

## Appendix 1 - Summary of executive responses to the Climate Emergency and Citizens Assembly resolutions passed by full council.

**The motion:** In March 2019 Herefordshire Council unanimously passed a motion recognising the climate emergency. This was updated in December 2020 to include recognition of the ecological emergency.

Since that time the scale of the challenge has become greater, and the need for action more urgent. Climate change is driving extreme weather such as heatwaves that cost lives. Wildlife is under extreme pressure, and species loss is accelerating.

Here in Herefordshire we can see the effects of the climate and ecological emergency very clearly at local level. Climate change contributed to the unprecedented flooding in February 2020 that caused immense damage and disruption. Pollution has caused a collapse in biodiversity in our precious Rivers Lugg and Wye, to the great distress of local residents, as well as impacting on our county's reputation and economy.

This motion therefore offers members the opportunity to renew Herefordshire Council's commitment to taking action to tackle the climate and ecological emergency.

	<b>Proposals in resolutions</b>	<b>Executive response</b>
1	Integrate consideration of climate mitigation and adaptation, and nature recovery, into all council decision-making; and ensure that all decisions are compatible with the goal of a zero-carbon, nature-rich Herefordshire by 2030;	<p>An environmental impact section was added to all decision reports after the previous Climate Emergency declaration. Officers are currently working to strengthen the guidance for environmental impacts section of decision reports to further assist report authors and decision makers.</p> <p>The Council remains committed to ensuring that climate and nature are a key considerations in all decision making and recognises that some decisions may need to balance numerous and competing local priorities.</p> <p>In addition to this the target of a zero-carbon, nature-rich Herefordshire by 2030 is incorporated within the County Plan.</p>
2	Commit to further accelerating reduction of the council's own carbon footprint towards the target of net zero by 2030, including taking every opportunity to reduce use of fossil fuels;	<p>The Council's targets are already amongst the most ambitious in the country and the Council is going as fast as it can to deliver this.</p> <p>This has been recognised three times in the last three years as Herefordshire was the best performing authority in the West Midlands through the Sustainability West Midlands local authority benchmarking.</p> <p>The Council's performance to date has reduced carbon emissions by over 60% since 2008/09, the current Carbon Management Plan sets out the plan to achieve our interim target for a 75% reduction by 2025/26 and work is currently underway to develop the next plan to achieve net zero by 2030/31.</p> <p>The Council continues to use 100% renewable certified (REGO) electricity and will seek to purchase renewable gas when affordable.</p>

3	Commit to taking every opportunity to improve wildlife protection and better management of land for nature, including on council-owned land;	<p>As noted in 1 above protecting and enhancing our natural environment will be considered through the Environmental Impacts section of decision reports and further guidance is currently being developed.</p> <p>Additionally further guidance and consideration is being developed as part of the capital business case process. The Council's draft Nature Strategy sets out all the operations the Council currently undertakes to protect preserve and enhance the natural environment and includes a section on priority actions as part of its next vision moving forward. The draft is due to be finalised and published in Spring 2024.</p>
4	Support and strengthen action with partners towards the goal of a zero-carbon, nature-rich Herefordshire by 2030, including through the Herefordshire Climate and Nature Partnership Board;	<p>Herefordshire Council continues to provide the secretariat to the Herefordshire Climate and Nature Partnership Board who works with a number of groups across the County. The Council continues to work in partnership across a number of other groups including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Local Nature Partnership</li> <li>• The Nutrient Management Board and Technical Advisory Group</li> <li>• The Cabinet Commission</li> </ul> <p>In January 2022 a Climate Citizens assembly was convened asking participants: "How should Herefordshire meet the challenges of climate change?" 35 recommendations were made to the Council. A high level review was undertaken in consultation with teams across the Council. This exercise informed a comprehensive range of new projects.</p>
5	Provide the necessary resources for officers to deliver on the council's carbon reduction and nature protection commitments, and to develop evidence based indicators to enable the council to monitor and report annually on the county's position.	<p>This will be considered as part of the council's budget and corporate planning process with consideration to the wider budget constraints in delivering statutory services and meeting the rising demands of social care.</p> <p>The council currently monitors and reports its performance on carbon reduction annually and will include future reporting on countywide emissions, which is also monitored annually.</p>