

Title of report: Update on executive responses to the Committee's Waste Management Strategic Review and the review of the Climate and Ecological Emergency

Meeting: General scrutiny committee

Meeting date: Monday 26 April 2021

Report by: Head of Environment Climate Emergency and Waste Services

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose

To receive an update on the executive responses to the recommendations of the Committee's Waste Management Strategic Review and the review of the Climate and Ecological Emergency.

Recommendation(s)

That:

- a) **The Committee considers the executive responses and these are noted, subject to any comment the committee wishes to make.**

Alternative options

1. There are no alternative options.

Key considerations

2. On 8 March 2019 Herefordshire Council declared a Climate Emergency following unanimous support for a climate emergency resolution at Full Council.

3. This declaration was updated on 11 December 2020 when Herefordshire Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) following support for a climate and ecological emergency resolution at Full Council.

Climate and Ecological Emergency Review

4. General scrutiny committee established a task and finish group on 20 January 2020 to carry out a climate emergency review.
5. The general scrutiny committee met on 25 January 2021 to agree the report and made 58 recommendations to the executive.
6. On 25 March 2021 the executive responded to the review setting out a response to each recommendation.
7. The full executive response is available here:
 - <https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7731>

Waste Management Review

8. General scrutiny committee established a task and finish group on 29 November 2019 to carry out a waste management strategic review.
9. At the General Scrutiny meeting held on 28 September 2020, the recommendations from the review were approved with the following additional recommendations included: that:
 - a. the Task and Finish Group report and all of its recommendations be approved, subject to including:
 - b. that, as part of the consultation process, there is clear explanation given as to why option one is not being put forward as an option;
 - c. the Waste Team continue to work with and lead the communications on each of the schemes to ensure public understanding for the preferred options is secured;
 - d. asking that the reuse of waste is brought forward as quickly as possible at our local household recycling centres;
10. The executive response is scheduled for a decision on 22 April and the documents including the proposed response to each recommendation is available here:
 - <https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50037106&Opt=0>

Next steps

11. The Committee agreed on 7 December 2020 that a progress report on the Executive's responses to the task and finish group reports on the Waste Management Strategic Review and the Climate Emergency conducted by the Committee should be added to the work programme.

Community impact

12. 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. Topics selected for scrutiny should have regard to what matters to residents.

Environmental Impact

13. Herefordshire Council provides and purchases a wide range of services for the people of Herefordshire. Together with partner organisations in the private, public and voluntary sectors we share a strong commitment to improving our environmental sustainability, achieving carbon neutrality and to protect and enhance Herefordshire's outstanding natural environment.
14. A key objective of the Waste Management task and finish group was to ensure the council's future waste management services reflect the ambition set out in the declaration of a Climate and Ecological Emergency, to minimise waste and to maximise recycling rates.
15. The objective of the Climate task and finish group was to ensure the council's operations reflect the ambition set out in the declaration of a Climate and Ecological Emergency and the setting of the 2030 net zero carbon targets for the council and county. The executive response to the report supports the council's environmental policy commitments in aiming to:
 - Improve and extend active travel options throughout the county (EN2)
 - Understand and support sustainable living (EN3)
 - Invest in low carbon projects (EN4)
 - Identify climate change actions in all aspects of the councils operations (EN5)
 - Seek strong stewardship of the county's natural resources (EN6)
 - Protect & enhance the county's biodiversity, value nature and uphold environmental standards (EN7)
 - Develop environmentally sound infrastructure that attracts investment (EC6)

16. It strongly supports the County Plan's ambitions for Herefordshire to:
- Protect and enhance our environment and keep Herefordshire a great place to live
 - Support an economy which builds on the county's strengths and resources

Equality duty

17. 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.
18. The equality implications have been considered and outlined within the respective executive responses and are detailed in the covering reports.

Resource implications

19. There are no resource implications from this committee reviewing the responses. The resource implications are set out within the appended reports.

Legal implications

20. There are no legal implications from this committee reviewing the responses.

Risk management

21. As set out in the appended reports.

Consultees

22. As set out in the appended reports.
23. None on this report.

Appendices

- Appendix A – AMENDED Appendix 1 Executive response to the Climate and Ecological Emergency Task and Finish Group Review.
- Appendix B – Appendix 5 Executive Response to the Waste Management Strategic Task and Finish Group Review.

Background papers

- None identified