

Ref. Number	Recommendation	Executive Response	Action	Progress to date	Progress Summary
1	<p>Internal Governance;</p> <p>A The Council should establish a politically proportionate Committee (the Climate and Ecological Emergency Policy Committee) with responsibility for directing the Council's response to the climate and ecological emergency. The Chairperson of that Committee may or may not be a Cabinet Member depending on the precise arrangements adopted by the council, but the Committee is to have primacy.</p> <p>B The Committee should take account of the proposed Future Generations Act.</p> <p>C The Committee should have some form of decision making powers in line with the future hybrid system of governance.</p> <p>D The Committee should have its own budget that facilitates it to fulfil its remit and initiate projects that will enable the council to make progress required with respect to the climate & ecological emergency.</p> <p>E The Committee should be the focal point for all council climate change related work.</p> <p>F The Committee should receive regular reports from bodies charged with directing the countywide response to the climate and ecological emergency. The Committee would not duplicate this work but ensure that the council remained sighted upon it.</p> <p>G Research should be undertaken and consideration given to models adopted by other authorities reflecting these.</p>	<p>Rejected. Recommendations B, E, F and G to be referred to the Rethinking Governance Group.</p> <p>The Council is currently operating its governance arrangements by way of a Leader/Cabinet model (Local Government Act 2000) which means that the Leader is appointed by Full Council and the leader appoints the Cabinet and the leader decides which executive functions will be carried out by individual Cabinet Members. The constitution sets this out at Part 2 Article 5.</p> <p>This leadership model also has to have at least one overview and scrutiny committee, it currently has three such committees.</p> <p>The proposal to establish a Climate Change Committee, would not fall within the Leader/Cabinet model but instead would be a committee established under a committee system where the council would divide itself into politically balanced committees that make the decisions.</p> <p>Parts A, C and D are not possible under a Hybrid Model of governance, however the proposal will be referred to the Rethinking Governance Group who are considering Hybrid Model governance arrangements for the council.</p> <p>Elements of the recommendation, specifically parts B, E, F and G will be considered as a part of this work.</p>	<p>The recommendation will be considered as a part of the work by the rethinking governance working group.</p>	<p>Review completed by rethinking governance .</p> <p>Following rethinking governance and council decision in May 2022, a new environmental and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee was created. Further constitutional provisions enable power to create standing powers.</p>	Complete
2	<p>The existing county wide steering group was set up in 2019 to create the basis of a net zero, nature rich action plan and set up a new Partnership to adopt and drive forward the action plan. The Group recommends the following approach to a Partnership to deliver a countywide response to the climate and ecological emergency;</p> <p>a. A collaborative, open and transparent partnership body needs to be established to deliver the countywide response to the climate and ecological emergency.</p> <p>b. The Council should be represented on the partnership, should participate in it and make a robust contribution.</p> <p>c. Arrangements should be put in place to ensure regular feedback from the partnership to the Committee.</p> <p>d. Provision should be made for the membership of the partnership to include those who are responsible for the delivery of measures that are likely to be recommended to ensure that they are practical and capable of implementation.</p> <p>e. Provision should be made for the membership of the partnership to include a range of views to promote effective critical friend challenge</p>	<p>Accepted, in part.</p> <p>The executive acknowledge the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group were shared with the existing County Steering Group and considered as a part of the drafting of the Terms of Reference for the proposed County Partnership.</p> <p>A forthcoming decision will be made to consider the establishment a new Countywide Partnership to facilitate the aim of achieving countywide carbon neutrality by 2030 and to further protect and enhance local biodiversity. This is a key commitment within the council's corporate delivery plan.</p>	<p>Decision to be taken.</p> <p>Board to meet and take forward action plan.</p>	<p>Terms of reference and application process drafted. Subject to Cabinet approval the invitation to apply to the role of board member will.</p> <p>Board established in November 2022, comprising 15 individuals and chaired by Cllr Chowns. Meets at 6 week intervals. There are five working groups -Farming and Land use, Housing, Transport, Energy and Food. The Board has commenced a number of projects including . 30 farm carbon audits, 20 business energy audits, a renewable mapping project and through it's communications consultant JBP, five carbon workout guides have been published https://zerocarbon.herefordshire.gov.uk/</p>	Complete
3	<p>On 12 July 2019 a Zero Carbon Citizens Assembly was agreed at Full Council. The executive response 26 September 2019 offered four options to be detailed in a forthcoming report. The Group recommend that the report should be produced and one of these options taken forward as a priority. This option should be delivered and supported by the council and feed into the Committee and Partnership to inform the work regarding the climate and ecological emergency.</p>	<p>Executive Response Accepted, subject to review.</p> <p>As part of the development of a wider engagement framework for the council, considerations are being given to the inclusion of citizen assemblies as a method of engagement with citizens (alongside other tools and approaches). Considerations will include the resources required to deliver the assembly, the method by which citizens are invited and the prioritisation for the area of focus to ensure that they are clearly linked to the County Plan and the council's wider strategic objectives.</p> <p>The council has recently partnered with an external agency (Impact Consultancy) to support the council's engagement with the public and key stakeholders. Impact Consultancy will support the planning and delivery of a citizen's assembly on Zero once the resources have been committed to and timeframes for delivery agreed.</p>	<p>Confirmation of resources to be committed and timeframes agreed.</p>	<p>Climate Citizens Assembly ran from 13th to 30th Jan 2022. It made 35 recommendations under four categories:Buildings, Transport, Land-use, food and farming, and cross cutting</p> <p>At full Council 11th Feb 2022 the new homes bonus grant funding of £1.33m was allocated to managing climate change reserve.</p> <p>Review of 35 recommendations in consultation with teams across the council undertaken and identified priorities.</p>	Complete
4	<p>The executive should ensure that all relevant teams are sufficiently resourced to carry out all recommendations that are accepted.</p>	<p>Executive Response Rejected.</p> <p>Due to the extraordinary financial pressures the council is under and the savings targets required, no additional resource is available to increase resourcing levels. However all relevant heads of services have been consulted during the process and all teams are adequately resourced to carry out the work set out in the executive response.</p>	<p>See executive response.</p>		Complete

5	<p>A mandatory training element should be added to the Herefordshire Council staff online training service regarding the environment and personal responsibility to ensure all staff are clear on their own professional and personal role in the climate and ecological emergency.</p>	<p>Executive Response Rejected.</p> <p>The existing training module on the environment will be updated. The training will make it clear to staff what is expected of them in their professional capacity whilst making them aware of what they can do in their personal life to help the county move towards carbon zero and nature rich by 2030. The training will be engaging and will provide staff with practical steps to help them professionally and personally. This training will be widely advertised to staff.</p> <p>Whilst advisory the module will not be a mandatory module as it is corporate policy that only modules that are required by law.</p>	<p>Existing course to be updated and promoted to all staff.</p>	<p>Course currently being updated by the Sustainability & Climate Change team. It was launched and promoted to staff in June 2022. To date (12/12/22) 657 staff members have completed the course.</p>	<p>Complete</p>
6	<p>Whilst discussing the issues around the climate and ecological emergency the Group felt it was important that the executive commit to work with the Local Government Association to;</p> <p>a. Press for a joined-up regulatory and enforcement framework on Natural Capital.</p> <p>b. Support and encourage behaviour change around reducing unnecessary vehicle use and support sustainable transport.</p> <p>c. Ensure there is no gap between the Shared Prosperity Funding and the existing European Regional Development Fund.</p>	<p>Executive Response Accepted.</p> <p>The council will write to and engage with the Local Government Association (LGA) on these issues as well as raise these issues in the County Council Network (CCN).</p>	<p>Write to the LGA. Table issues at County Council Network.</p>	<p>Officers are actively engaged with the LGA through their Climate Action Group (CAG) which meets regularly to share best practice. Officers have also joined the ADEPT Environment Board which has strong representation from Government Departments and Local Authorities across the country on Climate Change, Natural Environment and Waste.</p> <p>A letter is being drafted to the LGA to respond directly to the recommendation.</p>	<p>In progress</p>
7	<p>A dedicated communications officer in the Communications team is recommended to support environmental communications. Consideration should be given to the website, social media, active and passive promotion and engagement with the public including young people and schools to facilitate behaviour change. The officer should facilitate the following;</p> <p>a. The officer should link with the work of the Partnership to avoid duplication.</p> <p>b. A link to the section on climate and ecological emergency on the council's website should be promoted by a permanent banner at the top of the home page and the website pages relating to the environment should be more interactive to encourage more public involvement.</p> <p>c. The 'Newsroom' should reflect all news relating to the climate and ecological emergency and signpost to other sources of news on the climate and ecological emergency within the County.</p> <p>d. As a way of generating engagement, competitions and awards for innovative approaches to tackle the climate and ecological emergency should be promoted by the council and/or its partners.</p> <p>e. Good farming and land use practice should be actively promoted by the council, supporting existing work by the Wye & Usk foundation and others, engaging in discussion with farming bodies</p>	<p>Rejected.</p> <p>Due to the financial pressures the council is under it is not possible to entirely dedicate the work of a single officer to support environmental communications. The council's corporate approach provides a mix of resource and specialist skills to develop and deliver its corporate campaigns, and environmental aspects are included within this.</p> <p>a. The Council communications team will support the work of the Partnership using our communications channels where the work is in line with the council's zero carbon ambitions for the county and/or has a positive impact on the residents of the county. The team can help promote case stories, news items and examples of commitment to the climate and ecological emergency.</p> <p>b. The home page banners on the council website are used to promote messages as part of the multi-media marketing mix. Banners are changed regularly and permanent banners are not recommended as they lose their effectiveness.</p> <p>There is opportunity for services to develop content to embed and include within council web pages to allow for greater interaction. A climate emergency link has been added into the Community navigation box on the home page to provide easier navigation from the home page.</p> <p>c. The Newsroom provides the latest corporate news for Herefordshire Council and links to relevant content including news stories relating to the climate and ecological emergency and will continue to do so.</p> <p>d. The Council communications team can support any corporate activity that aims to engage and inform local residents.</p> <p>e. Herefordshire Council communications team can help promote case stories and examples of its commitment to the climate and ecological emergency, where it is the lead agency and has had direct involvement. Identification of these stories will need to be undertaken by service lead officers, as the experts on best practice and preferred approach.</p>	<p>To promote work of the partnership when it has formed.</p> <p>b. Climate emergency link has been added into the Community navigation box.</p> <p>c. The newsroom will continue to deliver news relating to the climate and ecological emergency.</p> <p>d. Support corporate activity that aims to engage and inform local residents including competitions and awards</p> <p>e. Promote case stories and examples of its commitment to the climate and ecological emergency, where it is the lead agency and has had direct involvement.</p>	<p>d. Climate emergency link has been added into the Community navigation box on the front page of the council's website. The Communications Team continue to support all Climate Change activity and news.</p> <p>JBP Associates were appointed as the external consultant for climate communications for county wide climate and nature action. Both are supporting work of the countywide board that are working to engage the county in net zero activities.</p>	<p>In progress</p>
8	<p>Full account should be taken of the concept of Natural Capital (including air quality) making it the driver for all council decisions. The concept of Natural Capital could offer a different economic model with weight given to the environment's contribution to economic development;</p> <p>a. The Cabinet consider designating Natural Capital as a separate and distinct policy area in their portfolio of responsibilities and appoint a lead on it.</p> <p>b. The council should incorporate in tender assessment, criteria to take account of Natural Capital and prioritise support for low impact, sustainable local businesses as part of a progressive procurement policy that takes account of social value.</p>	<p>Accepted, in part.</p> <p>In 2020 the Council updated the corporate decision making process to require that all new decision reports set out how the decision / proposal seeks to deliver the council's environmental policy commitments, aligns to the Environmental success measures in the County Plan and addresses wider Environmental Impacts. In order to strengthen the consideration for Natural Capital further guidance will be developed for report authors to further inform future decision making.</p> <p>The Council's updated Social Value Policy requires consideration of social, environmental and economic considerations as part of all corporate commissioning.</p> <p>The key objective of the Council's Corporate Delivery Plan is the development of a new Nature Strategy which will include further consideration of Natural Capital.</p>	<p>Updated guidance on Natural Capital to be developed to inform future decision making and future commissioning.</p> <p>Development of a Nature Strategy.</p>	<p>A review is due to commence in the new year of the current guidance in the corporate decision making template to provide additional consideration of environmental impacts including natural capital and phosphates.</p>	<p>In progress</p>

9	<p>The Group recognises and endorses the continued focus on broadband infrastructure and recommends that hard to reach areas that are not possible to reach with cable services are provided impartial advice regarding mobile network solutions.</p>	<p>Executive Response Rejected.</p> <p>The current Fastershire strategy is not to give up and deem any premise 'not possible to reach with fibre optic' until the council have exhausted all other opportunities to find fixed broadband solutions.</p> <p>As well as its various strategic contract, the council is utilising a number of grant schemes to implement this strategy. This current strategy is in effect until the end of 2022. If a premise is not in one of Fastershire's contracts, residents can express an interest via the Fastershire website in developing a community project which Fastershire will fund and support. This will only fund Gigabit Capable fixed broadband infrastructure. Businesses have access to the Marches and Gloucestershire Business Broadband Grant, which is also administered by Herefordshire Council and provides Gigabit Capable Services. It would only be when these approaches have failed to deliver a fixed broadband solution that the project would look to advise people to consider mobile network solutions as the two are not comparable. It is important to note that access to 4G home broadband packages are available already to most people in the county.</p>	<p>Continue to support the deployment of fibre optic broadband to rural properties until the end of 2022 utilising grant funding.</p>	<p>Today, Superfast is 94.25% for Herefordshire (Speeds between 30Mbps and 100Mbps download). 97% by 2023 is highly unlikely to occur as Superfast is not being deployed and all broadband is now being switched to a new full fibre network. Importantly Herefordshire is at 60.79% for full fibre – 1000Mbps capable fibre) of which 44.04% is attributed to alternative network providers and 25.23% via BT Openreach. This stands out from a full fibre perspective as better than most rural areas UK Government has changed the targets so that the desired speed is Gigabit (100-1000Mbps plus) with a target of 99% coverage by 2030.</p> <p>Whilst we are still promoting full fibre across Herefordshire trying to get to all premises we as a stated aim changes have occurred that means UK Government via BDUK (Building Digital UK) have introduced Project Gigabit with £5BN of spending specifically to address those premises left behind with high intervention costs per premise. This fits into the 99% by 2030 target.</p> <p>Recognising that the potential delays will still leave harder to reach premises without any decent broadband for many years the Council has embarked on looking at rural capable or appropriate 4G and Satellite solutions or possible community alternatives over fixed wireless. In a recent pilot we were able to see an average of 42Mbps increase over 4G on a baseline of 5.5mbps being delivered by old copper lines. This may offer an interim that enables residents and businesses to enjoy useable internet service. This approach has not been adopted across all of Herefordshire area but is one that may enable those in very hard to reach areas.</p>	In progress
10	<p>The Group recognises the importance of the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and the role they have to play in making progress with regards to the climate and ecological emergency. The Group recommends;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A Natural Capital partnership with Marches authorities and the LEP should be explored. The executive should request that the LEP publicly commit to support all three authorities to deliver on the net zero carbon targets. The executive should request the LEP review assessment criteria and consider taking account of Natural Capital. Support for low impact, sustainable local businesses could be prioritised as part of a progressive procurement policy that takes account of social value. The executive should raise with the LEP the issue of maize used as a feedstock for anaerobic digestion which causes environmental damage and request it reflects on the damage to Natural Capital as well as the road network. 	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>The council will write to and engage with the Marches LEP regarding the issues outlined in the recommendation.</p>	<p>Explore with the Marches LEP the possibilities around a Marches Natural Capital partnership.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Request the LEP publicly commit to support all Marches authorities and their net zero carbon ambitions by 2030. Request the LEP review their assessment criteria for support and consider taking account of Natural Capital. Request the LEP support for low impact, sustainable local businesses could be prioritised as part of a progressive procurement policy that takes account of social value. Raise with the LEP the issue of maize used as a feedstock for anaerobic digestion and discuss a joined up approach to tackling the issue, although this will be governed by national policy. 	<p>The council continues to work with the LEP to deliver the Marches Energy Strategy through the Steering Group which has included in its remit carbon and net zero as well as energy. The LEP has also declared its support for the local authorities Climate Emergency and it will be embedded in its next Strategic Economic Plan update. In addition the LEP is a funding partner for the integrated wetlands project.</p> <p>As work commences on the development of the local nature recovery strategy we will ensure the LEP is a key stakeholder in its development.</p>	In progress

11	The Committee be consultees under the Core Strategy review.	Accepted. All members will be consulted as a part of the Local Plan update via Members briefing sessions.	Ensure appropriate member/committee engagement during the plan making process.	Members of the Committee has been consulted under the Local Plan Update. Which is an ongoing process through to 2024.	In progress
12	Biodiversity net gain should be a consideration in future planning applications through the Core Strategy review.	Accepted. There will be a requirement to achieve biodiversity net gain of 10% introduced into the planning system through the forth coming Environment Bill. However the Local Plan update will be able to consider the scope for requirements above the national target.	Local Plan update will be able to consider the scope for requirements above the national target.	Natural Environment and the Viability Assessment work have been commissioned. These will inform the policy of the Local Plan is due course and its ability to set higher targets.	In progress
13	Under the Core Strategy review the development of a new truly sustainable town to meet housing targets should be considered preferable to incremental growth. The town would include biodiversity net gain, sustainable transport links and local renewable energy generation including a heat network. This should prevent broad countryside loss across the county and protect the historic nature of existing settlements	Accepted in part, the proposal will be reviewed as a part of the Local Plan update process. There is a requirement that the Local Plan update will need to demonstrate that reasonable alternatives are considered during the plan making process. The executive will consider whether one of the appropriate alternatives developed for the new spatial strategy for the County could be a new settlement or settlements.	Consideration given to appropriate alternatives developed for the new spatial strategy for the County could be a new settlement or settlements.	Work is continuing to establish potential locational options for a new settlement as part of the emerging spatial strategy. Consultation undertaken in Jan/ Feb included the option of a new settlement and a 'call for sites' requested any suggestions for locations.	In progress
14	The group recognises there is a definition of sustainability in the NPPF; "Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". However given the environmental and ecological emergency the group recommends that greater weight is given to "the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" through the Core Strategy review.	Accepted. As part of the Local Plan update how sustainable development can be better defined and prioritised will be considered.		The spatial strategy is currently being drafted and will have sections on 'meeting the climate change emergency' and 'meeting the ecological' emergency. The intention is to give a brief background and how future planning policy will seek to address these.	In progress
15	Good clear environmental policies should be developed, demonstrably supported by the evidence base, containing specific minimum standards that could then be enforced. A Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) should be produced to address the climate & ecological emergency.	Executive Response Accepted.	An SPD on Environmental Building standards is being developed and will encourage new buildings built to a higher standard and therefore reduce the amount of heat and energy required to run them. An SPD on Intensive Livestock Units and River Quality will look to produce policy guidance, primarily for agricultural development to reduce pollution into the rivers. Particular focus will be on the reduction of phosphate into the River Wye SAC. The Local Plan update will enable further policy development in support of the climate & ecological emergency.	SPDs on building standards and river quality are currently underway. Agricultural SPD is currently on public consultation and the Environmental Building Standards SPD has undertaken public consultation and moving towards Cabinet sign off in Jan/Feb.	In progress
16	Local planning strategy to include nature recovery networks through the Core Strategy review.	Accepted, in part, this will be considered as a part of the Local Plan review. It is understood that local planning strategy will likely be required to include nature recover networks following the enactment of the Environment Bill. In any event the preparation of the new local plan will enable consideration of nature recovery networks to be integrated into the policies of the new local plan.	Review opportunity for a local list. Statutory consultation on local list.	Natural Environment evidence base work have been commissioned. The Local Plan team and the Natural Environment team are working together to ensure policies of Local Plan reflect the work on Nature Recovery.	In progress
17	The existing environmental and forthcoming ecology compliance checklists should sit in the pre validation stage of a planning applications where they will form part of our local list.	Accepted in part. The council does not currently have a local list, so this is something that is being explored although the last local list was disbanded to make the planning service more efficient so that it could validate applications more quickly. Currently the checklists are held on the planning pages of the website and all applicants are encouraged to use them. All applications are validated using national standards (in lieu of a local list). Applications without a checklist are informed the checklists are required. Should the decision be made to move forward with a local list, then this will be incorporated in accordance with any other recommendations made by the recent Planning Advisory Service (PAS) review of the planning service.	Review opportunity for a local list. Statutory consultation on local list.	Planning department currently in process of restructure, which will take responsibility for this going forwards.	In progress

18	<p>The executive should ensure that existing provisions and policies on climate change and ecology are given their maximum possible weight in the planning balance and consider whether consolidating these provisions would assist in providing a stronger focus on the issues and weight to be attributed to them.</p> <p>Executive Response Accepted.</p> <p>In respect of existing policies the forthcoming SPDs on Environmental Building standards and Intensive Livestock Units and River Quality will provide additional context and help inform the decision making of planning officers regarding climate change and ecology.</p> <p>Ultimately this is a matter of planning judgement for the professional officer in the processing of the application and conclusions within the planning balance.</p> <p>The Local Plan update will provide the opportunity to strengthen existing and/or introduce new planning policies in respect of climate change and ecology.</p>	<p>Executive Response Accepted.</p> <p>In respect of existing policies the forthcoming SPDs on Environmental Building standards and Intensive Livestock Units and River Quality will provide additional context and help inform the decision making of planning officers regarding climate change and ecology.</p> <p>Ultimately this is a matter of planning judgement for the professional officer in the processing of the application and conclusions within the planning balance.</p> <p>The Local Plan update will provide the opportunity to strengthen existing and/or introduce new planning policies in respect of climate change and ecology.</p>	<p>Enactment of SPD on Environmental Building standards.</p> <p>Enactment of SPD on Intensive Livestock Units and River Quality.</p> <p>Incorporate up-to-date policies to strengthen the response to the climate and ecological emergency are incorporated where possible within the Local Plan update</p>	<p>Both SPD's are currently underway.</p> <p>Agricultural SPD is currently on public consultation and the Environmental Building Standards SPD has undertaken public consultation and moving towards Cabinet sign off in Jan/Feb.</p>	In progress
19	<p>Working in conjunction with the Environment Agency, manure management plans which have been used as mitigation in planning applications should be mapped and cross referenced and existing plans should be reviewed before new plans are issued to ensure land is not under multiple plans which would mean an exceedance would exist. Any exceedances should be reported to the Environment Agency.</p>	<p>Executive Response Rejected.</p> <p>We do not have the capabilities to monitor this action as the Environment Agency enforce this. However, when manure management plans are submitted to the planning service as part of an application they will be assessed.</p>	<p>Manure management plans are reviewed before new plans are issued to ensure land is not under multiple plans.</p>	<p>Presently reviewing Court Decision on this matter.</p>	In progress
20	<p>A greater focus must be given within neighbourhood development plans (NDPs) to low carbon policies and green neighbourhood planning team to provide greater encouragement to and support for such policies. A guidance note should be produced setting out the council's expectations for provision of green space. This could include a checklist. The provision of green space as a condition for planning as well as retaining wildlife corridors, preventing the breaking up of wildlife corridors for individual plots and ensuring biodiversity net gain should be included.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>There are currently 37 Guidance notes which have been produced to assist parish councils producing neighbourhood development plans. Three of these currently cover topics on 'Conservation Issues (Guidance Note 23)', 'Recreation Areas (Guidance Note 24)' and 'Renewable Energy (Guidance Note 25)'. These three Guidance Notes can be reviewed, recast and broadened to cover a greater focus on low carbon policies, carbon reduction, green space and biodiversity. Checklists can be included within the notes to help guide those parishes whilst producing their revised NDPs</p>	<p>To revise and recast the current NDP Guidance Notes 23, 24 and 25 to include a wider scope of green spaces and low carbon.</p>	<p>Due to capacity and the timeframes for the Local Plan the team have been concentrating on the strategic policy development. Many NDPs are currently awaiting the update of the Local Plan before commencing their reviews so it is appropriate for any updated NDP guidance to be responsive to the updated strategic policies of the Local Plan than the outdated Core Strategy policies.</p>	To commence
21	<p>Consideration should be given to an SPD for new anaerobic digesters should prioritise feedstock which supports the circular economy and where it can be shown there will be no adverse effects on water quality.</p>	<p>Rejected.</p> <p>The Minerals and Waste Local Plan sets out an emerging policy (M3) which would carry greater weight than an SPD. The draft policy supports anaerobic digestion where its use is to manage only natural wastes generated primarily on the agricultural unit within which it is located. The policy would also require development proposals to demonstrate delivery of a net reduction in nutrient discharges contributing to nutrient neutrality, or betterment, within the River Wye SAC.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.</p>	<p>The Examination of the Minerals and Waste Plan has recently concluded its hearing sessions. Inspectors modifications will be consulted upon in the New Year.</p>	In progress
22	<p>With respect to flooding:</p> <p>a. No future development sites should be brought forward in Environment Agency designated flood zones 2 and 3 in order to allow these areas to sequester carbon, improve biodiversity and resilience.</p> <p>b. Actively investigate the causes of pluvial flooding and the discharge of water and sediments onto the public highway and carry out enforcement.</p> <p>c. Discussions take place with the LGA/EA/local and national drainage authorities and other appropriate bodies to see how flooding issues can be addressed at a national level.</p> <p>d. That there be a focus on actions that can be taken locally by council and partners.</p> <p>e. Work with landowners from whose land flooding onto the highway is known to occur reminding them of their responsibilities.</p>	<p>a. Rejected.</p> <p>b. Accepted.</p> <p>c. Accepted.</p> <p>d. Accepted.</p> <p>e. Accepted.</p> <p>The full response can be found here: https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/documents/s50088132/Appendix%201%20for%20Executive%20response%20to%20the%20Climate%20and%20Ecological%20Emergency%20Task%20and%20Finish%20Group%20Revi.pdf</p>	<p>Continued working with the EA, BBLP to investigate flooding and identify mitigation.</p> <p>Conduct Section 19 investigations into significant flood events.</p> <p>c. Continued working with the EA, BBLP and regional flood committees</p> <p>c. Deliver NFM to reduce flood risk</p> <p>d. Support local Flood Groups through the Talk Communities project.</p> <p>e. Council website to be updated regarding guidance on riparian responsibilities.</p>	<p>b. Ongoing. Under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, Herefordshire Council as the lead local flood authority (LLFA), has a duty to investigate incidents of flooding. There were a number of flood incidents in 2019/20 that passed our significant event threshold and these have been published on www.herefordshire.gov.uk/floods. Further investigations will be carried out as and when they meet our thresholds.</p> <p>c. Ongoing. We continue to be represented at the English Severn and Wye Regional Flood & Coastal Committee (RFCC) by Cllr Harrington.</p> <p>The council has secured Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGIA) and Local Levy funding which will enable us to build upon our previously successful Natural Flood Management (NFM) pilot project until 31 March 2027.</p> <p>d. Ongoing. Funding is allocated within the annual plan for the public realm services contract with BBLP for supporting local flood groups and communities - this point of contact has engaged with several communities. We hope to resume community engagement within seven priority sub-catchments as part of the Herefordshire NFM project.</p> <p>e. Complete. Processes have been consolidated and formalised in a Riparian Drainage Process which has been published on the council website.</p>	In progress

23	<p>Recommendation 23 Where sites have already been identified for development, the council should be supporting local house builders to build sustainable housing.</p>	<p>Executive Response Rejected.</p> <p>With regards to housing sites, the council will not be able to direct that local house builders build out development sites. It could, by virtue of the review of the Local Plan, allocate a range of sizes of development sites that would assist both small scale local house builders and national house builders in delivering sites in Herefordshire.</p> <p>In the review of the Local Plan the council will investigate whether section 106 agreements can be used to facilitate the use of local employment and training clauses to encourage creation of sustainable jobs and training. This will require an understanding of the needs of the construction industry, and the local context in terms of the availability of skilled, trained and experienced workers.</p> <p>Implementing the recommendation will be dependent on how the Government responds to the consultation responses received on their proposals to abolish the use of section 106 agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy and the replacement with a national Infrastructure Levy.</p>	<p>Recommendation to be captured and explored in the review of the Local Plan.</p>	<p>Recommendation to be captured and explored in the review of the Local Plan. Work on the Local Plan policies are ongoing.</p>	In progress
24	<p>The council assess the potential for using s.106 monies to retrofit existing poorly performing housing stock in the county to improve thermal efficiency (Milton Keynes as an example).</p>	<p>Executive Response Accepted.</p> <p>Carbon offsetting can operate as a planning policy that requires a reduction in carbon emissions beyond that required by Building Regulations. The offset payments pay for carbon saving projects to go ahead elsewhere, to make up for the carbon savings not achieved within developments. Carbon offsets are collected through section 106 legal agreements.</p> <p>In the review of the Local Plan the council will investigate how a carbon offset regime could operate, the risks and benefits of using carbon offsetting, the price that developers could be charged per tonne of carbon to achieve carbon abatement offsite, the type of measures that might be eligible and how a carbon offset fund might be managed.</p> <p>Implementing the recommendation will be dependent on how the Government responds to the consultation responses received on their proposals to abolish the use of section 106 agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy and the replacement with a national Infrastructure Levy.</p>	<p>To consider as a part of the Local Plan review.</p>	<p>Viability assessment work has been commissioned and this will help to inform future S106 considerations</p>	In progress
25	<p>The Group recognises the good work of officers in signposting community groups to grant funding and recommends the council increases resources so it is able to support bids through the application process and proactively drive bids in support of environmental projects with significant positive environmental outcomes</p>	<p>Rejected. Due to the financial pressures the council is under it is not possible to increase resources in further support of this work.</p> <p>The operational services provided by the Talk Community Division are currently being developed and redesigned with the aim to increase reach and impact for all the services. The Talk Community division have been supporting Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) to fund activities, services and projects and the redesign aims to increase this reach by offering community support and advice through a model of self-help tools, as well as upskilling those supporting community groups and organisations so that there is wider access to funding advice.</p> <p>Officers from the Talk Community Division support Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations seeking to fund activities, services and projects. The service is available to all such organisations including those developing environmental projects. In support of environmental projects the Sustainability & Climate Change team will provide technical advice and support wherever necessary/possible. So far in 2020/21 the Talk Community Division have supported VCSE organisations to secure £1,253,620 for environmental projects and activities.</p>	<p>Continue to actively promote the support available to VCSE organisations seeking to fund environmental projects.</p>	<p>Talk Community officers provide funding and grant support based on Primary Care Network areas.</p> <p>All community groups will have free access to the online funding resource Grant Finder from 14/12/22</p>	In progress
26	<p>The council should continue to support and promote Keep Herefordshire Warm (KHW) having regard to the importance of addressing fuel poverty and provide incentives and support to individuals to make behaviour changes to reduce carbon emissions.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>The current Keep Herefordshire Warm (KHW) contract, run by Severn Wye Energy Agency will run until 2022, when the contract will be reviewed and either extended or re-tendered. KHW has supported over 900 households through the course of 2020/21, however energy efficiency measure installs and physical home visits are down on previous years as a result of the pandemic. Activity is on-going to promote the service and associated schemes and funding through a suite of tools including targeted social media, e-learning delivery and the website.</p>	<p>Continue to promote KHW using a variety of methods in 2021/22; ☑ Increase uptake of energy efficiency measures and home visits as County transitions out of the pandemic.</p>	<p>In 2021/22 a total of 1,035 households received advice. In quarters 1 and 2 of 22/23: 748 households have received advice through KHW (target 1000); grants totalling £377K provided to households, engaged with 41 member sof the public and 75 frontline staff at events; delivered three fuel poverty training sessions to 72 people. 38 energy efficiency measures installed; 5 home visits completed; 15,011 'hits' to KHW website; 63 separate marketing activities completed and 75 staff/stakeholders engaged for fuel poverty training and affordable warmth network facilitation.</p>	In progress

27	<p>The council should have sufficient expertise and resource to carry out proactive works to protect the natural environment with a focus on wider ecological concerns in addition to responding to planning applications. The council should therefore appoint a dedicated officer to carry out proactive works</p>	<p>Accepted, in part. In addition to providing ecological advice for planning consults the Council's recently appointed Principal Ecologist will also take a leading role engaging in strategic and proactive work including the development of a new Nature Strategy, addressing the recently declared ecological emergency, and further supporting work to address water quality and phosphate pollution within the Rivers Lugg and Wye. We do also require sufficient ecology expertise to carry out our statutory duty in terms of providing ecological advice for planning consults and processing HRA, in order to avoid legal challenge. This would require an additional full time planning ecologist. In order to consider the increasing complexity and work load for the natural environment team a strategic review is proposed to consider the current and future resource requirements to deliver the statutory planning function, to meet the Council's commitments on the climate and ecological emergency and also to consider the future implications of the forthcoming Environment Bill.</p>	<p>Strategic review of the Built & Natural Environment service to consider current and future resource requirements.</p>	<p>An ecology recovery plan was developed in early 2022 which both addressed the backlog in ecology consults through short term use of consultants. In addition the team structure was reviewed and we have successfully recruited a new Principal Ecologist, Senior Ecologist, Graduate Ecologist and we are currently recruiting an apprentice.</p>	Complete
28	<p>To immediately resource an update of the Biological Records, making the data contained therein an up to date and accurate benchmark from which to understand and enhance biodiversity in the County.</p>	<p>Rejected, due to resource constraints it is not possible to immediately resource an update to the Biological records, however we are proactively working with partners and looking to make a funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund which will help to update the records Herefordshire Biological Records Centre (HBRC) was established in 2001 as a 'not for profit' organisation run for the public benefit. It has been hosted from the outset by Herefordshire Council, operates on a self-financing model and works with partners and volunteers to provide a central database for environmental data in the county The HBRC is proactively working with partners to develop data sharing agreements with recording groups across the county in order to expand and update the Biological Records. HBRC officers are also seeking alternative funding opportunities and are developing external grant applications in order to further develop the website, to enable online data requests and to free up officer time to input and improve data. The service is also working in partnership with Herefordshire Wildlife Trust (HWT) to review the current criterion for the designation of Local Wildlife Sites, to resurvey the existing sites is to be undertaken this year in partnership and new sites identified next year, which will enable HBRC to update this dataset. HBRC & the council are also working in partnership with Malvern Hills AONB to share data for the Nature Recovery Network pilot scheme which is currently underway. The Wye Valley AONB have carried out more up to date survey work of habitats in AONB through a project in 2017 with trainee ecologists, HBRC will contact both AONBs to investigate data sharing agreement (this year)</p>	<p>Funding application developed and submitted to the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Partnership working with the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust to resurvey the Local Wildlife Sites.</p>	<p>As part of the Climate Assembly Action Plan, additional resourcing has been allocated to develop a Herefordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Additional resourcing has also been allocated to develop the Nature Recovery Mapping which would underpin this work and will enable the updating of the current biological records, local wildlife sites and other data sets. This work is due to commence in early 2023 after the publication of the new Local Nature Recovery Strategy guidance which is overdue from central government.</p>	In progress
29	<p>A soil strategy for the County should be produced as a matter of urgency.</p>	<p>Accepted. It is envisaged that the proposed nature strategy will encompass all areas of the natural environment including air, water, green infrastructure and soil. It will set out good practice in terms of soil management in order to address soil erosion and nutrient leaching in line with Defra guidance on Catchment Sensitive Farming Measures and Farming Rules for Water This will also link with the existing partnership work on soils through the Herefordshire and Marches Nature Partnerships and the delivery of the Marches Environment Strategy 2020-2023 which includes agriculture, soils and woodland as a key strategic priority.</p>	<p>Soils to be included within the development of the proposed Nature Strategy</p>	<p>The draft nature strategy has been shared with the Local Nature Partnership and the Herefordshire Climate and Nature Partnership Board and is due for adoption in early 2023.</p>	In progress

30	<p>Improving biodiversity of hedgerows and trees;</p> <p>a. Review the approach by statutory undertakers to rewinding verges.</p> <p>b. The council should adopt a Hedgerow Manifesto as part of the emerging tree strategy including ancient and semi natural woodland.</p> <p>c. That the business case for another cut and collect machine is developed.</p> <p>d. That training be provided on sustainable verge management as part of a Parish Summit meeting inviting other key stakeholders who look after green open spaces including lengthsman.</p> <p>e. Recognise the importance of effective communication in advance of any changes to explain them fully to the public</p>	<p>a. Accepted in part, subject to Nature Strategy review.</p> <p>b. Accepted in part, subject to Nature Strategy review.</p> <p>c. Accepted in part, subject to development of business case.</p> <p>d. Accepted.</p> <p>e. Accepted.</p> <p>Within the recently approved capital budget for 2021/22 the Council has allocated £2.299m for the new Extra Ordinary Highways Maintenance & Biodiversity Net Gain project. This innovative new project seeks to mitigate carbon emissions and to deliver biodiversity net gain as part of highway maintenance and will include enhancements to verges and increased tree coverage. The consideration of a business case for a new cut and collect machine will be included within this project.</p> <p>The proposed Nature Strategy seeks to protect and enhance biodiversity and key to this will be consideration of hedgerows and trees. As such the proposed response is to include consideration of a Hedgerow Manifesto through the development of this strategy.</p> <p>This work will also be informed through the recent purchase of new mapping software for Hereford city that enables us to calculate percentage of canopy coverage in the urban area. Officers will also explore the potential to broaden the use of this mapping to consider hedgerows</p> <p>Further opportunities for partnership working will also be considered, for example working with tree wardens and members of public to identify species of trees within settlements and include this within the Council's mapping. This would enable us to address the ecological emergency through increased diversity of species. For example the Council has begun to plant different species at the King George playing fields as these are likely to be more flood tolerant.</p> <p>The Council recognises the importance of effective communication in advance of any changes which will be promoted through the corporate communications channels</p>	<p>Consideration of a Hedgerow Manifesto and approach to rewinding verges to be considered through the development of the Nature Strategy.</p> <p>Development of business case for additional cut and collect machine to be included within the Extra Ordinary Highways Maintenance & Biodiversity Net Gain project.</p>	<p>As part of the Annual Plan 21/22 and subsequent years – Balfour Beatty are committed to working with 'Verging on Wild' and other community groups to increase wildflower areas on Highway Verges in Herefordshire where suitable. Currently over 50 sites have been identified and assessed. Additionally, further to contacting all Parish Councils 19 responded this year identifying roads within their Parish which would be suitable for a reduced maintenance regime which would promote the growth of wild flowers and biodiversity. Verging on Wild, supported by Balfour Beatty can offer training on maintenance, identification and management of wildflower verges on the Highway Network to Parish/Town Councils and lengthsman.</p> <p>BBLP are working with Verging on Wild to alter their verge maintenance schedules to encourage and promote the identified species that have been identified.</p> <p>To date 45 verges have been designated and allowed to rewild.</p> <p>Additional formal wildflower verges were installed in 2020 by BBLP at Rotherwas Relief Road, Aylestone Hill Verge, Stretton Sugwas Roman Road.</p> <p>BBLP canvassed all Parish Councils for their views on omitting the first of two verge cuts on C&U class routes to promote biodiversity. 39 Parishes responded with 11 parishes going forward with this trial. This will be offered to all Parishes for 22/23.</p> <p>Features in the Annual Plan 2023-24. BBLP will again write to all Parishes to agree 1 cut regime on Highway Verges if they do not impact on the Highway Safety.</p>	Complete
31	<p>The council should, in consultation with Highways England, explore getting local authority verges in Herefordshire registered under Tier 3 for Environmental Land Management Schemes.</p>	<p>Executive Response Accepted</p> <p>The council is currently working with numerous partners including Balfour Beatty Living Place, Herefordshire Wildlife Trust and several other wildlife organisations on the 'Verging on Wild' project. This partnership activity has identified 10 sites to undertake this activity which is currently being reviewed by the officers with BBLP.</p> <p>Officers can make contact with Verging on the Wild to investigate this further and can also obtain mapping of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) to assist with identifying further sites for possible intervention.</p> <p>BBLP also offered parish councils the opportunity to change to their mowing regime to promote wildlife although this has had limited take up.</p>	<p>Consider opportunity for local authority verges to become registered as part of Environmental Land Management Schemes.</p> <p>Continuation of partnership working on the Verging on Wild project.</p> <p>Further promotion to Parish Councils to enhance wildlife through changes to mowing regime.</p>	<p>BBLP are working with Verging on Wild to alter their verge maintenance schedules to encourage and promote the identified species that have been identified.</p> <p>To date 45 verges have been designated and allowed to rewild.</p> <p>Additional formal wildflower verges were installed in 2020 by BBLP at Rotherwas Relief Road, Aylestone Hill Verge, Stretton Sugwas Roman Road.</p> <p>BBLP canvassed all Parish Councils for their views on omitting the first of two verge cuts on C&U class routes to promote biodiversity. 39 Parishes responded with 11 parishes going forward with this trial. This will be offered to all Parishes for 22/23.</p> <p>Features in the Annual Plan 2023-24. BBLP will again write to all Parishes to agree 1 cut regime on Highway Verges if they do not impact on the Highway Safety.</p>	In progress

32	<p>A strategic approach to biodiversity net gain should be established, working alongside partners to aggregate biodiversity net gain across the County and maximise the benefit. Carbon sequestration and offsetting should be pursued together with the scope for the County to benefit economically from these actions through the development of a business case. The Council should engage with other landowners highlighting the potential gain to them of tree planting and offer support to owners in growing;</p> <p>a. A record should be kept of number of trees planted, and felled, their age, location and regrowth plan for example a running counter on the website since the declaration of the climate and ecological emergency.</p> <p>b. The council should explore options for an open market trading platform for biodiversity and carbon.</p> <p>c. The council should take every opportunity to expedite tree planting on council owned land where appropriate, including closed landfill sites.</p>	<p>Accepted in part, a record of tree planting facilitated, enabled and delivered by the Council to be maintained.</p> <p>b. Accepted in part, phosphate trading platform is currently being explored.</p> <p>c. Accepted.</p> <p>The County Plan sets out a strong commitment to 'Protect and enhance the county's biodiversity, value nature and uphold environmental standards' and the Nature Strategy proposed within the Corporate Delivery Plan will further develop the Council's strategic approach to biodiversity net gain.</p> <p>As a committed member of the Herefordshire Local Nature Partnership the council will continue to work with partners to maximise biodiversity net gain across the County.</p> <p>Offsetting will also come forward as part of the Environment Bill. The delivery of biodiversity net gain where it cannot be achieved on site therefore needs to be incorporated into section 106 contributions as part of the planning process. This will also be guided by the timescales of the Bill and the Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS).</p> <p>Further examples of existing activity and partnership working include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☒ Partnership with Natural England and Herefordshire Wildlife Trust to develop Nature Recovery Networks (NRNs) for the county which will help to identify opportunities for offsetting. Officers are also on the steering group for the NRN pilot scheme in the Malvern Hills AONB which is trialling the Gloucestershire model. ☒ The Council is investigating the opportunities to utilise s.106 contributions for phosphate credits through the development of a new phosphate trading platform which could then be used to fund projects to improve water quality such as wetlands <p>The Council has also commissioned the Wye & Usk Foundation to identify areas of land at risk of a higher degree of phosphate leaching as well as projects to address the pollution. This will allow the council to identify further strategic projects to improve water quality and rewilding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☒ Through the Green Space Enhancement Project as part of the Towns Fund accelerated funding programme the Council is providing 519 trees free of charge to residents and organisations in Hereford City, ~80 new landmark trees in self watering planters and planting ~90 large trees across the Hereford Enterprise Zone. ☒ The Extra Ordinary Highways Maintenance & Biodiversity Net Gain project will also include significant tree planting across the public realm. 	<p>Record of tree planting facilitated, enabled and delivered by the Council to be maintained.</p> <p>Tree planting enabled through the Towns Fund Green Space Enhancement Project to be mapped on the Council's website.</p> <p>Completion of phosphate trading platform.</p>	<p>Natural Environment will be leading on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Nature Recovery Network Mapping. We have already reached out to local nature partnership and other environmental groups to run a series of workshops establishing our knowledge around datasets held within the county and developing a terms of reference for partnership working. We are also working with LUC consultants to develop an update to our natural environment evidence base which will provide a baseline for the strategy. We are now awaiting detailed guidance from Defra.</p>	In progress
33	<p>The council should urgently seek counsel advice regarding the implementation of a water protection zone to protect the special area of conservation (SAC) from diffuse agricultural pollution (Wye and tributaries).</p>	<p>Accepted in part.</p> <p>The council has been in discussion with the Environment Agency and other Nutrient Management Board partners to understand the process behind this. The first stage would be detailed modelling to demonstrate the need for a Water Protection Zone (WPZ), in order to put a business case to DEFRA should the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales wish to proceed. Councillors and officers have met with local MPs to request intervention and a list of proposals for funding is being put forward, with the alternative being to lobby the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales to press for a WPZ. The process of seeking a WPZ can take up to 10 years, with only one so far in the UK</p>	<p>A list of actions for DEFRA shall be presented to the local MPs through a working group which is coordinated by the Environment Agency.</p>	<p>Herefordshire Council lobbied government for a water protection zone however this was rejected. As a result however a Cabinet Commission has been established to undertake a more strategic and systems led review of river quality and in particular to consider how the council can use all the powers and influence available to it to progress the restoration of the Wye and Lugg.</p>	Complete
34	<p>The council should explore the use of council land for solar farms and where appropriate council car parks linked with EV charging points.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>The Sustainability & Climate Change team have previously carried out a scoping exercise for solar farms with the ex-landfill site at Stretton Sugwas identified as a potential location, however after investigation with an installer and community support the site was not deemed suitable. The Sustainability & Climate Change team will identify council owned car parks with sufficient electrical demand for solar photovoltaic (PV) installations</p>	<p>Review electricity demand of council car parks. Carry out a feasibility study on Garrick Multi-storey car park.</p>	<p>A provisional survey has revealed that Garrick Multi-storey car park has enough energy consumption to support installation of a solar PV canopy. Team will further explore feasibility of install on this site in 2023.</p>	Complete

35	<p>Should a Climate and Ecological Emergency Policy Committee not be agreed or established the following recommendations should be made to the executive.</p> <p>Recommendation 35 The Committee should review all elements of the work so far on the climate and ecological emergency to ensure progress and avoid duplication of work.</p> <p>a. Specifically the Committee should review the SPD and environmental and ecological checklists produced.</p> <p>b. The work of the Committee and others should guide the council's actions to ensure it is moving in the right direction.</p>	<p>The rethinking governance working group will consider these recommendations as a part of their work.</p>	<p>With reference to the response to recommendation 1, the rethinking governance working group will consider these recommendations as a part of their work.</p>	<p>Review completed by rethinking governance.</p> <p>Following rethinking governance and council decision in May 2022, a new environmental and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee was created. Further constitutional provisions enable power to create standing powers.</p>	Complete
36	<p>There is a need to explore where the council can support the work of the Environment Agency and work more closely together on mutual targets and ambitions regarding enforcement.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>The council chairs regular meetings with the Environment Agency for the purpose of identifying opportunities to reduce flood risk in a collaborative manner. In addition both the council and the Environment Agency are committed members of both the Herefordshire Local Nature Partnership and Nutrient Management Board. These groups work across a number of issues including land use, water quality and reducing phosphate levels in the River Wye catchment area.</p>	<p>Continue to meet and work with the Environment Agency for the purpose of identifying opportunities to reduce flood risk in a collaborative manner and reduce phosphate levels.</p>	<p>The council still chairs meetings every month with BBLP and the EA in order to identify opportunities to reduce flood risk in a collaborative manner.</p>	In progress
37	<p>Good farming and land use practice should be actively promoted by the Committee, supporting existing work by the Wye & Usk foundation and others, with a view to setting up a Herefordshire local seal of quality. The produce should be promoted for example in a food festival, local farm shop or farmers market.</p>	<p>Rejected.</p> <p>Currently the council does not have the resource or expertise to set up a local seal of quality for produce.</p> <p>Through the delivery of the Sustainable Food Places SFP framework we aim to tackle 6 key areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 'Take a strategic and collaborative approach to good food governance and action', 2. 'Build public awareness, active food citizenship and a local good food movement', 3. 'Tackle food poverty, diet related ill-health and access to affordable healthy food', 4. 'Create a vibrant, prosperous and diverse sustainable food economy', 5. 'Transform catering and procurement and revitalise local sustainable food chains' 6. 'Tackle the climate and nature emergency through sustainable food and farming and an end to food waste'. <p>More specifically under key area 2 'inspire and engage the public about good local food' and 'foster food citizenship and a local.</p> <p>As part of the climate action plan development work, the council are working closely with the NFU, Farm Herefordshire and the Wildlife Trust to promote good farming and land use practice.</p>	<p>Continue to work with landowners and promote best practice on NFM.</p> <p>SFP co-ordinator grant application</p> <p>Expansion in membership of Food alliance (leading SFP)</p> <p>SFP criteria gap analysis & initial action plan development July 2020</p> <p>SFP 6 month action plan</p>	<p>Co-ordinator in post Jan 2021</p> <p>Additional members have joined the Alliance; Mapping ongoing.</p> <p>We will continue to work with landowners in the seven priority sub-catchments as part of the Herefordshire NFM project.</p> <p>SFP Coordinator in post, Hereford Food Alliance continued expansion, Herefordshire food charter developed and promotion ongoing, collaborative food hub feasibility activity across Marches area under development.</p>	In progress
38	<p>The council should work with Parish Councils and partners such as Sustrans and the Local Access Forum to map potential cycle and walking route extensions.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>The council is planning to progress development of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). In progressing the LCWIP over the next year it will engage with key stakeholders including parish councils, Local Access Forum and other relevant consultees. This will include review of rural cycle routes which are already identified and consideration of new routes and extensions to routes. It is likely that some of the rural routes will present opportunities for leisure cycling and will help.</p>	<p>Subject to cabinet confirming next steps in development of transport strategy and agreement to allocate appropriate resource, progress LCWIP during 2021/22.</p>	<p>Development of the City masterplan will deliver an LCWIP for Hereford. The draft plan will be considered by Cabinet in February 2023 before wider public consultation in summer 2023. Consultants will be appointed in early 2023 to extend the LCWIP to cover the whole of the county in one plan. Consultation with stakeholders and the public will be undertaken in developing the countywide LCWIP.</p>	In progress
39	<p>Strips of land alongside rural roads should be investigated to create cycle ways with a view to purchase or lease the land.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>The development of the LCWIP described in recommendation 38 would allow for consideration of rural cycle routes adjacent to existing highways. Any assessment of these routes would need to consider the appropriate design including if land was required and the potential costs of schemes. As per recommendation 31 it is important to recognise that 'strips of land alongside rural roads' may well provide an important wildlife asset and any proposals to identify these for cycle routes would need to consider how this would impact a wildlife asset.</p>	<p>Subject to cabinet confirming next steps in development of transport strategy and agreement to allocate appropriate resource progress LCWIP during 2021/22.</p>	<p>This recommendation will be considered as part of developing the City Masterplan, LCWIP and the new Local Transport Plan.</p>	In progress
40	<p>20 mph zones should be implemented across Hereford, the market towns and around schools, countywide.</p>	<p>Accepted, subject to funding.</p> <p>Whilst the Local Transport Plan includes general policies supporting the introduction of residential 20mph zones, 20mph zones designed within public realm projects and 20mph zones for schools these can only be implemented subject to securing sufficient capital funds and meeting the requirements through the Traffic Regulation Order process.</p> <p>Following the motion by council that 'this Council requests that the executive undertakes an investigation concerning the introduction of area-wide 20mph speed limits across Herefordshire's towns and major villages.' Officers confirmed that an investigation would be undertaken subject to securing government funding in the summer of 2020. Some funding for temporary 20mph limits was secured in 2020 through the Emergency Active Travel scheme, but no funding has yet been secured for the investigation of area-wide 20mph speed limits across Herefordshire's towns and major villages so this has not yet been progressed. A capital funding business case is to be developed to undertake an investigation of 20 mph limits across the county and to develop a programme to implement these.</p>	<p>Subject to securing funding, commission an investigation of 20mph zones for Herefordshire's towns and major villages. The outcome of this investigation to form funding submissions to progress the implementation of limits prioritised around those which would provide the most significant benefits in terms of safety, modal shift and with greatest level of community support.</p>	<p>£1.2m of funding was agreed by Cabinet in October 2022 to fund the development of policies and strategies for the roll out of 20mph zones.</p> <p>Consultants with widespread experience of 20mph zones elsewhere in the UK will be appointed by January 2023. Priorities will be data and evidence analysis, policy development, pilot scheme identification and consultation.</p> <p>Implementation of pilots is expected to start in autumn 2023 and be completed by spring 2024, to be followed by monitoring and a policy/strategy review before any further roll out.</p>	In progress

41	<p>Opportunities to support all schools in developing school travel plans noting the link to changing travel to school behaviour and wider travel behaviour of children and parents should be explored.</p>	<p>Accepted. Support for school travel planning has focused on Hereford schools in recent years through the Destination Hereford programme which has been funded via external revenue grant (local sustainable transport fund and in more recent years Access Fund). A review of approaches and preferred model for delivering countywide school travel plan will be progressed to determine the opportunities for providing countywide support and how this would be funded.</p>	<p>Review countywide school travel plan support and identify preferred approach, resource requirements and funding sources.</p>	<p>School Travel plan support was delivered by consultants Mosodi Ltd from November 2021 - September 2022. 24 travel plans have been completed and direct engagement with 63 schools since December 2021 to present. There is a School Travel Plan Toolkit which has gone out to all schools. There is Schools Travel Plan Network including 4 travel plan network meetings hosted. Full time School Travel Plan Officer to continue this work - about to go out to recruit (Nov 2022) with associated budget to support school in delivering the plans.</p>	Complete
42	<p>To address the issues of rural transport the council should pursue funding to support innovative transport schemes within the community sector including demand responsive transport (DRT), car clubs and low traffic neighbourhoods ADDITIONAL FROM APRIL 22 (42) work is undertaken in conjunction with the transport team to undertake surveys with schools, to identify barriers and opportunities for active travel. A full survey to commence and report back with opportunities and recommendations by November 2021;</p>	<p>Accepted. Opportunities to pursue funding to support innovative transport schemes (including those described in the recommendation) will be progressed as and when such opportunities are identified. For example during 2020/21 an expression of interest was submitted to the DfT's Rural Mobility Fund to support a trial DRT scheme in the county. Unfortunately, DfT did not prioritise this submission but officers will continue to develop funding submissions as the opportunities arise. DfT has announced some potential future funding sources in its Gear Change policy statement including trials for mini Holland schemes outside of London and is also committed to produce a National Bus Strategy in 2021 which could also set out new funding opportunities.</p>	<p>Monitor opportunities to pursue funding for innovative transport schemes to support transport for rural areas as well as urban locations. Any funding submission will need to be in accordance with the council's financial procedures rules.</p>	<p>6 zones for potential DRT have been established. A case has been put forward to introduce such a service in the Leominster area. Leominster, as a rural network, would see the benefit of such a service that would improve accessibility and also combine with existing services. The Strategic Plan sets out that the Council purchase 3 minibuses which could be booked via a telephony service. Funding has yet to be sourced for the scheme. The DfT are expected to offer further funding which will be applied for when it's made public. Car Clubs: an 18 month Community car club pilot ran from September 2021 - March 2023, facilitated by Malvern Hills Car Club. Five car clubs were established in The Birches, Leominster, Kington, Fownhope and South Hereford. A transport survey was undertaken from the 27th April 2022 until 31st May 2022. Of the 540 who responded, 71 respondents had school-age children. The most common means of transport for school / education is also as driver of a car with a passenger but followed by walking and then driving alone in a car (but note no under-18s completed the survey). There is a mixed picture of travel to school patterns: of those who indicated they have primary age children the most common mode of travel for child 1 is 'car / van', closely followed by 'walking / scooter' but for child 2 it's the other way round. For those with secondary age children, it is 'walking / scooter', followed by 'car / van' and then 'school bus' for child 1, and 'school bus', followed by 'car / van' and 'walking / scooter' for child 2.</p>	Complete
43	<p>A 'shop drop' scheme should be considered to support car-free city and town centres to enable shoppers to park on the outskirts and have shopping sustainably transported to their car, choose how you move location or bus stop. This should support existing 'first mile last mile' schemes. And investigate alternative delivery modes.</p>	<p>Accepted, in part. The development of mobility hubs will form part of the active travel component of the further work developing the Hereford Transport Strategy which will consider this opportunity for both the city and market towns</p>	<p>Develop concept designs for mobility hubs as part of the development of the package of active travel improvements.</p>	<p>There are 15 park and choose sites established around the county, focused on the city, offering users the choice to continue their journey on foot, by bike or on the bus. The City Masterplan is looking at ways to improve these sites, including their size and location, in order to encourage and incentivise more people to use them.</p>	In progress

44	<p>Demand management should be further implemented, supported by robust communications and used to increase the provision of infrastructure to support active travel e.g.:</p> <p>a. Reduce on street parking and replace with infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians.</p> <p>b. Work place levy operated by the council with funds used to increase uptake of active travel.</p> <p>c. Car parking charges to be based on emissions.</p>	<p>Accepted, in part.</p> <p>Options for car parking management including those set out in the recommendation will be reviewed during 2021/22 to identify preferred solutions which will help manage demand particularly for shorter distance trips made by car. Options will need to consider the important role parking plays in providing access to key services (particularly for rural residents, elderly people and people with disabilities) and supporting vibrant local economies as well as the important contribution which parking income makes to supporting transport services including subsidised buses.</p>	<p>Undertake parking review as part of the local transport plan update.</p>	<p>A review of the current tariff offer was completed, with a new charging regime implemented on May 2021, this delivered stronger focus on driver awareness of the parking location they use with car parks zoned in accordance to their proximity to the centre. Charges were simplified so that drivers can easily understand how these tariffs indicate the preference for them to park further away from core areas with increases applied in these most central car parks to displace this demand. Some reductions of on street parking capacities have taken place with the implementation of the St Owens Street contraflow cycle lane.</p> <p>Measures are being considered as part of the draft City Masterplan. The draft plan will be considered by Cabinet in February 2023 before wider public consultation in summer 2023.</p> <p>In December 2022 work was started on developing the new Local Transport Plan (LTP). DfT guidance is expected in Spring 2023 but it is widely anticipated that the LTP will need to focus on decarbonising transport in the county. It is anticipated that development work will include an assessment of current carbon emissions and the reduction necessary to achieve the government's target of net zero by 2050. A wide range of measures will be necessary to achieve the target and consideration of demand management initiatives such as those recommended will be necessary.</p>	In progress
45	<p>The Group recognises the existing work by officers to support the retrofit of fuel poor households. It recommends an investigation into the potential for a local 'green deal' option potentially through the establishment of a social enterprise to support the retrofit of the largest domestic users of energy in the County</p>	<p>Accepted, subject to further decision.</p> <p>The council is committed to the continuation of the support provided by the Keeping Herefordshire Warm service. The council also aims to support the development of domestic building retrofit programmes to further improve the energy efficiency of Herefordshire's housing stock, reducing carbon emissions, improving wellbeing and tackling fuel poverty.</p> <p>Subject to governance and funding, the council will develop a long term countywide retrofit strategy that seeks to facilitate the retrofit of buildings to a much higher standard, help to reduce environmental impact, fuel poverty and improve the quality of life for residents. The study will provide a robust business case to be made to the capital programme in September 2021.</p> <p>In addition to the strategy the council will support fuel poor households to install energy efficiency measures through the upcoming Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (GHG LAD) Phase 2</p>	<p>To prepare a cabinet member report to consider the development of a Herefordshire Retrofit strategy.</p> <p>Develop a business case to apply to the Council's capital programme for a domestic energy efficiency programme to deliver countywide retrofit.</p> <p>Submit informed proposal to Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (GHG LAD) Phase 2 project in order to support fuel poor households to install energy efficiency measures.</p>	<p>Report drafted. Specification of works for the county strategy currently being drafted.</p> <p>Retrofit strategy has been commissioned and completed by consultants WSP nd delivered draft business case and help inform bid to capital programmed hase bid for council capital which will be funded by external grants. This will most likely come from Sustainable Warmth Competition. Council currently liaising with MNZH regarding allocation for 2023/24 and 2024/25</p> <p>In addition to support development of supply chain, training programme etc. tecAdded to BCL PAS 2035 retrofit.</p> <p>Additional BCL in development to deliver retrofit training across the county - training package</p> <p>Currently securing Phase 3 of Sustainable Warmth funding: and currently delivering: In this reporting period we have- Been in contact with 304 households to form an initial project pipeline - 125 deemed eligible</p> <p>- Various comms activities- Retrofit assessments and technical surveys carried out on 95 and 72 properties respectively with 63 quotes approved -Reached capacity for D rated properties and have a reserve list of a further 41 applications in total of which 15 having passed eligibility checks</p>	In progress

46	<p>Consideration should be given to use of alternative fuel market for council fleet and contractors when vehicles/contractors are commissioned.</p>	<p>Accepted. In 2020 the council undertook a green fleet review and re-procured its fleet of vehicles. Included within this six hybrid electric cars and six fully electric cars were purchased for use as pool vehicles or as service vehicles for council teams. The fleet is due to be replaced in 2026 when a further green fleet review will be undertaken to ensure that alternate powered vehicles will be considered before fossil fuel powered vehicles. Through the recently updated decision making process all new decisions must consider their environmental impact as part of their consideration, as such all decisions relating to the purchase of new vehicles will take this into account as a part of the business case development.</p>	<p>In 2026 when the corporate fleet is reproduced non fossil fuel powered vehicles will be considered before fossil fuel powered vehicles.</p>	<p>Thirteen vehicles to date are electric hybrid or fully electric representing 29% of the fleet and 31% of fleet mileage. Thirteen vehicles 15.1 % of fleet mileage.</p>	Complete
47	<p>The use of hydrogen as an alternative fuel for long range vehicles or HGVs across the County should be explored</p>	<p>Accepted. This recommendation aligns well with one of the 6 strategic priorities set out by government in its Decarbonising Transport – Setting the Challenge Paper: Decarbonisation of Road Vehicles. This will be a government led approach which would enable local authorities to identify how they could support this priority as and when government sets out its Decarbonising Transport Plan (this was due end of 2020 but has been delayed by government until spring 2021). Government announced that it will be funding research and development into a number of areas of interest to support decarbonisation of transport and this included hydrogen battery technology stating: "Hydrogen: Electric batteries are a viable technology for smaller vehicles today, but the fuel for delivering a solution for larger road, marine and rail vehicles is not yet clear. Hydrogen is a potential solution, and the UK has a number of world leading centres that could readily test the viability of the hydrogen economy for transport.</p>	<p>Review government's Decarbonising Transport Plan and promised accompanying Science Plan which are due spring 2021, following Decarbonising Transport, and clarify further actions the council might take in supporting hydrogen as an alternative fuel option for road vehicles in the county.</p>	<p>As part of the new waste collection contract we are strongly seeking for our new provider to provide ultra low emission vehicles. We have not over specified a fuel type, this enables the potential providers to bring innovation and the most appropriate technology to Herefordshire to deliver the contract. This will also be considered as a part of the refresh of the Local Transport Plan in 2023.</p>	In progress
48	<p>A Natural Capital management plan should be drawn up with partners. A baseline should be established and the plan should; a. Ensure that its preservation and restoration are given equal weight to economic growth and development in the allocation of funding (particularly capital) and in the decision making process. b. Be used as a framework for positive and collaborative engagement with key partners to achieve a unified approach to remedy damage done to Natural Capital across the County ☐</p>	<p>Accepted, in part. As the Herefordshire Local Nature Partnership (LNP) is the overarching strategic partnership for the environment and natural capital, the proposed response is to formally invite the LNP to consider the development of a Natural Capital management plan as part of its future work programme. This will also be a recommendation to the emerging Herefordshire Climate & Nature Partnership. An initial step for the council would be to identify this approach taken elsewhere. For example, the Warwickshire model is up and running which may also assist with the scope of the proposed Nature Strategy. This could also include consideration of the new Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystem Services (MAES) which is likely to come forward as part of the Environment Bill. This will also assist in the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain and as a tool for establishing baseline of development sites and ensuring the development proposal delivers the min 10% biodiversity net gain as currently proposed in the Environment Bill.</p>	<p>Best practice review of Natural Capital management plans. Proposal to Herefordshire Local Nature Partnership to develop Herefordshire Natural Capital management plan.</p>	<p>First phase is the update to the NE evidence base and progress LNRS, mapping. If Natural Capital Plan is required we would need to consider timescales and resource for this.</p>	In progress

49	<p>A fund to be established to support businesses to contribute to carbon reduction or ecological restoration</p>	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>The council does not have funds available to it to provide business grants, but aims to support businesses with existing national grants through local grant schemes.</p> <p>The council currently manages a European funded grant scheme called Marches Renewable Energy (MarRE) that supports business uptake of renewable energy across the Marches. Up to 50% grant is available to eligible businesses to install a renewable energy installation to reduce carbon emissions and improve business efficiency. This scheme has been a great success in Herefordshire and is currently closed to applications in Herefordshire ahead of project completion at the end of 2021.</p> <p>In addition to this Herefordshire Council is a partner in the Business Energy Efficiency Programme (BEEP) which similarly is a European funded grant scheme that operates across the Marches and Worcester. Assessments of improvements that can be made with respect to energy and resource usage are carried out before grants of up to 40% are made available to help implement the recommendations.</p> <p>Through the Accelerated Towns Fund, 520 trees have been given out to residents and local businesses in Hereford City to increase tree coverage and improve local biodiversity. In addition to this c.80 large 'feature' trees will be located in self watering planters in Hereford City centre and a further 88 large trees will be planted at the Hereford Enterprise Zone.</p> <p>As part of the Covid-19 support for businesses government allocated each local authority an Additional Restrictions Grant fund</p> <p>– On the 3rd March government announced the Community Renewal Fund, with Herefordshire identified as one of one hundred priority local authority areas with an opportunity to receive up to £3m of funding support. The fund can support investment in skills, investment in local business, investment in community and place, and supporting people into employment. The prospectus states 'proposals should demonstrate the extent of contribution to net zero objectives or wider environmental considerations. Projects should be based on low or zero carbon best practice, adopt and support innovative clean tech where possible and support the growing skills and supply chains in support of Net Zero where possible'. In taking forward this fund the council will seek project proposals that support businesses to contribute to carbon reduction, as well as developing retrofit skills and green building skills development programme.</p> <p>In addition to grant schemes administered by the council the Marches Growth Hub developed by the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) act as a single point of contact and signpost businesses to available loans, support and advice including support for business to reduce their carbon and ecological impact.</p>	<p>Through the Community Renewal Fund seek project proposals that will support businesses to contribute to carbon reduction, and develop retrofit and green building skill</p> <p>Subject to government approval, contract and manage the delivery of the proposed projects.</p> <p>Evaluate uptake/ impact and feedback on the schemes offered to inform future schemes by end of May 2022</p> <p>Continue to support BEEP in Herefordshire</p>	<p>Awaiting further guidance on the fund from government, prior to seeking project proposals.</p> <p>Unfortunately, no decarbonisation projects were selected by Government to go forward for CRF. We appointed Chamberlain Walker to carry out an objective appraisal on the CRF submissions we received and applications were assessed against the government scoring criteria under the following: deliverability, strategic fit and viability. Of the projects we put forward, only two were selected by government, but these did not include decarbonisation projects. Fortunately, since then, the Government has issued UKSPF calls and Herefordshire has been provisionally awarded £7.6m based on the submission of a successful Investment Plan. The Investment Plan does include a number decarbonisation interventions but unfortunately, we are still awaiting the outcome of the plan from government before we can implement these. We have also committed to support Worcestershire with the BEEP project - as they were successful with their bid to the Marches LEP low carbon call to repeat BEEP for the next two years (including Herefordshire), but again, we are awaiting the outcome of the investment plans before we can commit to and provide the match funding they require to deliver the scheme across partner areas. Finally, we have been allocated £1.7m RPF funding and are awaiting the outcome of our submission. The RPF is an allocation of capital funding to support rural enterprise. In our RPF submission, we included further decarbonisation measures proposed, including capital grants that can support net zero infrastructure. The RPF was submitted in conjunction with rural partners and the HGSGB. Subject to a successful outcome of the bid, and approval at cabinet in December, this scheme will go live in April 2023.</p> <p>87% complete (54 assessments correct end May 21). Grants awarded 25 £225k (92.2% of grant pot)</p>	In progress
50	<p>The Group would recognise the excellent existing work of Talk Community and recommend it explore support and actively engage with single person households to improve or enhance resilience and prepared for the effects of the climate and ecological emergency</p>	<p>Accepted, in part.</p> <p>The aim of Talk Community is to bring Herefordshire together encouraging residents, businesses, community leaders and the Council to work together to make our community a better place to live and work. To enable residents to take care of themselves, look out for one another and take pride in the place you live. The scheme is targeted at all residents including single person households.</p> <p>From small acts of kindness such as looking out for a neighbour, to volunteer-run community hubs across the county and partnerships with the Police and NHS – our communities are the beating heart of Herefordshire.</p> <p>A parish summit on community resilience is due in March to further support the excellent work carried out by parishes and communities and to continue working in partnership to build on the excellent work undertaken during floods and Covid-19.</p> <p>The Talk Community team will be working with the Directorate Services and Emergency Planning teams and partners throughout 2021 to build on the resilience gained during the past 18 months.</p>	<p>Opening of 50 Talk Community Hubs across the county to support residents.</p> <p>Host Parish summit on community resilience.</p> <p>Work with Directorate Services team and partners to build on community resilience.</p>	<p>4 Hubs are open, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, information sessions are currently being held online.</p> <p>68 Talk Community hubs now live across the county.</p> <p>Talk Community holding Parish Summits 4 times a year as well as parish reference groups January 22 : Integrated Care Strategy March 22 Waste Strategy June 22 State of the Sector & Volunteer Strategy October 22 Reducing Carbon Together</p> <p>We undertook a survey in April - High Level feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48 Parish's completed the survey • 77% said that they had attended TP in the last 12 months • 90% find the meeting beneficial for information sharing, joint working and networking • 78% felt that the structure works <p>Continue working with communities to continue to develop and build resilience: Regular community network meetings (statutory and voluntary sector groups) Debt support: 7 Community debt & money management centres funded by TC; 150 trained volunteers; 550 beneficiaries; £800k debt relief</p> <p>Network of 'Warm Spaces' across the county;</p>	In progress

51	Where the council provides schools meals they must be nutritious, locally sourced, low carbon and ethical	<p>Rejected.</p> <p>The council doesn't currently provide school meals, each school contracts its own service with each governing board responsible for school food provision and school food standards compliance. Historically there have been many small providers across the county rather than a few large caterers which adds to the complexity of the issue but this also provides opportunity.</p> <p>Through the delivery of the SFP model we aim to tackle 6 key areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 'Take a strategic and collaborative approach to good food governance and action', 2. 'Build public awareness, active food citizenship and a local good food movement', 3. 'Tackle food poverty, diet related ill-health and access to affordable healthy food', 4. 'Create a vibrant, prosperous and diverse sustainable food economy', 5. 'Transform catering and procurement and revitalise local sustainable food chains' 6. 'Tackle the climate and nature emergency through sustainable food and farming and an end to food waste'. <p>More specifically under area 3 'Promote the adoption of holistic food culture transformation programmes in a range of settings e.g. schools'</p>	<p>SFP grant application</p> <p>Expansion in membership of Food alliance (leading SFP) Increasing numbers Additional members</p> <p>Mapping of current county-wide food activity</p> <p>Map produced Mapping ongoing SFP criteria gap analysis & initial action plan development SFP 6 month action plan</p> <p>School food project plan</p>	<p>Co-ordinator in post Jan 2021</p> <p>Additional members have joined. Mapping work is ongoing.</p> <p>Sustainable Food Places coordinator in post, Environmental Health & Public Health are delivering the Food standards agency and Department of Education School Food pilot project this academic year, as part of routine food hygiene inspections compliance with the school food standards is noted. Hereford Food Alliance members Growing Local are delivering food & carbon reduction education in schools.</p> <p>Food Charter developed and finalised in March 2022 through Food Alliance, followed by publication and publicity campaign ongoing. Charter agreed, website live https://herefordshirefoodcharter.org.uk/charter-signees ongoing promotion planned There are 68 sign-ups to the charter including both individuals and businesses.</p>	In progress
52	In terms of community gardens, the potential for using pockets of green space in the more urban areas for orchards/market gardens should be explored. A scheme be developed to facilitate residents in the countryside who cannot manage their gardens to find someone eager to make productive use of that land.	<p>Accepted in part.</p> <p>In part this will be explored within our approach to implementing the Sustainable Food Place (SFP) model. Through the delivery of the SFP model we aim to tackle 6 key areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 'Take a strategic and collaborative approach to good food governance and action' 2. 'Build public awareness, active food citizenship and a local good food movement' 3. 'Tackle food poverty, diet related ill-health and access to affordable healthy food' 4. 'Create a vibrant, prosperous and diverse sustainable food economy' 5. 'Transform catering and procurement and revitalise local sustainable food chains' 6. 'Tackle the climate and nature emergency through sustainable food and farming and an end to food waste'. <p>In particular area 2 'Foster food citizenship and a local good food movement' by ensuring communities can access and take control of green, brownfield and unused building spaces and increasing participation in food growing by increase in allotment provision, incorporating growing sites into developments and edible landscapes.'</p> <p>In key area 6 'develop & deliver a land use and management strategy that protects and makes land available for community growing and commercial sustainable agriculture'.</p>	<p>SFP grant application.</p> <p>Expansion in membership of Food alliance (leading SFP).</p> <p>Mapping of current county-wide food activity.</p> <p>SFP criteria gap analysis & initial action plan development Lindsay MacHardy.</p>	<p>Public Health supporting planning with the development of the open space policy and other relevant policies within the local are plan.</p> <p>SFP coordinator in post, Environmental Health & Public Health are delivering the Food standards agency and Department of Education School Food pilot project this academic year, as part of routine food hygiene inspections compliance with the school food standards is noted. Hereford Food Alliance members Growing Local are delivering food & carbon reduction education in schools.</p> <p>https://herefordshirefoodcharter.org.uk/</p>	In progress
53	To recognise and properly protect the natural resource in Herefordshire the Committee should: a. Consider the creation of additional areas of outstanding natural beauty (AONB). b. Support the Wye Valley (including the Monnow Valley) be a national park (see Glover Review) and explore other areas including the Golden Valley as well as link to the other Marches authorities to establish nature recovery networks. c. support protection of the County's SSSIs and SACs	<p>a. Accepted, in part. b. Accepted, in part. c. Accepted.</p> <p>SSSI and SACs are the responsibility of Natural England who are consulted on planning applications. The council also have a duty to consider and protect these designations at a planning stage.</p> <p>Officers are currently working in partnership with HWT and HBRC to review Local Wildlife Sites, reviewing their criterion and survey sites.</p> <p>The creation of new AONBs is a decision for Natural England. Some areas in the north of the county adjacent to the Shropshire Hills AONB have been mooted as potential AONBs for a number of years and officers could investigate the process of promoting this further.</p> <p>The Wye Valley AONB could be linked to the Malvern Hills AONB as a national park, although this is also a decision for Natural England and could be promoted following the Glover Report. Officers could speak with the Wye Valley AONB to understand if this is something they would wish and the process timescales etc.</p>	<p>Explore potential to extend Shropshire Hills AONB with colleagues in Shropshire Council.</p> <p>Explore the potential to link up Wye Valley AONB with neighbouring authorities to create a national park.</p> <p>Continue to support protection of SSSIs and SACs by working in partnership with other agencies and through our planning processes.</p> <p>Continued partnership working with our strategic partners through the Herefordshire Local Nature Partnership</p>	<p>We have improved joint working across the Wye Valley AONB and Malvern Hills AONB through the creation of a joint Planning Officer post to better resource and coordinate planning consults to better protect and further enhance the AONB areas.</p>	In progress

54	<p>An article 4 suspension of the general permitted development order relating to temporary events of off-road motor sports, to develop a more considered approach to the sport which acknowledges its impact on environment and ecology should be made. (Previously under planning)</p>	<p>Rejected.</p> <p>An article 4 direction can be made under the General Permitted Development Order 2015 ("the Order") to remove permitted development rights ("pd rights"). In the case of off-road motor sports an article 4 direction would need to be made to remove pd rights under Schedule 2 part 4 Class B (b) and Class BA(b) of the Order. The use of article 4 directions to remove pd rights are normally made on a case by case basis where it is necessary to protect local amenity or the wellbeing of the area. There will need to be particularly strong justified reasons for withdrawing pd rights relating to a wide area, such as the entire county of Herefordshire.</p> <p>If an article 4 direction is to be made, consultation will need to be undertaken in line with the legislation. Notice of the making of the article 4 direction will need to specify a period of at least 21 days (stating the date on which that period begins) within which any representations concerning the direction may be made to the Council. The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government must also be notified that the direction has been made. Any representations received must be considered in determining whether to confirm the direction. The Council would not be able to confirm the direction until after the expiration of a period of at least 28 days following the latest date on which the direction is served or published. If confirmed, the direction will come into force on the date specified in the notice, and notice must again be served on all persons affected by the order. The Secretary of State must also be notified it has been confirmed. The Secretary of State has the power to modify or cancel article 4 directions at any time before or after they are confirmed.</p> <p>Compensation can be due for abortive expenditure or other loss or damage directly attributable to the withdrawal of pd rights which includes works carried out under the pd rights before they were removed, as well as the preparation of plans for the purposes of any work. Loss or damage directly attributable to the withdrawal of pd rights would include the depreciation in the value of land or buildings, when its value with the permitted development right is compared to its value without the right.</p> <p>As each article 4 direction has to be considered on the merits of each location, the impact of the motorsport has to be considered upon the environment for each bespoke location. It is not therefore possible to categorically state that the planning and legal officers can be supportive of proceeding to an article 4 direction for each and every site in the county, as its success cannot be guaranteed given the other agencies involved and likely legal challenge. That said, it does provide a legal remedy to remove the permitted rights enjoyed by motorsports who would otherwise not need to apply for planning consent if they use the land for less than 28 days a year for a motor sport, of which only 14 days can be for racing or practising for racing.</p>	<p>Planning officers to liaise with the council's legal team to explore the merits in proceeding to an Article 4 Direction in cases where harm can be shown to be caused to the local community or environment.</p>	<p>Rejected, full response is provided to recommendation 69.</p>	<p>Complete</p>
55	<p>The council should make a revolving loan fund available to victims of pluvial flooding caused by human activity, to seek legal redress. Cases and progress should be publicised.</p>	<p>Rejected.</p> <p>Under section 12 of the Local Government Act 2003 a LA may invest: (a) for any purpose relevant to its functions under any enactment, or (b) for the purposes of the prudent management of its financial affairs. The use of the power is subject to guidance issued by the SoS under section 15. Guidance has been issued entitled Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments for financial years commencing on or after 1 April 2018. The guidance is clear that loans come within the ambit of investments. As such the LA is expected to make a return on its investments and interest will be payable (which will need to be at commercial rates to avoid state subsidy rules). Note the guidance also refers to loans to third parties for economic growth purposes.</p> <p>Section 12 is a pre-commencement power for the purpose of section 2 of Localism Act 2011 (Boundaries of the general power) which is subject to restrictions i.e. the section 15 guidance and therefore also applies to the general power under section 1 of the 2011 Act.</p> <p>The suggested fund is for the purposes of funding litigation by individuals affected by flooding due to the failures of neighbouring landowners. It does not appear that this purpose is related to any of the Council's functions as set out in legislation. As such the requirements of section 12 do not appear to be met and the Council would not appear to have the vires to make loans for this purpose.</p> <p>Advice to residents regarding flooding can be found on the councils website: https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/roads/1/flooding?documented=345&categoryid=200196</p> <p>If government considers the severity, duration and extent of reported impact of a flood enough to trigger activation of the Flood Recovery Framework, information regarding any financial support will be published on: https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/flood</p>	<p>The council website be kept up to date with the latest information regarding support after flooding.</p>	<p>We continue to keep the council website up to date with information and resources as to what people need to do if it floods.</p>	<p>In progress</p>

56	Proactively protect the ecology of potential development sites prior to planning permission being sought, mindful of implications for biodiversity net gain.	Rejected. Whilst this is delivered to a degree through the existing Hedgerow Regulations and Tree Protection Orders, unfortunately there is no other legislation that is currently in place that the council can utilise in this manner.	Consideration of options to deliver higher level of protection through the development of the proposed Nature Strategy and through recommendations for policy in the Local Plan. Ongoing review of any new legislation, in particular through the emerging Environment Bill. Liz Duberley Aug 202	At application level ecology already seek to ensure biodiversity enhancement is delivered. With the development of the councils policy around biodiversity net gain this will ensure a strategic approach is taken and that a minimum ten per cent is achieved. Whilst the council is beginning to consider the content of this policy we are still awaiting guidance from Defra.	In progress
57	That this year's mailing of annual Council Tax notices to residents includes a statement from the Leader explaining why the Council has declared the CEE, what goals have been set, and in outline, how can residents and businesses support the Council's efforts to achieve carbon neutrality. And that each subsequent year a statement is sent to residents outlining the progress made in the preceding 12 months.	Rejected. The executive consider that a better use of resource and a more positive engagement message would be to utilise other forms of communications. The launch of the 'Herefordshire Zero Carbon and Nature Rich' website in March is intended to speak to residents in an engaging and interactive way. The website will set out the net zero carbon ambition for the county, our action plans in six key areas (transport, housing and buildings, energy, waste, food and farming and land use) as well as informing residents what they can personally do to make a difference. The website also asks for ideas from residents as to how we can achieve this ambitious goal together. The intention is that the website will be better received, more informative and interactive than a flyer with the council tax letter which may be perceived poorly, especially in relation to the use of paper and ink to disseminate information about climate change or the information lost amongst the other inserts.	Zero Carbon and Nature Rich website launch early March.	Website under development Website live and phased development underway. It outlines how we plan to get the county to get net zero, with action plans covering food, waste, transport, energy, housing and buildings. It promotes the Greener Footprints campaign, with online pledge form, case studies and mapping activity across the county. https://zerocarbon.herefordshire.gov.uk/	Complete
58	Some other local authorities have issued bonds to raise funding for climate-related investments, for example West Berkshire's Community Municipal Investment bond which has reached 50% of its target of £1m and will be used to pay for solar panels on schools. Would the Executive investigate the feasibility of Herefordshire creating a similar investment bond?	Rejected. It is the understanding of the executive that bonds are currently more expensive than the prudential borrowing authorities have access to. West Berkshire pay investors 1.2 percent over a five year term alongside capital repayments. This is a higher cost than the cost of utilising prudential borrowing over the same repayment term, currently 0.8%. There would also be set up costs and the need to generate adequate investor interest. A decision is due to be taken to invest in up to £941,000 of prudential borrowing to install Solar PV where feasible on maintained schools over a three year period. This would offer those schools, a zero cost solar install and discounted energy prices, generated from the solar PV. A decision is due regarding the development of a countywide retrofit strategy. Should the development of the strategy go ahead this strategy will consider the use of Community Municipal Investment bonds as one of the potential funding options to deliver a retrofit programme.	Decision to be made regarding the investment of up to £941k in Solar PV on maintained schools. To prepare a cabinet member report to consider the development of a Herefordshire Retrofit strategy.	Phase 1 complete led to three solar PV installs Almeley, Blackmarston and Earl Mortimer. Phase 2 contract has been awarded for a further three schools John Masefield, Fairfield and Marlbrook installs before end of FY 22/23. Installs are still subject to the schools passing a structural survey. Phase three is scheduled for mid 2023. -(possible four schools identified with potential of inclusion of faith schools, meeting early January to discuss)	In progress
Further recommendations, 26/04/21					
No	Recommendation	Exec Response	Action	Progress to date	Progress Summary
59	(a) the Committee requests the executive to reconsider its response to those recommendations that have been rejected or accepted in part and the recommendations made during the debate and an updated response be presented to the Committee's next scheduled meeting, clarifying in particular the misunderstanding that appeared to have been caused by the use of the word "rejected" which in several cases appeared misleading in the context of the detailed response.	Accepted - 17 & 33 to be changed to be Accepted in Part and 14 & 34 to Accepted. 30D has been reconsidered and accepted	N/A	Complete	Complete

60	(b) subject to confirmation from the solicitor to the Council, the committee establish a standing Panel to monitor the executive response to the Committee's recommendations, the members of the former task and finish group being invited to consider if they would wish to serve on this Panel in the first instance, with the Panel's terms of reference to be reported to the Committee's next scheduled meeting;	Solicitor to the Council confirms no objection to this proposal.		Following rethinking governance and council decision in May 2022, a new environmental and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee was created. Further constitutional provisions enable power to create standing powers.	Complete
61	(c) further consideration be given by the executive to whether sufficient resources have been allocated to implement the recommendations of the review, mindful also of the need to manage the workload of officers;	All action owners have been further consulted and the executive can confirm actions are resourced as per the original executive response	N/A		Complete
62	(d) (17) it be noted that this recommendation has not in effect been rejected but partly accepted and particular re-consideration be given to the production of a local list more swiftly than currently proposed;	Accepted in part – it is noted that recommendation 17 is accepted in part. There is currently a significant implication on resources in the planning and built and natural environment teams due to a nationwide uplift in planning application submissions and staff resources. It is therefore not possible for the planning service to introduce a local list at the current time or the date for review to be brought forward.		The planning department is currently in the process of a restructure, which will take responsibility for this going forwards.	In progress
63	(e) consideration be given to the extent to which notes of meetings between the council and the Environment Agency and others can be made public, even if an abbreviated form to avoid disclosure of confidential information and included in the Nutrient Management Board agenda papers;	Accepted - The council will publish abbreviated notes from these meetings within the www.herefordshire.gov.uk/floods part of our website	Abbreviated notes to be published after each meeting.	Nutrient Management Board put on public footing which will outline the discussions between EA and HC. All details are available on the website https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/download/2176/flood-management-meetings-notes	Complete
64	(f) (20) consideration be given to introducing a mechanism to seek responses from Parish Councils to measure the effectiveness of the advisory notes issued by the Neighbourhood Planning Team in effecting change;	Accepted - The Neighbourhood Planning team do periodically issue a questionnaire to all parish councils regarding the service they have been provided by the team during the production of their neighbourhood plans. This includes a question about the effectiveness of the current guidance notes. The last questionnaire was sent to parish councils in Autumn 2019. Given that many parishes did not progress their NDPs during the pandemic, the questionnaire was not run in 2020. The team will issue a questionnaire in Autumn this year (2021) which will fit well with the new Planning Bill. It should be noted that changes are expected to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) and all the neighbourhood planning guidance notes will need to be updated accordingly in due course. It is the policies of the neighbourhood plans themselves which result in 'effecting change'. The guidance notes are only a small part of this development plan process.	2021 Parish Council questionnaire issued.	Once the guidance has been issued that a request for parish councils to inform of any issues can be made. The survey of parish councils has been delayed for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expected changes to the NPPF and Levelling up Bill and national DM policies will require advice to be updated and amended in due course Emerging Local Plan - again will cause advice to be updated and amended Parish Councils are tending to wait for the emergence of the draft Local Plan and its revised settlement hierarchy so reliance on the current guidance notes has reduced at this time Other Local Planning Authorities and parishes outside of Herefordshire are reporting that Herefordshire's guidance notes are better than others around the country and are using ours to advise their local groups – giving some reassurance that the guidance notes are still 'fit for purpose' in the short term Parish Council consultations on the Local Plan – parishes have received a significant number of consultation regarding the Local Plan and the rural settlement hierarchy within the last 12 months – these were seen as priority Capacity – the team are current assisting in the fast tracking of the Local Plan Therefore, priority has been given to working on the Local Plan at this time. The more appropriate time to consult will be once the new NPPF and the scope of the national DM policies is understood and the draft Local Plan settlement hierarchy is established. We will be able to consult parish council on the scope and range of the current guidance notes within the knowledge of the national picture.	In progress

65	(g) (30d) this recommendation should be revisited and explored more imaginatively and constructively, for example proactively working with Verging in Wild and any other groups within the County that can promote such schemes;	Accepted - As part of the Annual Plan 21/22 and subsequent years – Balfour Beatty are committed to working with 'Verging on Wild' and other community groups to increase wildflower areas on Highway Verges in Herefordshire where suitable. Currently over 50 sites have been identified and assessed. Additionally, further to contacting all Parish Councils 19 responded this year identifying roads within their Parish which would be suitable for a reduced maintenance regime which would promote the growth of wild flowers and biodiversity. Verging on Wild, supported by Balfour Beatty can offer training on maintenance, identification and management of wildflower verges on the Highway Network to Parish/Town Councils and lengthsman.	Identify number of Parish Councils that would like support with wildflower verge management Deliver wildflower verge training sessions	See also response to 30 d. BBLP are working with Verging on Wild to alter their verge maintenance schedules to encourage and promote the identified species that have been identified. To date 45 verges have been designated and allowed to rewild. Additional formal wildflower verges were installed in 2020 by BBLP at Rotherwas Relief Road, Aylestone Hill Verge, Stretton Sugwas Roman Road. BBLP canvassed all Parish Councils for their views on omitting the first of two verge cuts on C&U class routes to promote biodiversity. 39 Parishes responded with 11 parishes going forward with this trial. This will be offered to all Parishes for 22/23. Features in the Annual Plan 2023-24. BBLP will again write to all Parishes to agree 1 cut regime on Highway Verges if they do not impact on the Highway Safety.	Complete
66	(h) (32b) greater clarification be provided on the operation of a phosphate trading platform and what it entails as a briefing to Councillors and the Nutrient Management Board be invited to review the merits of the proposal with a view to information being added to the relevant section of the council's website in due course;	Accepted - The mechanism through which the phosphate trading platform can be secured and delivered is currently being developed by Ricardo consultants, this will be published on the River Lugg catchment area of the website when complete and signed off by the council in collaboration with Natural England. A non-technical summary will also accompany the report in full which can be shared with Councillors and also made publicly available on the website.	Phosphate trading platform, full technical report and non-technical summary to be published on the Council's website.	Following the construction at Luston (in progress) of the worlds first Phosphate reducing integrated wetland, the Council has declared nutrient certainty which enables the commencement of trading phosphate credits from this site. The Herefordshire Phosphate Calculator has been adopted and updated by Natural England as a national tool. The Council is currently operating a first come first served policy on the phosphate credits, whilst the development of a long term policy is developed. Full detail are available on the website.	In progress
67	(i) (33) the committee encourages the executive to continue to explore all solutions to protecting the River Wye SAC catchment including that the possibility for a Water Protection Zone to be proactively discussed with the Environment Agency;	Accepted	Officers to continue exploring all solutions to protecting the River Wye SAC catchment area in partnership with the Nutrient Management Board. Officers to continue proactive discussions with the Environment Agency to consider a Water Protection Zone	Herefordshire Council lobbied government for a water protection zone however this was rejected. As a result however a Cabinet Commission has been established to undertake a more strategic and systems led review of river quality and in particular to consider how the council can use all the powers and influence available to it to progress the restoration of the Wye and Lugg.	In progress
68	(j) (42) work is undertaken in conjunction with the transport team to undertake surveys with schools, to identify barriers and opportunities for active travel. A full survey to commence and report back with opportunities and recommendations by November 2021;	Report findings to General Scrutiny	The annual tracking study tracks attitudes towards active travel including the following outcomes, further information is available regarding buses and car-sharing. Note this survey is open to all ages and this answer links with the response from recommendation 42 where a specific school focussed survey was carried out.	The ongoing tracking study revealed that 77% of all participants (across a range of age groups) were put off cycling by something, the main reason given was it was too dangerous, not suitable due to disability or old age, were not confident enough, did not have a bike or preferred walking. 43% of respondents were put off walking by something, the main reasons given were distance, not suitable due to disability or poor mobility/health, roads can be dangerous, having heavy things to carry and not having enough time.	In progress
69	(k) (54) that this response be reconsidered with a view to developing a county-wide policy.	Rejected The full response can be found here: https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/documents/s50092205/Appendix%201%20for%20Executive%20Response%20to%20General%20Scrutiny%20Recommendations%20Regarding%20the%20Climate%20and%20Ecol.pdf	N/A	Also links to recommendation 54.	Complete
Further recommendations, 26/04/21					
No	Recommendation	Exec Response	Action	Progress to date	Progress Summary

70	<p>That, given the pressing and profound challenges facing the County from climate and ecological change, the executive urgently consider setting up a Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) standing advisory panel directly advising and supporting them and ensuring that the executive deliver our commitments to the Council's declared CEE. That this CEE standing advisory panel be responsible for keeping the appropriate scrutiny committee abreast of progress and thus enabling the executive to be held to account on progress on the CEE.</p>	<p>Rejected – the rethinking governance working group have considered this and are instead recommending a separate scrutiny committee Environment & Sustainability Scrutiny Committee that has as one of its functions the climate and ecological emergency.</p>		<p>Links to recommendation 60.</p>	<p>Complete</p>
71	<p>That the general scrutiny committee believes that having signed up to our Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) that further action needs to be taken across Herefordshire to stop activities that are further damaging our environment and ecology and recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. That the executive be invited to explore more fully those permitted development rights which could be subject to Article 4 direction; ii. That the executive be encouraged to write to the government and the Local Government Association to suggest that the General Permitted Development Order should be reviewed in terms of the environmental or ecological damage that some permitted activities can make; and iii. That the standing panel be invited to consider whether the planning system is fit for purpose for dealing with the CEE. 	<p>Accepted in part</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Whilst bound by national legislation, as detailed below, the Council is actively seeking to utilise these powers to protect the natural environment and is currently developing a site specific article 4 direction at the moment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guidance in the National Planning Guidance on the use of article 4 directions to remove national permitted development rights states that these should be limited to situations where this is necessary to protect local amenity or the wellbeing of the area. The potential harm that the direction is intended to address will need to be clearly identified. In addition the Secretary of State has recently confirmed that Article 4's should only cover areas where significant harm to a particular area has been identified. A blanket approach for the whole county would not be confirmed. - As this is also a planning decision the Council's decision to make or confirm the article 4 direction could be challengeable by judicial review. It is therefore necessary to have proper justification to demonstrate that the Council has exercised its powers properly and considered the appropriate balance between landowner's private rights and the rights of residents in taking a decision to make an article 4 direction. ii. The Secretary of State has the right to call in and modify the article 4 direction and therefore sufficient justification needs to be provided. Therefore the most appropriate approach would be to write to the Secretary of State requesting that certain permitted development rights are reviewed. iii. As per recommendation 1 above, this would also need to be considered following any changes following Rethinking Governance work. It is however noted that significant work is currently underway to enhance the planning consideration for the Climate & Ecological Emergency. For example the recent introduction of new 'climate change' and 'biodiversity and ecology' compliance checklists and new Supplementary Planning Documents on both Environmental Building Standards and Nutrient Impacts on the Natural Environment which are currently in development. 		<p>Herefordshire Council writes to the Secretary of State requesting that certain permitted development rights are reviewed.</p> <p>Email response received. No further action has been taken on this matter.</p>	<p>Complete</p>
72	<p>That it be recommended to the executive that a banner about the Climate and Ecological Emergency, with appropriate links to relevant information, is displayed permanently on the council's webpages.</p>	<p>Accepted - The Council has a scroll through web banner and one space will be dedicated specifically for climate messaging. This recommendation will need to ensure a constant refresh of content to ensure maximum impact.</p>	<p>Herefordshire Council will dedicate one space on the scroll through web banner to include climate messaging. This will be updated as the content should be updated regularly to ensure maximum impact.</p>	<p>Web banner will promote climate messaging and be updated regularly.</p> <p>Banner links to updates. If there no updates, it links to the Zero Carbon Website.</p>	<p>Complete</p>