

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL



27 August 2021

Our Ref Cabinet Panel on the Environment/7
September 2021
Contact. Committee Services
Direct Dial. (01462) 474655
Email. committee.services@north-herts.gov.uk

To: Members of the Committee: Amy Allen (Co-Chair), Steve Jarvis (Co-Chair), Steve Jarvis, Amy Allen, Val Bryant, Juan Cowell, George Davies, Sarah Dingley, Keith Hoskins, Gerald Morris and Adem Ruggiero-Cakir

Substitutes: Councillors Mike Hughson, Michael Muir, Carol Stanier, Kay Tart, Richard Thake and Tom Tyson

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A

MEETING OF THE CABINET PANEL ON THE ENVIRONMENT

to be held as

A REMOTE MEETING

On

TUESDAY, 7TH SEPTEMBER, 2021 AT 7.30 PM

Yours sincerely,

Jeanette Thompson
Service Director – Legal and Community

****MEMBERS PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU DOWNLOAD ALL AGENDAS AND REPORTS VIA THE MOD.GOV APPLICATION ON YOUR TABLET BEFORE ATTENDING THE MEETING****

Agenda **Part I**

Item		Page
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Members are required to notify any substitutions by midday on the day of the meeting. Late substitutions will not be accepted and Members attending as a substitute without having given the due notice will not be able to take part in the meeting.	
2.	MINUTES - 23 FEBRUARY 2021, 8 JUNE 2021, 6 JULY 2021 To take as read and approve as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on the 23 February 2021, 8 June 2021 and 6 July 2021.	
3.	CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS Members are reminded that any declarations of interest in respect of any business set out in the agenda, should be declared as either a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Declarable Interest and are required to notify the Chair of the nature of any interest declared at the commencement of the relevant item on the agenda. Members declaring a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest must withdraw from the meeting for the duration of the item. Members declaring a Declarable Interest, wishing to exercise a 'Councillor Speaking Right', must declare this at the same time as the interest, move to the public area before speaking to the item and then must leave the room before the debate and vote.	
4.	INFORMATION NOTE - WORK PROGRAMME & ACTION TRACKER INFORMATION NOTE OF THE POLICY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER To highlight items scheduled in the work programme of the Cabinet Panel on the Environment 2021/22	(Pages 5 - 16)
5.	RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION - BEOND GROUP PRESENTATION To receive a presentation from Gavin McCormick, Beond Group, on renewable energy generation.	
6.	WEST SUFFOLK COUNCIL SOLAR ENERGY GENERATION SCHEME PRESENTATION To receive a presentation from Andrew Oswald, West Suffolk Council, on their solar energy generation schemes.	

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To receive petitions, comments and questions from the public including:

- Transition Town Letchworth, on Hydrogen as a fuel for heating and transport, via 'grey', 'blue' and 'green' methods and (Bio-) Carbon Capture, Utilisation & Storage.

8. DISCUSSION REGARDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MEETING

Chair to lead a discussion regarding contributions to the meeting.

This page is intentionally left blank

CABINET PANEL ON THE ENVIRONMENT
7th September 2021

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

TITLE OF INFORMATION NOTE: WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKER FOR 2021/22

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS – Environment and Leisure Executive member and Recycling and Waste Management

PRIORITY: RESPONSIVE AND EFFICIENT

1. SUMMARY

1.1 This note highlights items scheduled in the work programme for the Cabinet Panel on the Environment for 2021/22 following the initial meeting. The Work Programme/Action Tracker at Appendix A allow the scene to be set for evaluation of such actions, and the agreement of topics for 2021/22 civic year.

The Cabinet Panel aims to set a work programme which will enable open discussion that may lead to recommendations to Cabinet /the relevant Executive Members or Service Director, regarding actions that they believe that the Council should be taking to address climate and environmental issues.

2. STEPS TO DATE

2.1 Cabinet approved the establishment of the Cabinet Panel for the Environment at the 27th June 2019 meeting. The amended terms of reference were tabled for the Full Council meeting on the 4th June:

<https://democracy.north-herts.gov.uk/documents/s10892/Appendix%20C%20-%20Revised%20Terms%20of%20Reference%20for%20Cabinet%20Panel%20on%20Community%20Engagement%20Enterprise%20and%20C.pdf>

2.2 By way of update to the Panel, the Corporate Policy Team have been involved in the following work:

Contributions to the Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP)

As lead officers for the Biodiversity Subgroup, we are finalising the Biodiversity-Strategic Action Plan ready for adoption, following a period of stakeholder engagement. We are due to circulate the Action Plan to the rest of the Biodiversity Subgroup for comment before adoption. We are also working with the other members of the partnership to identify how and by whom actions will be monitored.

We have now assessed the bids for the county-wide biodiversity baseline contract and awarded the contract to the successful bidder. The work should commence within the next month and be delivered by March 2022.

We have also joined the newly-formed Behaviour Change subgroup and are attending regular meetings to develop plans for delivering on behavioural change action points.

Monthly Eco-Actions

Monthly suggestions on how residents can be more environmentally friendly continue to be published on the council's social media pages as well as NH Now – an online magazine for residents, the Recycling and Environment Bulletin and Insight – a monthly newsletter for council staff. August's theme focussed on 'Transport', whilst September's theme covers 'Clothing'.

Carbon Footprint Calculators

Following on from the discussion at the previous cabinet panel meeting, the corporate policy team has been looking into carbon footprint calculators that can be used by residents. There are several good calculators readily available to the public online and a suggestion could be to share an existing carbon calculator with residents so as not to duplicate what is already available and effective. One example is the [Climate Hero Calculator](#) which asks participants to complete a detailed questionnaire. Once completed, the tool gives a breakdown of personalised suggestions to reduce the individual's carbon footprint and allows the participant to opt in or out of suggested actions. For each action that a participant agrees to, a new carbon footprint measure is displayed to indicate the impact each action would have on the individual's overall carbon footprint.

Green Festival Material

The Corporate Policy Team is preparing materials to be displayed on the council's stall at Letchworth Green Festival, run by Letchworth BID. This includes a poster highlighting completed and proposed actions from the council's climate change strategy as well as a poster advertising the council's 10,000 tree giveaway which will commence in Autumn 2021. The poster includes information on how to sign up for a free tree. These posters have been created as alternatives to pamphlets in order to save paper and include web addresses and QR codes so that residents will have access to more in-depth information regarding the council's completed and ongoing actions on climate change.

3. INFORMATION TO NOTE

- 3.1 An Environment inbox has been set up to allow members of the public or organisations to provide suggestions/presentations for the panel's consideration. The address is - EnvironmentPanel@north-herts.gov.uk. The Policy and Community Engagement Manager will also provide a verbal update to the Panel.
- 3.2 The Panel could choose to accept suggestions from outside the meeting including:
- Suggestions by Members of the public or organisations either at the meeting or by email;
 - Recommendations from Council, Cabinet or any other Committee;
 - Suggestions by any Member of the Council;
 - Suggestions by any Officer of the Council.
- 3.3 The Panel will seek to ensure that consideration of agenda items minimises additional burdens on staff resources. Wherever possible, requests are made for the presentation of documents already in existence rather than the production of new documents specifically for the Panel. Suggestions from outside sources, as detailed in paragraph 3.2 will only be placed on the work programme if agreed by one of the alternating Chairs or at a meeting of the Panel.

3.4 Attendance from external bodies and members of the public is actively encouraged.

3.5 This is a non decision-making advisory body and therefore this or any notes/reports to the Panel do not include a recommendation on a key Executive decision and have not been referred to in the Forward Plan. However, recommendations for action from the Panel for consideration by Cabinet may do so. This will therefore need to be borne in mind for any recommendations of the Panel.

4. NEXT STEPS

4.1 Other topics for consideration and inclusion in the Panel's work programme will be considered at each meeting. When considering additional topics, their risk assessment and prioritisation will ensure that the most appropriate items are taken forward to the work programme.

5. APPENDICES

5.1 Appendix A Programme of meetings and Action Tracker

6. CONTACT OFFICERS

Reuben Ayavoo, Policy and Community Engagement Officer, 01462 474212
Reuben.ayavoo@north-herts.gov.uk

William Edwards, Member, Committee and Scrutiny Officer, 01462 474295
William.edwards@north-herts.gov.uk

Georgina Chapman, Policy Officer, 01462 474121
Georgina.chapman@north-gov.uk

Alice Sims, Trainee Policy Officer 01462 474220
Alice.sims@north-herts.gov.uk

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 Appendix A Action Tracker

This page is intentionally left blank

APPENDIX A

PROGRAMME FOR FUTURE CABINET PANEL ON THE ENVIRONMENT MEETINGS 2021-22

Meeting 1. 8th June 2021	Introductory Session: Discussion around topics for upcoming meetings
Meeting 2. 6th July 2021	Leadership and Behaviour Change (Including HCCSP update; Hertfordshire County Council Behaviour Change Unit presentation; and Cambridge's Carbon Footprint Calculator and Charter presentation)
Meeting 3. 7th September 2021	Renewable Energy Generation Andy Oswald West Suffolk Council - Solar Scheme case study Gavin McCormick, BEOND Group – Renewable Energy
Meeting 4. 16th November 2021	Waste Minimisation
Meeting 5. 22nd February 2022	Adaptation to Climate Change

CABINET PANEL ON THE ENVIRONMENT – ACTION TRACKER: October 2019

Date and Min No	Action/Resolutions	Action/Response/Outcome	Status (Complete/in progress)	Additional commentary
11092019 EP8	Proposal of surveying clients at Best Before Café/Hitchin Food Rescue to assess needs/client base	Policy and Community Engagement Manager	On-going	Initial survey results received. Further action to refine information
2811019 EP20	Explore the possibility of Community composting	Executive member for Recycling and Waste	On-going	Executive member and Deputy to prioritise identified actions against demands of Waste service delivery during Covid-19 pandemic
06012020 EP25	Investigate the options of installing chewing gum bins in the district (GUMDROP)	Executive member for Recycling and Waste	On-going	As EP 20
06012020 EP26	Investigate the renewal of a Furniture Reuse facility	Executive member for Recycling and Waste	On-going	As EP 20
06012020 EP27	NHDC publicised activity of schools in recycling	Executive member for Recycling and Waste	On-going	As EP 20
06012020 EP28	Investigate a less formal approach to litter picking (survey users to make sure this service is accessible and working well; issues with depositing at the tip)	Executive member for Recycling and Waste	On-going	As EP 20
06012020 EP37	Investigate the possibility of recycling points in the district	Executive member for Recycling and Waste	On-going	As EP 20
06012020 EP31	Encourage more volunteers to consider recycling opportunities	Executive member for Recycling and Waste	On-going	As EP 20
06012020 EP33	Investigate the option of litter picking stations (include schools)	Executive member for Recycling and Waste	On-going	As EP 20
06012020 EP34	Establish a 'Eco- credentials' of food outlets(Similar to food hygiene scoring)	Executive member for Recycling and Waste	On-going	As EP 20

Date and Min No	Action/Resolutions	Action/Response/Outcome	Status (Complete/in progress)	Additional commentary
06012020 EP36	Investigate 'Rocket' composting sites	Executive member for Recycling and Waste	On-going	As EP 20
06012020 EP37	Investigate the service change of 4 weekly collections/smaller bins/incentivise better recycling habits	Executive member for Recycling and Waste	On-going	As EP 20
06012020 EP38	Encourage the use of recyclable cups at district events	Executive member for Recycling and Waste	On-going	As EP 20
06012020 EP42	Establish Community composting workshops	Executive member for Recycling and Waste	On-going	Advertisement of Subsidised home compost bins/wormeries on external site
05032020 EP46	Anti-idling policy development.	NHDC Legal team/ Environmental Health	On-going	To be further developed as part of the Sustainable North Herts programme/Taxi Licencing Policy
05032020 EP47	Smart Card option bus use in district	Transport officer	On-going	Update from the Intalink Enhanced Partnership – the potential use of Smart Cards is being investigated in line with the stated requirement in the latest National Bus Strategy. (introduction date unknown)
05032020 EP48	Review criteria of cycle to work scheme eligibility (HCC or NHDC)	Either HCC or NHDC	On-going	As EP46

Date and Min No	Action/Resolutions	Action/Response/Outcome	Status (Complete/in progress)	Additional commentary
05032020 EP49	Consider the instituting of car free days in Hitchin	HCC highways/Transport officer	On-going	As EP46
11092019 EP1	Meeting Two to be amended to cover - 'Transport, Travel and Air Quality'	Policy and comm. Engagement Manager	Completed	
11092019 EP2	Swap the running order of meetings 2 and 3. Planning will now be meeting two and Transport will be meeting three	Policy and comm. Engagement Manager	Completed	
11092019 EP3	Meeting four will include consideration of food waste	Policy and comm. Engagement Manager	Completed	
11092019 EP4	Meeting five will include Trees and Landscaping	Policy and comm. Engagement Manager	Completed	
11092019 EP5	Meeting Two will include Street lighting, the decommissioning of solar farms and energy	Policy and comm. Engagement Manager	Completed	
15102019 EP10 12	That the Service Director – Regulatory informs Members of the Luton airport expansion consultation dates and locations: https://futureluton.llal.org.uk/	Circulated by Policy and Community Engagement Manager. Links also circulated via FB and Twitter feeds on external website.	Completed	
15102019 EP11	That the Service Director – Regulatory circulates to the Panel the Future Homes Standards consultation. https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-homes-standard-changes-to-part-l-and-part-f-of-the-building-regulations-for-new-dwellings	Circulated by Policy and Community Engagement Manager. Links also circulated via FB and Twitter feeds on external website.	Completed	
15102019 EP12	That the Service Director – Regulatory circulates to the Panel details of Stirling Awards 2019 – The project for Norwich City Council: https://www.architecture.com/awards-and-competitions-landing-page/awards/riba-stirling-prize	Circulated by Policy and Community Engagement Manager. Links also circulated via FB and Twitter feeds on external website.	Completed	
15102019 EP13	That the Chair ensures re-iteration of NHDC's Climate Change Emergency through NHDC communication channels (Outlook, external website etc.)	External Webpage has been updated with a permanent direct link in the ' Popular Now' section to the Climate	Completed	

Date and Min No	Action/Resolutions	Action/Response/Outcome	Status (Complete/in progress)	Additional commentary
		change/Environment Panel pages. Latest Outlook magazine features a range of articles relating to the environment and climate change.		
15102019 EP15	That the relevant Executive Member/Service Director draft a letter to the other 10 Hertfordshire District Councils to express concerns regarding the proposed Luton Airport expansion.	Policy and Community Engagement Manager	Completed	
281102019 EP18	Circulate Dr Porter email address to panel and all attendees for additional questions. Philip Porter - p.r.porter@herts.ac.uk	Policy and Community Engagement Manager	Completed	
28112019 EP19	Circulate Alex Inza details to Greenspace manager regarding tree planting list	Policy and Community Engagement Manager	Completed	
15102019 EP9 Page 13	That the Service Director – Regulatory provides an update with regard empty dwellings within in the district and how, where appropriate, these can be brought back into use as homes.	Service Director – Regulatory	Completed	
15102019 EP14	That the Executive Member for Planning and Transport consider the possibility of a Design Standards Committee.	Executive member – Planning and Transport	Completed	
15102019 EP16	That the Service Director - Regulatory be requested to explore whether there was an opportunity to identify, in the Local Plan, which sites were most sustainable and whether these could be developed first.	Service Director – Regulatory	Completed	
05032020 EP43	Circulate details of Air Quality website to Panel members	Policy and Community Engagement Manager	Completed	
28112019 EP21	Acknowledgement of high water consumption in Hertfordshire. Circulate water saving measures (Affinity Water and Environment Agency) on Council social media accounts.	Policy and Community Engagement Manager	Completed and On-going	

Date and Min No	Action/Resolutions	Action/Response/Outcome	Status (Complete/in progress)	Additional commentary
28112019 EP17	Himalayan presentation from November panel – will be circulated by Dr Porter in January 2020.	Policy and Community Engagement Manager	Completed	On NHDC YouTube channel
06012020 EP24	Investigate costs of Weekly update in Comet/ Monthly billboards	Executive member for Recycling and Waste	Completed	Not financially viable but looking into ways the waste team can widen comms reach
06012020 EP29	Investigate the process to access an empty shop for Terracycle and other voluntary organisations	Policy and Community Engagement Team	Completed	The Community Engagement has facilitated the installation of a Terracycle collection point at the Morrisons store at Letchworth.
06012020 EP30	Add other external recycling organisation onto the NHDC website	Executive member for Recycling and Waste	Completed	Link on external website for reuse of Furniture and Household items
06012020 EP32	Identify an officer for Plastic Free initiative	Executive member for Recycling and Waste	Completed	Within remit of Waste Aware officer
06012020 EP39	Re-advertise real nappy campaign/exchange	Executive member for Recycling and Waste	Completed	Link on External website and further links to Waste Aware Real Nappy website and North Herts Library Facebook page
06012020 EP35	County Council to increase signage of being more litter aware.	Cllr Hone in county capacity	Completed	As EP 20/Summer Campaign –‘Don’t

Date and Min No	Action/Resolutions	Action/Response/Outcome	Status (Complete/in progress)	Additional commentary
				Be a Tosser' in regard to littering
06012020 EP40	Highlight existing repair and re-purpose campaigns and promote new initiatives	Executive member for Recycling and Waste	Completed	Reusing Furniture and Household items links on Website
06012020 EP41	Monthly educational campaigns	Executive member for Recycling and Waste	Completed	Waste Awareness campaigns including Food Waste Pledge/ Monthly eco-briefings on various NHDC social media outlets
06012020 EP22	Circulate details of Zero Waste Europe to Panel	Executive member for Recycling and Waste	Completed	Details circulated to Panel members
06012020 EP23	Circulate Herts Waste Partnership data to Panel (Trending data, make up/volume/percentage of contaminated waste)	Executive member for Recycling and Waste	Completed	Herts Waste Partnership Annual report circulated to Panel members
07072020 EP50	That the Joint Chairs of the Panel be requested to engage with the Executive Member for Planning and Transport to discuss actions required to develop a plan for a cycle network in North Herts;	Engagement on-going at Member and Officer level as appropriate	Completed	District councils are being requested to draft a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) by HCCC and convene a stakeholder events to develop high quality LCWIPs commencing in July 2021.

Date and Min No	Action/Resolutions	Action/Response/Outcome	Status (Complete/in progress)	Additional commentary
07072020 EP51	That the Executive Member for Planning and Transport be requested to engage with community groups and members of the public in the process for developing a plan for a cycle network in North Herts.	Engagement on-going at Member and Officer level as appropriate.	Completed	As above