

Appendix 1 – Implementing the Environment Act 2021 Update - Recommendations to Cabinet from the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee 27 November 2023

Background:

At its meeting on 27 November 2023, in regards to the Environment Act 2021 Implications and Progress update it received, the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee voted unanimously to make the following recommendations to the executive:

Recommendations

That

- i) the executive commissions a piece of work to evaluate, in broad terms, the costs of implementing the requirements of the Environment Act 2021;
- ii) the executive appoints a single interface with the Office for Environmental Protection;
- iii) the executive works with Farm Herefordshire and the Rural Hub to engage with young farmers about biodiversity and river water quality;
- iv) the executive works with partners and land owners to promote good hedgerow management and develop a hedgerow policy for the council. This should be triangulated with the Defra consultation on protecting hedgerows;
- v) the executive works with the Wildlife Trust and Rivers Trust to look at the membership of the steering committee for local nature recovery; and
- vi) the executive notes that the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee supports the retention on the 2 Air Quality Management Stations (AQMSs).