

Agenda

Cabinet

Date: **Thursday 28 April 2022**

Time: **2.30 pm**

Place: **The Conference Room, Herefordshire Council Offices,
Plough Lane, Hereford, HR4 0LE**

Notes: Please note the time, date and venue of the meeting.

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Agenda for the meeting of Cabinet

Membership

Chairperson Councillor David Hitchiner, Leader of the Council
Vice-Chairperson Councillor Liz Harvey, Deputy Leader of the Council

Councillor Ellie Chowns
Councillor Pauline Crockett
Councillor Gemma Davies
Councillor John Harrington
Councillor Diana Toynbee
Councillor Ange Tyler

Agenda

		Pages
1.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>To receive any apologies for absence.</p>	
2.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>To receive declarations of interests in respect of Schedule 1, Schedule 2 or Other Interests from members of the committee in respect of items on the agenda.</p>	
3.	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2022.</p>	11 - 22
<p>HOW TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS</p> <p><i>The deadline for submission of questions for this meeting is:</i></p> <p><i>9:30am on Monday 25 April 2022.</i></p> <p><i>Questions must be submitted to councillorservices@herefordshire.gov.uk. Questions sent to any other address may not be accepted.</i></p> <p><i>Accepted questions and the response to them will be published as a supplement to the agenda papers prior to the meeting. Further information and guidance is available at https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/getinvolved</i></p>		
4.	<p>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</p> <p>To receive questions from members of the public.</p>	
5.	<p>QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS</p> <p>To receive questions from councillors.</p>	
6.	<p>CITIZENS CLIMATE ASSEMBLY NEXT STEPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>To consider next steps and provide recommendations to Cabinet to allocate funding from the Climate Reserve with respect to the Citizens Climate Assembly recommendations.</p>	23 - 40

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- Inspect minutes of the Council and all committees and sub-committees and written statements of decisions taken by the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members for up to six years following a meeting.
- Inspect background papers used in the preparation of public reports for a period of up to four years from the date of the meeting. (A list of the background papers to a report is given at the end of each report). A background paper is a document on which the officer has relied in writing the report and which otherwise is not available to the public.
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- Have access to a list specifying those powers on which the Council have delegated decision making to their officers identifying the officers concerned by title. Information about councillors is available at www.herefordshire.gov.uk/councillors
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The location of the office and details of city bus services can be viewed at:

<http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/1597/hereford-city-bus-map-local-services->

Guide to Cabinet

The Executive or Cabinet of the Herefordshire Council consists of a Leader and Deputy Leader and six other Cabinet Members each with their own individual programme area responsibilities. The current Cabinet membership is:

Cllr David Hitchiner (Leader) (Independents for Herefordshire)	Corporate Strategy and Budget
Cllr Liz Harvey (Deputy Leader) (Independents for Herefordshire)	Finance, Corporate Services and Planning
Cllr Diana Toynbee (The Green Party)	Children's and Family Services, and Young People's Attainment
Cllr Gemma Davies (Independents for Herefordshire)	Commissioning, Procurement and assets
Cllr Ellie Chowns (The Green Party)	Environment and Economy
Cllr Pauline Crockett (Independents for Herefordshire)	Health and Adult Wellbeing
Cllr Ange Tyler (Independents for Herefordshire)	Housing, regulatory services, and community safety
Cllr John Harrington (Independents for Herefordshire)	Infrastructure and Transport

The Cabinet's roles are:

- To consider the overall management and direction of the Council. Directed by the Leader of the Council, it will work with senior managers to ensure the policies of Herefordshire are clear and carried through effectively;
- To propose to Council a strategic policy framework and individual strategic policies;
- To identify priorities and recommend them to Council;
- To propose to Council the Council's budget and levels of Council Tax;
- To give guidance in relation to: policy co-ordination; implementation of policy; management of the Council; senior employees in relation to day to day implementation issues;
- To receive reports from Cabinet Members on significant matters requiring consideration and proposals for new or amended policies and initiatives;
- To consider and determine policy issues within the policy framework covering more than one programme area and issues relating to the implementation of the outcomes of monitoring reviews.

Who attends cabinet meetings?

	Members of the cabinet, including the leader of the council and deputy leader – these are the decision makers, only members of the cabinet can vote on recommendations put to the meeting.
	Officers of the council – attend to present reports and give technical advice to cabinet members
	Chairpersons of scrutiny committees – attend to present the views of their committee if it has considered the item under discussion
	Political group leaders attend to present the views of their political group on the item under discussion. Other councillors may also attend as observers but are not entitled to take part in the discussion.

**The Seven Principles of Public Life
(Nolan Principles)**

1. Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

2. Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

3. Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

4. Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

5. Openness

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

6. Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

7. Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour and treat others with respect. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

Herefordshire Council

Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held at The Conference Room, Herefordshire Council Offices, Plough Lane, Hereford, HR4 0LE on Thursday 31 March 2022 at 2.30 pm

Cabinet Members Physically Present and voting:	Councillor David Hitchiner, Leader of the Council (Chairperson) Councillor Liz Harvey, Deputy Leader of the Council (Vice-Chairperson) Councillors Ellie Chowns and Diana Toynbee
Cabinet Members in remote attendance	Councillors Pauline Crockett, Gemma Davies and John Harrington <i>Cabinet members attending the meeting remotely, e.g. through video conferencing facilities, may not vote on any decisions taken.</i>

Cabinet support members in attendance Councillors John Hardwick, Peter Jinman and Kath Hey

Group leaders / representatives in attendance Councillors Terry James, Peter Jinman, Jonathan Lester, Bob Matthews and Toni Fagan

Scrutiny chairpersons in attendance Councillors Elissa Swinglehurst, Jonathan Lester and Phillip Howells

Officers in attendance: Chief Executive, Director of resources and assurance, Director of Public Health, Service Director - All Ages Commissioning, Corporate Director - Children & Young People, Corporate Director - Economy and Environment, Director of Governance and Legal Services, Corporate Services and Communications manager

96. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Ange Tyler, cabinet member housing, regulatory services and community safety.

97. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

98. MINUTES

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

99. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (Pages 7 - 12)

Questions received and responses given are attached as appendix 1 to the minutes.

100. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

There were no questions from councillors.

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The leader of the council announced that the order of items on the agenda would change. The item on Herefordshire Children's Services transformation would be taken first as this had greatest interest.

101. HEREFORDSHIRE CHILDREN'S SERVICES TRANSFORMATION

The cabinet member children and families introduced the item. She summarised the requested investment from the Financial Resilience Reserve, a total of £11.49m to support the ongoing delivery of the Children's Services Improvement Plan. This funding would be allocated in two tranches, with £5m in tranche one from April 2022 and a further £6.49m from July 2022, with detail on progress to be reported back to Cabinet. The cabinet member thanked councillors who had attended recent presentations for their comments and challenges and also thanked officers for their work in putting together the investment proposal.

The cabinet member summarised the previous investment made in children's services, the importance of ensuring the momentum was maintained and the key objectives of this additional investment proposal.

The corporate director for children and families spoke on the need for significant improvement, the progress that had been made over the past year in stabilising the service and understanding the challenges and the next stages in transforming the service. Improvements were starting to be seen in a number of areas but this needed to be maintained and embedded. It was expected that the transformation would take three years overall.

The corporate director then set out the key points of the proposals and explained the governance surrounding future decisions.

Cabinet members discussed the proposals and it was noted that:

- This represented a significant investment in children's services and showed the importance placed on addressing the issues that had been identified;
- It was important to address recruitment and retention;
- The scale of the investment was more than double what had originally been expected but this reflected the scale of the work required and was in keeping with the level of spend in other councils going through similar improvement journeys;
- Areas of deprivation in the county create huge social problems and it would not be just for children's services to address these, but would also involve public health, education providers and other services;
- All councillors had supported the implementation of the improvement strategy for children's services and it was hoped that they would understand the need for this investment and support it.

The chairperson of the children and young people scrutiny committee spoke on the report. The committee had not yet scrutinised the investment but the chair and vice chair had discussed the proposal and supported it in principle. He commented that it was realistic to say that a three year period was required to deliver sustained improvement and that increased capacity was needed to deliver the improvement plan. Good project management was critical to ensure that improvement and it was also important to keep councillors informed about progress.

Responding to points raised by the scrutiny chairperson, officers confirmed that the grant of £1.7m from the Department for Education had mostly been used to support increased improvement activity including scoping of some of the early help services. They also confirmed that progress would be reported back to Cabinet quarterly and that all councillors would receive updates bi-monthly. An independent assurance review and challenge system was also being set up.

Group leaders gave the views and queries from their groups. It was noted that:

- Investment in improvements to the service needed to be supported but value for money had to be demonstrated;
- It was important that the investment showed results and that there was accountability through the project management and assurance systems;
- It was a pity that the detailed proposal had not been available when the budget was scrutinised at the start of the year, briefings had been provided to all councillors as soon as possible once the proposal had been finalised;
- The financial resilience reserve would cover the requested investment and the S151 officer was comfortable that the council had sufficient other reserves;
- Benchmarking against other councils was important to understand what comparator councils were spending and how Herefordshire services compared;
- Early help services had to be part of the solution, a broad partnership approach would provide wider support;
- The council wanted to increase the number of permanent staff as while agency staff were good, the costs were significant;
- Recruitment of social workers remained difficult due to a lack of experienced social workers in the market, the council was looking at options including approaching retired staff and developing staff within the council;
- The reintroduction of service managers had already delivered significant improvement as a result of frequent and good quality supervision;
- Average caseloads were given as mean data and officers were examining how these figures could be presented better, the majority of teams were seeing reduced average caseloads and most good and outstanding councils typically had caseloads of 15 to 18 cases;
- There was support and gratitude for the social work teams and the difficult job they did.

It was resolved that:

- a) **The drawdown of up to £11.49m from the Financial Resilience Reserve, in two tranches as laid out above, is approved to support resourcing the transformation stage of children’s services; and**
- b) **Cabinet note the increased base budget requirement for 2023/24 onwards.**

102. DELIVERY PLAN 2022/23

The cabinet member finance, corporate services and planning introduced the report. She explained that the delivery plan sets out what had been achieved in the last 2 years, taking account of the pandemic and severe weather events, and the key objectives for the year ahead. It should be noted that the council’s routine business as usual continued alongside the projects set out in the delivery plan.

Cabinet members spoke to highlight key areas of progress and objectives for the year ahead in their portfolio areas. They thanked officers for their work over the period of the previous plan and for the comprehensive forward planning for the new delivery plan.

Group leaders gave their comments and questions on the report. It was noted that:

- Works to repair the Shirehall would take time due to the nature of the historic building, the council was working closely with the court service to make sure relationships were maintained during the period of closure;
- The delivery of superfast broadband to 93% of premises represented a number of years of investment;
- Having less than 1% of waste going to landfill was a huge achievement;

- Not all of the flats at Station Approach were currently occupied but this was for City Heart to manage and there had not been any request for payment of rents from the council;
- The report was well laid out and easy to digest;
- The achievements of the last 2 years had been shaped to a degree by events such as the pandemic, the council had reacted well to the challenges posed and would need to continue to be resilient.

It was resolved that:

a) Cabinet approves the Delivery Plan, as set out in appendix A.

103. COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY 2022-2025

The leader of the council introduced the report. He highlighted key points in relation to the strategy and accompanying protocols and principles and noted that:

- the previous strategy had expired in 2020 and it was appropriate to have a new start with the new delivery plan;
- the functions of the strategy were in line with the government guidelines to help residents and stakeholders feel informed and engage with them;
- the strategy linked to key objectives and messages in the county plan.

The head of communications explained that:

- the strategy was based on the principles of good strategic communication;
- it established a framework for proactive communications work with greater focus on campaign-led activity, stakeholder engagement and internal communications;
- the corporate narrative had been developed working with cabinet members, senior officers and a communications advisor from the local government association;
- feedback provided as part of the consultation on the strategy was attached to the report.

Cabinet members discussed the report and welcomed the continuation of the Herefordshire Now publication as it was important to still have something physical to distribute.

Group leaders generally welcomed the strategy and supported the continued provision of hard copy information for those without access to the internet. It was important to provide information to residents and stakeholders so they could engage with the council.

Some minor amendments to the wording of the strategy were suggested during the discussion. It was noted that the head of communications would make minor alterations and corrections to the documents as necessary, in consultation with the cabinet member, housing, regulatory services and community safety, before final versions were published.

With this caveat, it was resolved that:

a) The Communications Strategy is approved

b) The accompanying Communications Protocols and Principles are approved.

104. MARKET TOWN INVESTMENT PLANS (MTIP'S) - TO APPROVE THE INVESTMENT PLANS

The cabinet member environment and economy introduced the report. She explained the key objectives of the plans and the need for investment in the market towns. Not all

projects would be able to generate a return that would pay for themselves so opportunities to bid for grant funds would be sought. The plans would evolve, with additional projects added in future and the council would work closely with stakeholders in each of the market towns.

Cabinet members discussed the report, highlighting some of the key projects in each of the market towns. The process of creating the plans was also highlighted. The connections made through this process were equally important in delivering for the market towns.

Group leaders welcomed the proposals to invest in the market towns and gave the views and questions of their groups. The role of rural villages was noted and it was hoped investment in the market towns might also benefit these communities.

It was resolved that:

- a) The market town investment plans (MTIPs) in appendices 1 to 5 to the report are approved and adopted as providing direction for the identification of future economic development projects in the market towns;**
- b) The MTIPs be used to guide the council's capital investment in market towns, which will support the economic recovery and development of the market towns; and**
- c) The Corporate Director, Economy and Environment, following consultation with the Section 151 officer and the Cabinet member for Environment and Economy is delegated authority to take all operational decisions required to implement the above recommendations.**

The meeting ended at 5.08 pm

Chairperson

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO CABINET – 31 MARCH 2022**Question 1****From: C Wood, Hereford****To: cabinet member, infrastructure and transport***This question was carried forward from 24 February meeting.*

Can the cabinet and Cllr Harrington confirm that they will look at investing in improving the pavements in our market towns as part of the Market Town Investment Plans (MTIP's) because I am aware that many of them in these locations are not currently accessible for those using wheelchairs and mobility scooters.

Response

The market town investment plans have identified a number of projects, including improvements to the public realm including refurbishment and improved accessibility for high streets. This will encourage people to use the high streets more and encourage further investment. There isn't yet funding allocated for this projects but Herefordshire Council will work with the town councils to get quality plans drawn up and will then seek to identify funding streams once Cabinet has approved them. We will make sure that accessibility for wheelchairs and mobility scooters is considered fully and that we design any public realms schemes with those considerations in mind.

Supplementary question

Thank you for your response to my original question however I would like assurances from the Cabinet and Councillor Harrington that you will consult wheelchair and mobility scooter users when taking accessibility considerations into account for the market towns as part of the MTIP's.

Response

The cabinet member confirmed he was happy to give such an assurance.

Question 2**From: Mr P McKay, Leominster****To: cabinet member, commissioning, procurement and assets**

Does Herefordshire Council have any map showing the location of our open spaces, such as common land, parks, children's play areas, and similar, that could be made viewable on the 'Highways and Public Rights of Way Map' webpage, so that all may see where they are and how to access them, and if not is there any prospect of such a map being raised?

Response

Thank you for your question Mr McKay and I can see the benefit of linking the PROW map to our open spaces maps.

Our open spaces maps, which show all of the Parks, Play Areas and Sports Pitches in the County are available on our Herefordshire Council Website at:

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/things/parks-play-areas-open-spaces>

Users are able to search via a map application and via Postcode. There is also a link to the list of Commons within Herefordshire:

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/community-1/commons-village-greens>

Currently these maps are not integrated into the “Highways and Public Rights of Way Map” but I will ask officer to explore the possibility of developing this integrated approach.

Supplementary question

The Council Websites you make reference to pinpoint the locations, which may be OK for a small play area, but less so for large or linear open space land, and I ask if you would ask officers to explore the possibility of showing the shape, area or boundary on the 'Highways and PROW' Map, as part of developing an integrated approach?

Response from cabinet member, infrastructure and transport

The cabinet member confirmed that this had already been requested.

Question 3

From: Ms E Cairns, Hereford

To: cabinet member, commissioning, procurement and assets

Why did Hereford not get funds from the Changing Places allocation funds?

A further £6.5m will be made available later in the year, will Hereford be applying?

Response

Herefordshire Council did not apply for the first round of Changing Places funding. However, subject to the requirements of the next round, we would intend to make an application. We understand that the next application round will be available from the summer 2022.

The importance of public toilets and changing areas are crucial to both the visitor economy and public health. A year or so ago the council was able to open back up the Maylord Orchards toilets to a great response. This year I will be speaking with our Director of Public Health, Corporate Director of Economy and Environment and partners to identify a way in which we can not only apply for these funds but also look to open as many public toilets in the county as possible, I will be particularly focussing on the disproportionate effect that not having public toilets has on those with disabilities, those with young children and on women.

Question 4

From: Mr M Willmont, Hereford

To: cabinet member, infrastructure and transport

The Council have placed 17 planters containing trees along the central reservations of Station Approach/Link Road. I do not have the true cost of this but understand it would have been at least £140,000.00.

I believe that the quote below is from Councillor Harrington?

“We have managed to secure funding to put tree planters along the road that can be re-used when we are able to put in a proper tree planting system.”

What was so complicated about planting the trees in the ground now?

This surely would have been a better solution financially. It surely would have resulted in a better appearance (in my opinion), saved money on maintenance and avoided having to find and move the planters to an alternative location at some time in the future (if one could be found!)?

Response

Mr Willmont thank you for your questions, which I always appreciate and value, in part because of your expertise and past experience (I would welcome your input into the City Masterplan that is being drawn up currently if you want to get directly in touch).

The simple fact is I would like to see as many trees as possible planted in and around the City of Hereford and indeed all our county towns. Although a rural county with good tree cover around the County we have below the national average when it comes to tree cover in our urban areas. I would like as many good specimen trees planted back into the ground wherever possible and that is the direction we have given officers and will be supporting in new policy documents like the City Masterplan.

There are constraints to putting trees in the ground though, as you are no doubt aware (including capital funding time limits where grants are concerned) and we need to try to plan for them properly, spend good money on bedding them in carefully and solidly and future proof their siting to make sure someone like me doesn't come along in another few years and rip them out for some reason – spurious or otherwise. We particularly have to be careful about the glut of utilities that have gone into trenching underground around the City, often with little thought, in my opinion, because until we came in as an administration we didn't even have a proper Permitting scheme for the highways and public realm. It's not to say we can't plant where utility trenches lie but we need to put extra thought and resource into putting them in so their roots are protected and services aren't likely to be affected by roots – and roots are unlikely to be damaged by upgrading of utilities in the future.

On the City Link Road, the issue here is what we may want to do in the near future in terms of any changes and better provision of active travel measures (such as a segregated cycle lane as should have been originally delivered). Planting in-ground trees

now may restrict or curtail best design in that regard, so we need to sort the needed changes first.

So whilst I share your preference for in-ground trees, and we will plan and budget properly in good time for trees in-ground going back into our City which desperately needs greenery back, we have also chosen to introduce tree planters to help green the City – and as we build up more in-house capacity in our transport and highways teams this will allow us to make the best choices for siting good in-ground trees which I hope will be allowed to grow for many decades without being disturbed. The planters along the City Link Road and elsewhere will bring enjoyment and pleasure to our residents – and there will always be somewhere to put them in the future, they will remain an asset.

Question 5

From: Ms M Albright, on behalf of Herefordshire Construction Industry Lobby Group

To: cabinet member, infrastructure and transport

Are Herefordshire Council confident that they are doing all that is possible and within their powers to find and implement restoration solutions (and create effective future protections) for the River Wye Catchment?

Various high level reports and recommendations have been published since 2019 focusing on the need to change land use and industrial agricultural practice yet the main action taken by HC remains the moratorium preventing small scale housing development in a section of the catchment. Restrictions and controls do not seem to apply up or downstream of The Lugg or against any other sector.

Response

Ms Albright, thank you for your question, earlier this week I was passed a copy of the Lichfield's Economic Impacts Report compiled for the Homebuilders Federation which sets out their assessment of the enormous economic cost of the environmental challenges faced nationally and in particular here on the Lugg Catchment. We are all very conscious of what a severe impact that this has had upon homebuilders, construction workers and people wanting new homes in the North of the county.

As you know Herefordshire is in the process of purchasing three Integrated Wetland Sites and will consider purchasing further sites to protect the Lugg and if it is eventually necessary the Wye Catchment too. Subject to the completion of expert technical and legal reviews and the assessment of new advice from Natural England published last week, I am hoping that our next Cabinet meeting will be able to consider proposals to offer developers credits which will begin to get the north of the county building again.

We are also in the process of completing a new Agricultural Supplementary Planning Document which will contain a phosphate calculation tool which will enable a much better assessment of proposed agricultural developments in the catchment. We know that land use has to change if soils are to become healthy again and our rivers are to be protected. Our Agricultural SPD will help measure this but we very much depend on the statutory responsibilities held by Natural England and the Environment Agency being

actively discharged to see such change happen and we will continue to press for change through the Nutrient Management Board (NMB).

That said, and following recent calls for a Water Protection Zone, we also believe that many of the issues the catchment faces are systemic and need much greater attention than the NMB is equipped to deliver, important though this body is. This is why we have been calling for a Phosphate Commission to bring together English and Welsh counterparts from across all the agencies, and with assistance from recognised industry experts, to focus greater attention on solving intractable cross border and cross partner issues such as those you mention in your question. I do hope you will support proposals for a Phosphate Commission and we shall continue to keep you posted on the proposal as plans for its delivery develop.

We are also actively engaging with representatives from the farming community providing proactive assistance to encourage Environmental Land Management Schemes especially where this will bring cutting edge approaches to prevent further pollution and to accelerate the safe encapsulation of the deposits already built up in our soils. We also continue to engage with the Poultry industry who now recognise they have a part to play in finding solutions too.

Finally, I want to assure Hereford Constructors Information Liaison Group that we will continue to do all WE can to get the north of the county building again and to seek the restoration of our rivers which I am sure we all want to see.

Supplementary question

HCILG would like to reiterate that the current situation is harming the wider county and our communities in all sorts of ways - not simply the construction sector, jobs and delivery of new homes.

Having attended yesterday's Nutrient Management Board meeting it is now clear that any progress from the agencies, neighbouring authorities, NGO's and the agricultural sector remains slow, uncertain and unlikely to deliver river and soil restoration and so end the moratorium.

HCILG would therefore implore Herefordshire Council to now seek, embrace and support any privately delivered nutrient and ecology betterment projects from businesses, individuals and charities such as The Wildlife Trust.

Do you agree that creating a supportive, dynamic and agile environment where neutrality and betterment can be welcomed and secured from innovative private projects, alongside your wetlands which will be paid for by the construction sector, is the most viable way for us all to take control over the situation and finally begin the long process of ecological restoration alongside sustainable growth?

As always HCILG would be happy to help find ways to accelerate this.

Response

The cabinet member thanked the construction industry lobby group for their work and lobbying on behalf of builders and noted the implications for them of the moratorium. He confirmed that the council was very happy to work with groups such as the CILG and the wildlife trust but the council would be taking a risk if it granted planning permission against

the advice of the statutory agencies. The council was trying to mitigate the risk by bringing in wetlands and hoped to start trading credits with developers. All parties would continue lobbying government agencies and MPs to make sure they were taking an active role but action was not happening as quickly as the council would like. The council was supporting the creation of a water protection zone and would continue to try and move things forward.

Title of report: Citizens Climate Assembly Next Steps and Recommendations

Meeting: Cabinet

Meeting date: Thursday 28 April 2022

Report by: Cabinet member environment and economy;

Classification

Open

Decision type

Key

This is a key decision because it is likely to result in the council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the council's budget for the service or function concerned. A threshold of £500,000 is regarded as significant.

Notice has been served in accordance with Part 3, Section 9 (Publicity in Connection with Key Decisions) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose

The purpose of the report is to consider next steps and provide recommendations to Cabinet to allocate funding from the Climate Reserve with respect to the Citizens Climate Assembly recommendations.

Recommendation(s)

That Cabinet:

- a) Approve the development of business cases as required for the priority projects listed in Appendix 2;**
- b) Delegate authority to Corporate Director, Economy and Environment, subject to consultation with relevant Cabinet Members and the s151 officer to:**
 - a. approve viable projects within an overall budget of £1.33million;**

- b. bring forward business cases for the lower priority projects in appendix 2 should the priority projects prove unviable;**
- and;**
- c) Delegate authority to Corporate Director, Economy and Environment, for all operational decisions to deliver the projects following approval of the business cases.**

Alternative options

1. None identified- the decision dated 24 February 2022 (link below) sets out delegated responsibility to Corporate Director Economy & Environment and S151 officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economy and Environment to allocate funding from the Climate Reserve and commits to providing recommendations to Cabinet by April 2022.

<https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=8622>

Key considerations

Citizens Assembly

2. In January 2022 Herefordshire Council held a Citizens' Climate Assembly to address the question: 'How should Herefordshire meet the challenges of Climate Change?' The purpose of the Herefordshire Citizens' Climate Assembly (HCCA) was to:
 - a. Engage more residents in the democratic process and have open and honest dialogue.
 - b. Open up the discussion on the Climate Emergency and achieve buy-in and a degree of consensus for actions needed in the county.
3. It should be noted that the Climate Citizens Assembly was not a decision making body in its own right and therefore the output of the work carried out by Assembly has now been used to guide and inform future Council decision making including this report. The invaluable work carried out by the Assembly will continue to inform Council decision making as the Council progresses its goals of achieving net zero carbon for its own estate and the county.
4. Citizens' Assemblies incorporate a number of key principles: the provision of information from a range of experts, learning amongst participants, consideration of varied and diverse viewpoints, discussion, weighing up evidence, and making recommendations (followed by a voting process). Another important element of Citizens' Assemblies is that members have an equal opportunity to speak and be heard during the meetings (one of the key principles of deliberative democracy) with trained facilitators supporting this process.
5. Another important principle is the use of randomisation of sampling in recruiting members based on age, gender, ethnicity, urban/rural, socio-economic background, attitude to climate change and disability. 520 people signed up as potential Assembly members who were then asked to share information to ensure representation. In total 41 attended the Assembly meetings.
6. Based on support from an independent Advisory Group three key themes were established of buildings; transport; and food, farming and land-use with a focus on how emissions should be reduced in each of these areas. A list of advisory group members and speakers can be found on the Citizens' Climate Assembly Website: Citizens' Assembly – Herefordshire Council.

7. The Assembly met virtually for 10 sessions across two weekends and two evenings in January 2022. By the end of sessions the Assembly had developed 35 recommendations and were subsequently given 48 hours to vote on each recommendation. This allowed each Assembly member to rate each recommendation on a scale of 'Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree', with an option to abstain.
8. The list of recommendations made by the Assembly and the existing activity undertaken by the Council that is aligned with these recommendations, together with the projects they have informed can be found in Appendix 1.

Allocation of the New Homes Bonus to the Climate Reserve

9. The new homes bonus grant funding of £1.33m was allocated to the Climate Reserve by Council on 11 February 2022; <https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=59811>
10. This allocation of funding will be used to fund projects which will see the council progress towards its net zero goals for both its own operation as well as the county as a whole by 2030. Whilst the recommendations from the Assembly have been used to inform this direction it must be noted that the purpose of the Assembly was not to allocate the use of the Climate Reserve.

Next Steps

11. In March 2022 a high level review of the Citizens Climate Assembly recommendations was undertaken in consultation with teams across the Council to understand the work that is already being delivered by the council that contributes towards the aims of the Assembly. The recommendations from the Assembly informed but did not lead this piece of work. Officers provided information relevant to the proposals made by the Assembly and informed how work could be taken forward in support of the aims of the recommendations from the Assembly. In some cases this was a continuation of existing projects whilst in others, new projects will need to be fully developed and costed up.
12. All projects outlined in Appendix 2 have been developed taking into account the following:
 - a. Recommendations from the Citizens Climate Assembly (Appendix 1)
 - b. Internal consultation across Council services
 - c. National best practice including:
 - i. Sustainability West Midlands West Midlands Local Authority Sustainability Benchmark report 2021¹
 - ii. Ashden and Friends of the Earth 31 Actions a Resource, for Councils and Local Authorities²
 - d. Feedback from cabinet members
13. This report seeks approval for the development of business cases for projects to reduce carbon emissions and protect and enhance the county's natural environment and biodiversity. The projects outlined in Appendix 2 are aligned with the three main themes and recommendations made under them by the Assembly, namely 'Buildings', 'Transport' and

¹ <https://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk/resources/west-midlands-local-authority-sustainability-benchmark-report-2021/>

² <https://ashden.org/news/31-actions-climate-actions-and-carbon-savings/>

'Land use, Food and Farming'. The programme of projects are expected to be delivered over the next two to three years within the Councils Project Management Office (PMO) framework.

14. The projects outlined in Appendix 2 include not only those identified by the Citizens Assembly, but those identified by Council officers including, the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard (MEES), Solar Farm Scoping and Climate Change Adaptation projects.
15. The proposed projects in Appendix 2 are ranked as high, medium and low priority and initially work will concentrate on developing appropriate business cases for the high priority projects. Should this work show that projects are not viable, then medium priority projects will be brought forward for business case development by the Director of Environment and Economy in consultation with appropriate cabinet members and the s151 officer.
16. The projects will help deliver on the objectives of the Citizens Climate Assembly as well as the Council's net zero and nature rich ambitions for 2030. The projects will need to be fully scoped and costed through the development of appropriate business cases, the detail of which will be dependent on the value of the project.
17. It should be noted that the council is already carrying out lots of good work in support of its climate and nature ambitions and a number of the actions outlined by the Citizens Climate Assembly are already progressing. The council will report progress back to the Assembly in September, as per the previous report;

<https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/documents/s50098308/Recommendations%20from%20Citizens%20Climate%20Assembly.pdf>
18. Additionally a number of the recommendations from the Assembly are currently being implemented, at least in part in partnership or by partners of the Council. The Council will continue to support and engage with these partners through the Herefordshire Climate and Nature Partnership.

Community impact

19. In accordance with the adopted code of corporate governance, Herefordshire Council is committed to promoting a positive working culture that accepts and encourages constructive challenge and recognises that a culture and structure for scrutiny are key elements for accountable decision making, policy development and review.
20. The Citizens' Climate Assembly is a new venture for the council to actively engage a demographically representative group of residents to support the council's decision making.
21. This proposal also delivers a specific recommendation by General Scrutiny Committee's Climate & Ecological Emergency Review and follows a Full Council resolution on 12 July 2019.
22. This proposal addresses the following key commitments within the Council Corporate Delivery Plan
 - a. EN3.1: Create a new countywide climate & ecological emergency partnership, strategy and action plan to improve biodiversity and achieve countywide carbon neutrality by 2030
 - b. EN4.2: Develop new domestic building retrofit programmes to further improve the energy efficiency of Herefordshire's housing stock, reducing carbon emissions, improving wellbeing and tackling fuel poverty
 - c. EN7.1: Develop & implement a new nature strategy to enhance and protect biodiversity across the Council's estate

23. The resulting improvements in local air quality, improved public health and efficiencies from addressing the climate emergency will positively contribute towards the delivery of the council's corporate plan objective to 'Protect and enhance our environment and keep Herefordshire a great place to live.'

Environmental Impact

24. Together with partner organisations in the private, public and voluntary sectors the council shares a strong commitment to improving our environmental sustainability, achieving carbon neutrality and to protect and enhance Herefordshire's outstanding natural environment.
25. The objective of the Citizens' Climate Assembly was to positively engage local residents to support the council to meet its commitments of its declaration of a Climate & Ecological Emergency which set both organisational and countywide carbon neutrality targets by 2030. The anticipated outcomes will also support the council to deliver wider environmental policy commitments.
26. The Citizens' Climate Assembly considered key climate change themes. This will support delivery of the council's environmental policy commitments and aligns to the following success measures in the County Plan:
- Increase flood resilience and reduce levels of phosphate pollution in the county's river
 - Reduce the council's carbon emissions
 - Work in partnership with others to reduce county carbon emissions
 - Improve the air quality within Herefordshire
 - Improve residents' access to green space in Herefordshire
 - Improve energy efficiency of homes and build standards for new housing
 - Increase the number of short distance trips being done by sustainable modes of travel – walking, cycling, public transport
 - Sustainable and active travel options
27. The proposed programme of works strongly supports the key objective of the County Plan of: "Protect and Enhance our environment and keep Herefordshire a great place to live" along with meeting the ambitions of:
- a) Minimise waste and increase reuse, repair and recycling (EN1)
 - b) Improve and extend active travel options throughout the county (EN2)
 - c) Build understanding and support for sustainable living (EN3)
 - d) Invest in low carbon projects (EN4)
 - e) Identify climate change action in all aspects of council operation (EN5)
 - f) Seek strong stewardship of the county's natural resources (EN6)
 - g) Protect and enhance the county's biodiversity, value nature and uphold environmental standards (EN7)

- h) Develop environmentally sound infrastructure that attracts investment (EC1)
- i) Protect & promote our heritage, culture & natural beauty to enhance quality of life & support tourism (EC5)

Equality duty

28. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –

- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
29. The Citizens' Climate Assembly brought together a representative group of people from across Herefordshire who were independently selected based on gender, age, ethnicity, disability, climate concern, urban/ rural mix; and from defined areas of multiple deprivation. Therefore the Assembly supported a range of voices from different walks of life to be heard, to contribute to decision making and in turn contribute to democracy. Assembly members were independently selected based on representation of Herefordshire reflective of age, gender, ethnicity, urban/rural, socio-economic background, attitude to climate change and disability.
30. Provision was made for representatives who needed IT support (including if they have never used on-line communication), welfare support and any other form of reasonable adjustment.
31. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. Our providers will be made aware of their contractual requirements in regards to equality legislation.

Resource implications

32. Council agreed on 11 February 2022 to allocate the £1.33m of New Homes Bonus for 2022/23 to the Climate Reserve. All costs of the projects outlined within the programme as well as the resource required to deliver them will be borne by the Climate Reserve, costs will not exceed the available £1.33m.
33. Initial high-level estimates of the resource requirements for each project are outlined in Appendix 2. A Project Manager within the Council's PMO will be appointed to lead the development of the full business cases. Each business case will take into account value for money with specific regard given to the environmental and ecological benefits of the projects. The outputs from the projects will be considered against the project cost and deliverability in consultation with the relevant service areas, portfolio holders and Senior Responsible Officer (SRO). This detailed assessment means that the priorities of projects indicated in Appendix 2 may change and some higher priority projects may not move forward whilst some that are currently indicated as a lower priority are taken forward as a result of the work to be carried out.

34. An element of the allocation of funding is recommended to be used to provide additional resource for the Council to deliver this work internally as well as enable the Council to procure expert external support and services where required to deliver the programme of works proposed. The revenue implications of the projects will be assessed during the development of their business cases and will be contained within the overall £1.33m budget.

Legal implications

35. The Citizens' Climate Assembly has no decision making powers but has an advisory role which allows them to make recommendations to Cabinet on proposals to develop and deliver projects in support of the council's commitments following the declaration of a Climate and Ecological Emergency on 8 March 2019.
36. £1.33 million of the New Homes Bonus was allocated to the managing climate change reserve and this report now seeks authorisation to spend that allocation.
37. There are no legal implications arising from the development of business cases for the prioritised projects and the implementation of the projects will be in accordance with the council's contract procedure rules and financial procedure rules. Risk management.

Risk management

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
That the recommendations presented by the Citizens Climate Assembly are not achievable and resources not available.	<p>A review was carried out of all of the proposed actions. Relevent council officers consulted and outline proposals worked up.</p> <p>Funding allocations are indicated in the resource implications section of the report to ensure all works are properly resourced.</p> <p>All resources required are to be funded from the dedicated Climate Reserve.</p>
That all the recommendations fall to Herefordshire Council.	Guidance was given to the assembly that recommendations can fall to partners, and there are good partnerships already established in the areas of climate change.
Ensuring proper project management support	The programme of works will be supported by the Programme Management Office and a risk register will be maintained as projects are further developed and implemented. Significant risks will be escalated to relevant risk registers as per the risk management framework.

38. Working on the assumption that the recommendations will be approved, the relevant risks will be managed at a service level in the risk register for Environment and Waste.

Consultees

39. The Citizens Climate Assembly itself is based on meaningful and engaging consultation.

40. All members briefing session 9 December 2021.

41. Cabinet members engaged through a briefing on 7 April 2022.

42. Two responses were received through the Political Group Consultation:

- Cllr for the Central Ward showed support.
- Cllr for the Tupsley Ward was not supportive.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Summary of Climate Citizens’ Assembly recommendations and the projects they have informed
- Appendix 2 – Proposed Action Plan

Background papers

- None identified

Report Reviewers Used for appraising this report:

Governance	John Coleman	Date 11/04/2022
Finance	Louise Devlin	Date 05/04/2022
Finance	Karen Morris	Date 11/04/2022
Finance	Joanne Moore	Date 14/04/2022
Legal	Alice McAlpine	Date 11/04/2022
Communications	Luenne Featherstone	Date 25/03/2022
Equality Duty	Carol Trachonitis	Date 24/03/2022
Procurement	Mark Cage	Date 29/03/2022
Risk	Kevin Lloyd	Date 29/03/2022

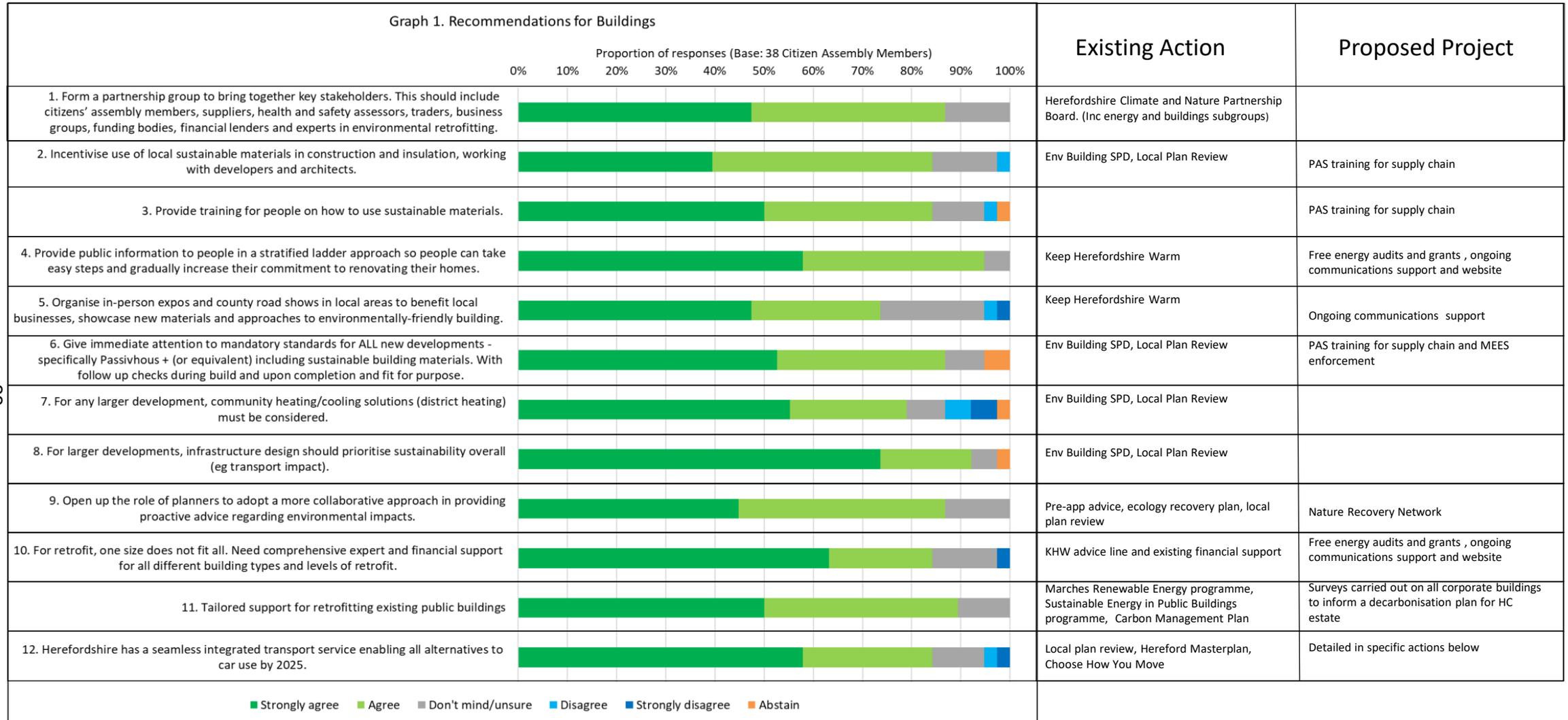
Approved by Ross Cook Date 14/04/2022

Glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms

- Herefordshire Citizens' Climate Assembly (HCCA)
- Project Management Office (PMO)
- Senior Responsible Officer (SRO)

Appendix 1: Climate Assembly Recommendations

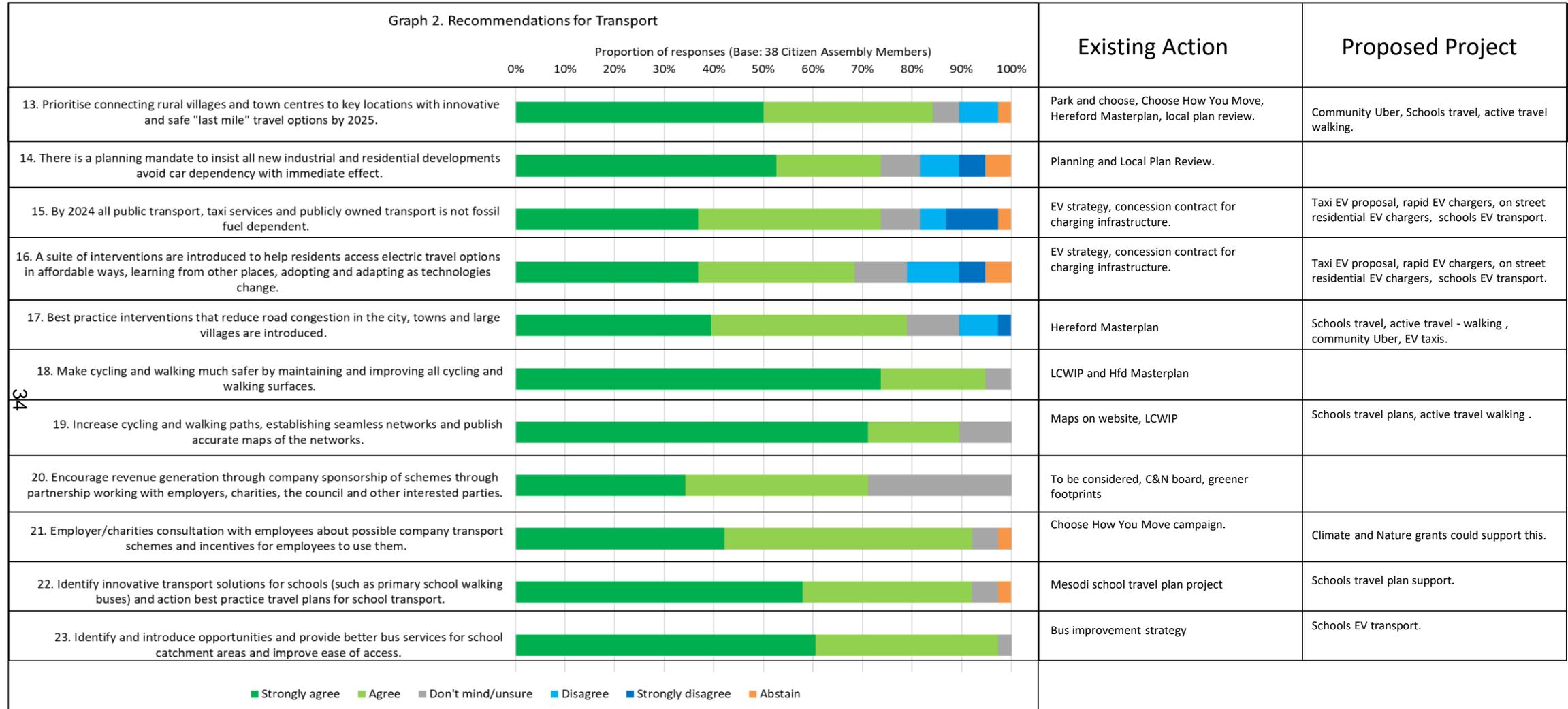
Graph 1. Recommendations for Buildings



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Appendix 1: Climate Assembly Recommendations

Graph 2. Recommendations for Transport



Appendix 1: Climate Assembly Recommendations

Graph 3. Recommendations for Land Use, Food and Farming

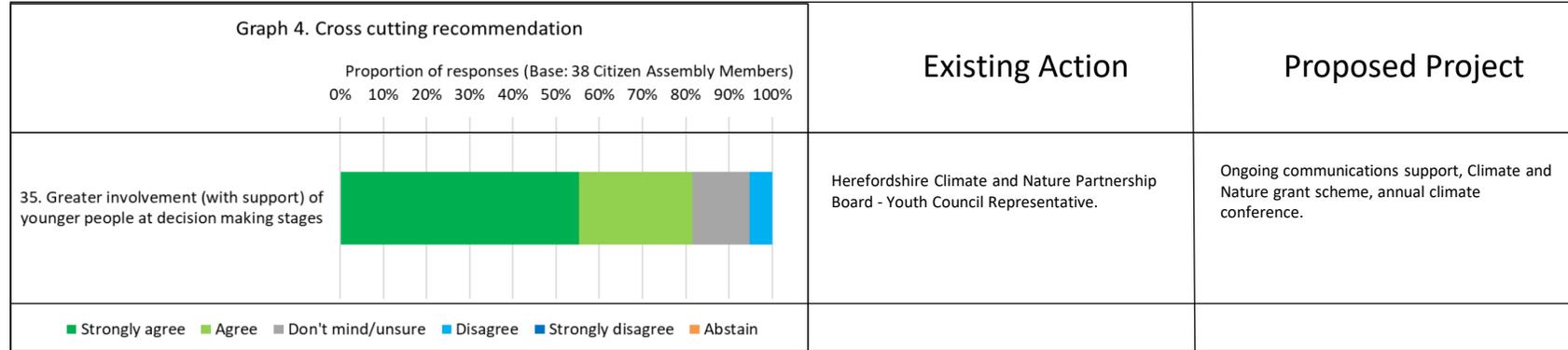
Graph 3. Recommendations for Land use, Food and Farming		Existing Action	Proposed Project
Proportion of responses (Base: 38 Citizen Assembly Members)			
0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%			
24. Train experts and fund free expert consultations for farmers to explore more sustainable methods/ reduce emissions and create a pool of in-county experts.		Farm Herefordshire, LNP, Food and Farming sub-group of Climate & Nature Partnership	Climate and Nature Grant scheme
25. Herefordshire council working in partnership with parish councils and others to develop guidelines/toolkits on increasing biodiversity and rewilding in their local areas..		Local Nature Partnership	NRN strategy and mapping, tree strategy.
26. Herefordshire Council investigate their statutory powers to develop strategic planning powers to address biodiversity.		Nature strategy, Local Plan Review	NRN strategy and mapping, tree strategy, HC tree management plan
27. Develop financial incentives/ award schemes/ grants to encourage any group or organisation to rewild and increase biodiversity.		ELMS	Riparian buffer strip, Climate and Nature grant scheme, Cllr grant scheme, free tree scheme, jubilee forest
28. Herefordshire Council undertake a feasibility study to develop a combined strategy covering food, farming and other waste for anaerobic digesters with, a view to produce bio-fuels for vehicles.			Biofuels is not the government trajectory for sustainable transport solutions. Solar master planning could be broadened to all renewables
29. Create a Jubilee Forest across Herefordshire , within 10 years with appropriate management of wildlife by communities and partners, with access available to communities.			Jubilee forest, Climate and Nature grant scheme, Cllr grant scheme, free tree scheme.
30. Enable access to expertise and information for rewilding and tree planting so that communities are empowered to take action.		Net zero and nature rich website, Farm Herefordshire, LNP	Ongoing communications support, Climate and Nature grant scheme.
31. We want to encourage people to purchase local sustainable food.		Herefordshire Climate and Nature Partnership - Food and Farming sub group.	Ongoing communications support, Climate and Nature grant scheme, annual climate conference.
32. We want to see a dedicated marketing and communication campaign for local residents to motivate and encourage environmentally aware behaviour change, including food waste.		Nappy scheme, repair cafes, food waste service	Ongoing communications support, Climate and Nature grant scheme, annual climate conference.
33. Encourage Herefordshire schools to engage with food, farming and sustainability in their curriculum to support Herefordshire's climate action plan.			Ongoing communications support.
34. Lobby Government.		Do already on a number of issues such as water quality	Officer time

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Appendix 1: Climate Assembly Recommendations

Graph 4. Cross cutting recommendation



Appendix 2: Proposed Action Plan - Buildings

Priority	High	Medium	Low		None	Low	Med	High			
Project Grouping	Project Name	CA Rec Number	Link to corp plan	Action/Comment	Carbon savings (direct)	Carbon savings (indirect)	Nature savings	Social benefits	Delivery period (short 0-6 months, medium 6-18 months, long term 18 months+) (RAG)	Indirect benefits	Indicative cost
Affordable Warmth	Supporting the development of the retrofit supply chain through PAS 2035 skills training	3, 10	EN3, EN4, EC3, EC6	Procure external professionals to provide training for local installers to ensure Herefordshire has a local skills base qualified to Level 5 Diploma in Retrofit Coordination and Risk Management. 3rd party to deliver 50 courses @£2k + administer and promote					Long term 18 months+	Supporting local supply chain/businesses. Support local supply chain to develop to enable shift to net 0 living.	£150,000
	Home energy efficiency audits to supporting residents unable to access means tested support (able to pay market)	3, 4, 10	EN3, EN4, CO1, CO4, EC6	Undertake actionable home energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements by offering free energy audits for 300 'able to pay' properties at £100 each £20k included for additional promotions through Keep Herefordshire Warm (£10k pa)					Long term 18 months+	Improving quality of private sector building stock. Reducing fuel poverty, improving public health. Educating residents on sustainable living and behaviour change.	£50,000
	Home energy efficiency grants to supporting residents unable to access means tested support (able to pay market)	3, 4, 10	EN3, EN4, CO1, CO4, EC6	Provision of energy efficient grants of up to £2,000 per household for 150 households. DG team to administer grants (£30k)					Long term 18 months+	Improving quality of private sector building stock. Reducing fuel poverty, improving public health. Educating residents on sustainable living and behaviour change.	£375,000
37 Council Decarbonisation	Development of decarbonisation plan and capital business case for all corporate buildings	11	EN4, EN5	Commission energy efficiency assessments for all corporate buildings that don't have an energy efficiency audit - estimated cost of the required surveys is £25,000. The outcome of these audits would be developed into a decarbonisation plan and capital business case for submission to the capital programme.					Short 0-6 months		£25,000
Enforcement	Enforcement of MEEs		EN5, CO1, CO4	TS and EH staff have power to enforce Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards in private rented accommodation however it would require a dedicated housing specialised EHO					Long term 18 months+	Improving quality of private sector building stock. Reducing fuel poverty, improving public health. Educating residents on sustainable living and behaviour change.	£100,000

Appendix 2: Proposed Action Plan - Transport

Priority	High	Medium	Low		None	Low	Med	High			
Project Grouping	Project Name	CA Rec Number	Link to corp plan	Action/Comment	Carbon savings (direct)	Carbon savings (indirect)	Nature savings	Social benefits	Delivery period	Indirect benefits	Indicative cost
38 Schools Transport	School Travel Plan Support	12, 22, 23	EN2, EN3, EN5, CO1	<p>In support of the ongoing school travel plan work (until July 2022), this proposals is for a dedicated full time officer on a fixed term two year contract to support schools in the implementation of their travel plans.</p> <p>This will align closely with the wider transport strategy which will also take specific account of school needs.</p> <p>A grant would be available to schools of up to £5k per school with a total pot of £100k over the two years of the post.</p>					Long term 18 months+	Behaviour change of both pupils and their families, 'pester power'.	£200,000
	Decarbonising / Electrifying the school transport fleet	12, 15, 16, 22, 23	EN3, EN5	Feasibility study and development of a capital bid to upgrade schools transport to electric vehicles.					Medium 6-18 months	Reducing councils carbon footprint, improving air quality.	£50,000
	Active Travel - Walking	12, 13, 17, 18	EN2, EN3, CO1	<p>Continuation of active travel promotion for walking following end of existing external grant funding from the DfT</p> <p>To include: Work in primary schools to support Walk to School promotion Signposting local walking routes Free to join app and website for Get Walking Led walks and Nordic Walking courses covering City and Market Towns</p>					Medium 6-18 months	Benefits to air quality and public health including physical and mental health.	£25,000
Supporting the Uptake of Electric Vehicles	On Street Residential Charge Points Scheme (ORCS)	15, 16	EN3, EN4, EN5, EC1	<p>Installation of 10 on street residential charge points at locations already identified across the county with Parking Strategy and Highways teams.</p> <p>This would seek to use climate funding to match an existing EST grant to install these.</p>					Long term 18 months+	Supporting the uptake of EVs more broadly.	£50,000
	Taxi and private hire low carbon strategy and business case for EV car leases	15, 16, 17	EN3, EC6	<p>Essential to undertake in consultation with taxi trade. Herefordshire Council to undertake/commission a feasibility study to develop a combined electric vehicle strategy covering the use of taxi and private hire vehicles.</p> <p>This would include the development of a capital business case to operate a low cost lease scheme for to support operators to reduce costs and emissions by switching to electric vehicles.</p>					Medium 6-18 months	Enabling people to live independent lives more sustainably.	£25,000
	Further Deployment of Rapid Charge Points	15, 16	EN3, EN4, EN5, EC1	<p>Feasibility study for a rapid charge point to be installed in Ledbury, Kington and Bromyard each to ensure all Market Towns have an EV rapid charge point.</p> <p>Then commissioning the installation at the preferred locations.</p>					Long term 18 months+	Supporting the uptake of EVs more broadly.	£200,000
Community Transport	Community Uber	13, 16, 17	EN3, CO5, EC4	Feasibility study for a community real time car share scheme					Short 0-6 months	Enabling people to live independent lives more sustainably.	£50,000

Appendix 2: Proposed Action Plan - Land Use, Food and Farming

Priority	High	Medium	Low		None	Low	Med	High			
Project Grouping	Project Name	CA Rec Number	Link to corp plan	Action/Comment	Carbon savings (direct)	Carbon savings (indirect)	Nature savings	Social benefits	Delivery period (short 0-6 months, medium 6-18 months, longterm 18 months+) (RAG)	Indirect benefits	Indicative cost
Protecting and Enhancing Nature	Local Nature Recovery Strategy	25, 26, 30	EN3, EN5, EN6, EN7, EC5	Officer capacity to engage partners including Natural England, the LNPs and other key stakeholders, lead the development of a partnership Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Herefordshire which is based on strong evidence and data.					Medium 6-18 months		£50,000
	NRN Mapping	25, 26, 30	EN3, EN5, EN6, EN7, EC5	Develop a comprehensive detailed interactive (user friendly) mapping system of all the existing nature-based systems (green and blue infrastructure; habitats and species), with a series of related overlays of all other systems and planning matters to better inform development and biodiversity values					Medium 6-18 months	Improving the counties natural environment will improve air quality, access to nature helps physical and mental health. Natural environment sequesters carbon.	£125,000
	Comprehensive review, and update of HBRC datasets	25, 26, 30	EN3, EN6, EN7, EC5	Working with Herefordshire Biological Records Centre (HBRC), undertake a robust and comprehensive review, and update of the existing datasets – especially the Local Wildlife sites data, to ensure they are fit for purpose, made more accessible via GIS, and encourage the public to provide updates to the HBRC and better utilise this resource to seek opportunities for improved management of Herefordshire's natural environment.					Medium 6-18 months		£50,000
Tree planing across the County	County Jubilee Forest	25, 27, 29, 30	EN3, EN6, EN7, EC5	Feasibility study to develop a new Jubilee Forest					Short 0-6 months		£25,000
	Herefordshire Tree Strategy	25, 26, 30	EN3, EN6, EN7, EC5	Aligning with the priorities of the LNRS findings, lead the development of a countywide partnership Herefordshire Tree Strategy, incorporating the work HC undertakes on its own estate, along with partnership working to increase tree coverage in the County, ensuring a joined-up approach to tree planting, funding approaches, tackling tree diseases and targeted action. Need to link to LNRS and engagement activity					Medium 6-18 months	Improving the counties natural environment will improve air quality, access to nature improves physical and mental health. Natural environment sequesters carbon.	£50,000
	HC Tree Management Plan	26	EN3, EN5, EN6, EN7, EC5	Undertake actions to better manage and increase trees on HCs own estate: • Update / Audit of HC owned highway and other trees to be used as carbon off-setting as part of the council's Carbon Management Plan; • Identify HC owned 'left-over' land (highway land, edges of HC owned parks, service surplus estate) suitable for planting with trees; • Update Highway Tree Guidance on new developments and retrofit tree planting ensuring 'the right tree in the right place'; and • A programme to manage Ash Dieback (and other tree diseases).					Medium 6-18 months		£25,000
	Riparian buffer and nature recovery grant schemes	27, 30	EN3, EN5, EN6, EN7, EC1, EC5	Capital grant scheme for farmers adjacent to the River Lugg, River Wye and tributaries to develop riparian buffer strips with increased planting to reduce phosphate run off into the river and to improve biodiversity corridors along the watercourses DG team to administer grants					Medium 6-18 months	Reduces impact of flooding, enables building of more homes across the county.	£250,000
	Free countywide tree scheme for residents	25, 27, 29, 30	EN3, EN6, EN7, EC5, EC6	County wide version of city tree scheme with 5000 trees. This project is very scalable, the city tree scheme was 20,000 for 500 trees. Order trees for Autumn/reserved by end of July at latest. This way we should get more of what we want to promote – eg Fruit Trees. Promote July-October and take orders (first come first served?) Distribution: November-December.					Medium 6-18 months	Improving the counties natural environment will improve air quality, access to nature improves physical and mental health. Natural environment sequesters carbon.	£225,000
Renewables	Solar Farm Master Planning and Scoping		EN4, EN5,	To commission external consultants to carry out scoping and master planning to inform a capital business case to invest in the development of solar farms across the county.					Medium 6-18 months	Increasing local renewable energy generation and energy security.	£75,000

Appendix 2: Proposed Action Plan - Cross Cutting

Priority	High	Medium	Low		None	Low	Med	High			
Project Grouping	Project Name	CA Rec Number	Link to corp plan	Action/Comment	Carbon savings (direct)	Carbon savings (indirect)	Nature savings	Social benefits	Delivery period (short 0-6 months, medium 6-18 months, long term 18 months+) (RAG)	Indirect benefits	Indicative cost
Greener Footprints	Longer term climate communications support	25, 30, 31, 32, 33	EN3	To procure ongoing communications support for the Herefordshire Climate and Nature Partnership for 2 years with a strong focus on sustainable food, tree planting and waste reduction					Medium 6-18 months	A widespread effect of improving local awareness and empowering residents to make change.	£100,000
	Annual Climate Conference	25, 30, 31, 32, 33	EN3	To enable the HCNP to host an annual climate conference with a focus on sustainable food, tree planting and waste reduction. Provide revenue for meeting room hire for subgroup meetings throughout the year.					Long term 18 months+	A widespread effect of improving local awareness and empowering residents to make change.	£25,000
	Climate Website	25, 30, 31, 32, 33	EN3, EC4	Zero Carbon & Nature Rich website - with a focus on sustainable food, tree planting, waste reduction. Includes annual hosting fees and web development fees (inc. Greener Footprint campaign) - £4.5k p/a					Long term 18 months+	A widespread effect of improving local awareness and empowering residents to make change.	£25,000
Community Grants	Climate and Nature Grant scheme	27, 29	EN2, EN4, EN5, EN6, EN7, CO6, EC5	To re run the successful scheme of 2021/22 taking on board lessons learned					Medium 6-18 months	Supports community action as well as nature benefits including health and environmental.	£250,000
	Clr Climate and Nature Fund	27, 29	EN2, EN4, EN5, EN6, EN7, CO6, EC5	Each Clr allocated £1,000 discretionary budget for climate and nature projects in their ward.					Long term 18 months+	Supports community action as well as nature benefits including health and environmental.	£75,000
40 Adaptation	Adaptation, increasing the Councils resilience		EN3, EN5, EN6, EN7, CO4, CO6, EC5	Procure external consultants to update LCLIP and to develop a new adaptation / climate resilience strategy					Medium 6-18 months	Will have a countywide benefit enabling council to continue to provide services during periods of significant climatic change as well as supporting communities adapting to this change.	£50,000