Greater member awareness • Cross party involvement
Key Questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can the Council reduce carbon emissions? 2. How can the Council improve climate resilience? 3. How can we engage partners and residents to reduce their carbon emissions? 4. How best can it contribute to wider council objectives on the environment, economy and people?
Cabinet Member(s)	Cabinet member for Environment, Economy and Skills
Key stakeholders / Consultees	<p>Internal – Director for Economy and Place</p> <p>External – Public (if consultation is wanted at this stage)</p>
Potential witnesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy & Active Travel Team (Staff) • Herefordshire Local Nature Partnership • BEIS (if possible) for view on future
Research Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the Council's carbon emissions • Understanding the countywide emissions • Understand the impact of future climate change on Council services • Review major partners' engagement, plans and strategies to recommend how best to develop a joint countywide strategy to meet net zero carbon by 2030 • Local Authority Benchmarking – to compare performance and learn from experience elsewhere
Potential Visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High performing authorities • Key strategic partners
Publicity Requirements	TBC

Outline Timetable:	
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Confirm approach, Terms of Reference, programme of consultation/research/provisional witnesses/meeting dates	January 2020
Review existing carbon emissions and opportunities to minimise future emissions	February 2020
Review future climatic risks, impact and opportunities to the council's service delivery	March 2020
Review major partners' engagement, plans and strategies	April 2020
Consider Options	May 2020
Develop checklist and proposals for the development and consideration of future policies, strategies and decisions	May 2020
Initial Report	June 2020

Further work and Actions as Required	July 2020 onward
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Members –	
Chair	
Support Members	
Co-optees	
Support Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy & Active Travel Manager, Ben Boswell • Principal Energy & Active Travel Officer, Geoff Perrott • Member Support Staff x 1