

## Appendix 1: Summary of Environment and Sustainability recommendations and the executive responses

On 27 November 2023, the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee having considered a report on 'Implementing the Environment Act 2021', made the following recommendations to the executive.

<b>Recommendation i)</b>	<b>That the executive commissions a piece of work to evaluate, in broad terms, the costs of implementing the requirements of the Environment Act 2021.</b>			
<b>Executive response</b>	Agreed in part. As not all of the requirements of the Act are obligations upon the Council, the recommended approach is to evaluate the costs of implementation of the Council's mandatory role.			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>By when</b>	<b>Target / success criteria</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Each service to identify potential costs associated with the new statutory responsibility resulting from the Act and to seek associated new burdens contributions for these.	Service Managers	June 2024	A summary of mandatory requirements with estimated costs.	BB to update on waste. ED on LNRS & BNG CY on Environmental Health

<b>Recommendation ii)</b>	<b>That the executive appoints a single interface with the Office for Environmental Protection.</b>			
<b>Executive response</b>	Agreed			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>By when</b>	<b>Target / success criteria</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Director of Economy and Environment to be a single point of contact.	RC	N/A	N/A	Complete.

<b>Recommendation iii)</b>	<b>That the executive works with Farm Herefordshire and the Rural Hub to engage with young farmers about biodiversity and river water quality.</b>			
<b>Executive response</b>	Agreed			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>By when</b>	<b>Target / success criteria</b>	<b>Progress</b>
The Council attends a number of strategic partnerships where there is representation from landowners/farmers and will make a	ED	June 2024	Representation from Young Farmers	ED to update

formal request to invite the young farmers association to attend LNP and HCNP to discuss biodiversity and river quality.			Association at LNP and HCNP	
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<b>Recommendation iv)</b>	<b>That 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.</b>			
<b>Executive response</b>	Agreed.			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>By when</b>	<b>Target / success criteria</b>	<b>Progress</b>
The Environment Team within the Council has already drafted a Tree and Hedgerow Management Policy in line with national guidance to be adopted.	ED	July 2024	Adopted guidance	ED to advise on governance for adoption

<b>Recommendation v)</b>	<b>That the executive works with the Wildlife Trust and Rivers Trust to look at the membership of the steering committee for local nature recovery.</b>			
<b>Executive response</b>	Agreed in part. The Wildlife Trust is a member of the steering group. Further engagement with wider stakeholders including the Rivers Trust, will take place as part of the formal engagement process required by Defra.			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>By when</b>	<b>Target / success criteria</b>	<b>Progress</b>
HWT is an active member of the steering group		January 2024		Complete.
Formal consultation process on the LNRS	ED	Summer 2024	Consultation completed	Engagement plan under preparation.

<b>Recommendation vi)</b>	<b>That the executive notes that the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee supports the retention of the 2 Air Quality Management Stations (AQMSs)</b>			
<b>Executive response</b>	Agreed.			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>By when</b>	<b>Target / success criteria</b>	<b>Progress</b>
N/A				