

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL



30 January 2026

Our Ref Cabinet Panel on the Environment 11
February 2026
Contact. Committee Services
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To: Members of the Committee: Councillors Amy Allen (Chair), Emma Fernandes, Joe Graziano, Dominic Griffiths, Caroline McDonnell, Lisa Nash and Claire Strong

Substitutes: Councillors Sam Collins, Mick Debenham, Paul Ward, Claire Winchester, Donna Wright and Daniel Wright-Mason

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A

MEETING OF THE CABINET PANEL ON THE ENVIRONMENT

to be held

VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM

On

WEDNESDAY, 11TH FEBRUARY, 2026 AT 7.30 PM

Yours sincerely,

Isabelle Alajooz
Director – Governance

****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 - 14 JANUARY 2026 To take as read and approve as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 14 January 2026.	(Pages 5 - 10)
3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS <u>Climate Emergency</u> The Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to achieving a target of zero carbon emissions by 2030 and helping local people and businesses to reduce their own carbon emissions. A Cabinet Panel on the Environment has been established to engage with local people on matters relating to the climate emergency and advise the council on how to achieve these climate change objectives. A Climate Change Implementation group of councillors and council officers meets regularly to produce plans and monitor progress. Actions taken or currently underway include switching to green energy, incentives for low emission taxis, expanding tree planting and working to cut food waste. In addition the council is a member of the Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership, working with other councils across Hertfordshire to reduce the county's carbon emissions and climate impact. The Council's dedicated webpage on Climate Change includes details of the council's climate change strategy, the work of the Cabinet Panel on the Environment and a monthly briefing on progress. <u>Ecological Emergency</u> The Council has declared an ecological emergency and is committed to addressing the ecological emergency and nature recovery by identifying appropriate areas for habitat restoration and biodiversity net gain whilst ensuring that development limits impact on existing habitats in its process.	

The Council has set out to do that by a) setting measurable targets and standards for biodiversity increase, in both species and quantities, seeking to increase community engagement, b) to work with our partners to establish a Local Nature Partnership for Hertfordshire and to develop Nature Recovery Networks and Nature Recovery Strategy for Hertfordshire and c) to investigate new approaches to nature recovery such as habitat banking that deliver biodiversity objectives and provide new investment opportunities.

Declaration of Interest

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. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

Members should notify the Chair of other business which they wish to be discussed at the end of either Part I or Part II business set out in the agenda. They must state the circumstances which they consider justify the business being considered as a matter of urgency.

The Chair will decide whether any item(s) raised will be considered.

5. INFORMATION NOTE: COUNCIL ACTIVITY UPDATE AND ACTION TRACKER

(Pages
11 - 18)

INFORMATION NOTE OF THE POLICY & STRATEGY TEAM LEADER

This note highlights the topic for this Panel meeting as well as a Council Activity Update, and Action Tracker Review (at Appendix A) for the Cabinet Panel on the Environment.

6. PRESENTATIONS

To receive presentations from the following organisations:

- 1) Icknield Infant and Nursery School – On-Site Biodiversity Project
- 2) Hitchin Boys School – Green Initiatives and Student Involvement
- 3) Buntingford First School – First Carbon Neutral School in the Country

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To receive petitions, comments and questions from the public.

8. SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

To consider items for discussion at future meetings of the Cabinet Panel.

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 2

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET PANEL ON THE ENVIRONMENT

MEETING HELD IN THE VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM
ON WEDNESDAY, 14TH JANUARY, 2026 AT 7.30 PM

MINUTES

Present: Councillors: Amy Allen (Chair), Emma Fernandes, Joe Graziano, Dominic Griffiths, Caroline McDonnell and Claire Strong.

In Attendance: Georgina Chapman (Policy & Strategy Team Leader), Robert Filby (Trainee Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer), Daisy Harris (Business Admin Apprentice - Policy), Ellie Hollingsworth (Policy & Strategy Officer) and Amber Smith-Howell (National Graduate - Management Trainee).

Also Present: At the commencement of the meeting approximately 12 members of the public, including registered speakers.

9 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Audio recording – 5 minutes 13 seconds

There were no apologies for absence.

Councillor Lisa Nash was absent.

10 MINUTES - 2 APRIL AND 17 SEPTEMBER 2025

Audio Recording – 5 minutes 17 seconds

Councillor Amy Allen, as Chair, proposed and Councillor Claire Strong seconded and, it was:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 2 April and 17 September 2025 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

11 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Audio recording – 6 minutes 20 seconds

- (1) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be recorded.
- (2) The Chair drew attention to the item on the agenda front pages regarding Declarations of Interest and reminded Members that, in line with the Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest needed to be declared immediately prior to the item in question.
- (3) The Chair reminded Members that the Council had declared both a Climate Emergency and an Ecological Emergency. These are serious decisions, and mean that, as this was an emergency, all of us, Officers and Members had that in mind as we carried out our various roles and tasks for the benefit of our District.

(4) The Chair highlighted the final agenda item which was to consider suggestions of items for future meetings, and asked Members and members of the public to consider any items that they may wish to suggest ahead of this item.

12 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

Audio recording – 7 minutes 17 seconds

There was no other business notified.

13 INFORMATION NOTE: COUNCIL ACTIVITY UPDATE AND ACTION TRACKER

Audio recording – 7 minutes 25 seconds

Officers from the Policy and Strategy Team presented the Information Note entitled 'Council Activity Update and Action Tracker' and advised that:

- A summary of Council activities relating to sustainability, including key progress made on Sustainability Strategy Actions had been provided within the Information Note.
- Progress had been made on the first phase of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme relating to leisure facilities, and preparations for the second phase relating to other Council assets had begun.
- The Sustainable Communities Grant had awarded over £62,000 to six local organisations across the district to support sustainability projects since its launch last year.
- Over 650 residents had registered interest for the third round of Solar Together and 113 offers for Solar PV had been accepted so far, which included one business for battery storage.
- An estimated 63,295KG of CO₂ would be saved per year from the 72 completed solar installations so far.
- The Climate Hive, which now had over 920 subscribers, continued to keep subscribers up to date on events, general Council activities and more relating to biodiversity and sustainability.
- The Local Recovery Nature Strategy would be launched at the Hertfordshire Nature Summit on 27 January.
- Actions for the Sustainability Strategy 2025-2030 were being monitored quarterly by the Climate and Sustainability Officer Group, in addition to the Political Liaison Board.
- Hydrogenated vegetable oil had been implemented for use in all refuse vehicles and hire vehicles until the arrival of electric refuse vehicles.
- New EV charge points had gone live in car parks across the district, and further connections to the grid would be made either this month or next.
- The Warm Homes Local Grant continued its progression, and the scheme had been publicised in the Winter Outlook magazine to reach more eligible residents.
- Further areas were in consideration for reduced mowing regimes to improve biodiversity.
- A mandatory sustainability e-learning module for Council staff had been launched in December to address one of the Sustainability Strategy Actions. The training had been tailored to Officers at the Council to educate them on how climate change would affect the district and its biodiversity, and the adaptations that would be needed.
- Good feedback had already been received on the e-learning module.
- A free Council app had been launched in November which provided guidance on multiple subjects, with a focus on waste and recycling as part of a wider effort to improve recycling rates. The app also provided bin day notification reminders to residents and had 14,500 downloads so far.
- A project to monitor the impacts of extreme weather events on Council services had been launched with key teams across the Council to ensure resilience to climate change and improve the ability to mitigate future impacts to services.

- In response to a request from Decarbonise Letchworth, Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation were scheduled to give a presentation on retrofitting at the last Panel meeting in September, however this meeting was cancelled, and they had given this presentation to Letchworth Community Forum instead which Members of Decarbonise Letchworth were present for.
- A new District Design Code created by the Planning Team would be launched in phases, with the first phase due to be discussed at Cabinet in February before going out to consultation.
- The theme of the next Cabinet Panel meeting on 11 February would be 'Sustainability in Schools' with speakers from local schools scheduled to present on eco-initiatives, student involvement and green construction.

The Chair highlighted that there had been a huge increase in downloads of the Council app since Christmas, as downloads were below 9,000 before then.

The following Members and members of the public asked questions:

- Julia Sonander
- Christine Watson
- Councillor Amy Allen

In response to questions, Officers from the Policy & Strategy Team advised that:

- The upcoming District Design Code document was expected to provide guidance on design issues, including solar. The first phase would look at new developments, and further phases would focus on householder applications.
- Much of the information within the sustainability e-learning module was publicly available, such as within the Sustainability Strategy, which was available on the Council website. Sections on local biodiversity and adaption within the e-module could also be found on the Climate Hive.

14 PRESENTATIONS

Audio recording – 25 minutes 1 second

The Chair invited Kris Karslake from Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation to give a verbal presentation on 'Environmental Updates'. They thanked the Chair for the opportunity to present and advised that:

- The work of the Heritage Foundation was guided by the aims within Strategy 2028.
- One of these aims was financial resilience and to address this aim, they had successfully obtained funding through the Great British Energy Fund to conduct a feasibility study on their rural estate to assess the potential for renewable energy generation.
- A contractor called Seen had been commissioned to carry out the study, and two sample locations with the highest suitability had been selected.
- They were waiting to hear back from UK Power Networks on the infrastructure cost for those locations.
- They were unsure what size solar array would be deemed feasible, however, it was revealed that a five-megawatt peak solar array would be enough to power 1,375 homes and require less than 1% of their rural estate.
- Income generation from the project would be maximised to benefit residents through their charitable activities and grants programme.
- It was still unknown who would design, construct, operate and maintain the solar array, or if a community share option would offer the best value.

- Development of this kind on Green Belt land would also conflict with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), unless the Heritage Foundation could clearly demonstrate that the benefits of a 'Solar Meadow' would outweigh the harms.
- Any proposal would also be affected by their charitable objective of preserving the environment and the Garden City ethos of local food production and guarding the countryside surrounding Letchworth.
- A board paper would be presented to the Board of Trustees if one of the selected locations was deemed to be feasible.
- Solar arrays were preferable on rural land rather than buildings as they could be reversible developments and support biodiversity improvements during their operation, whereas not all of their buildings were technically or economically suitable for solar panels.
- They would progress to pre-application advice with the Council if UK Power Networks judged one of the sites to be financially sustainable.

In response to a question from Fiona Hughes, Kris Karslake advised that they were hoping to know by summer whether solar arrays would be feasible at the selected locations.

The Chair thanked Kris Karslake for their presentation and invited Fiona Hughes from Green Heat Coop to give a presentation on 'Community Energy'. They thanked the Chair for the opportunity to present and advised that:

- Green Heat Coop were a non-profit community energy business.
- Community energy was about keeping the benefits of energy use in local communities, rather than losing them to large companies or hostile nations.
- Not-for-profit companies or cooperatives that used democratic business models were used to invest in community energy in the form of renewable energy generation.
- They could also provide advice and services to residents related to home energy, and surplus funds from these schemes could be reinvested into other social impact work.
- The Government planned to increase community energy production in the UK to 8 gigawatts as part of the 2030 Clean Power Action Plan, which was 20 times the current capacity.
- Great British Energy were overseeing the clean power transition and funding for community energy schemes.
- Community energy could be a source of local pride for residents as they could provide project input and directly benefit from the outcomes.
- Several 'Solar Schools' with solar arrays already existed across North Herts and East Herts such as Hitchin Boys School and Kingshott School.
- Grand Union Community Energy, Hertford Energy Now and Zero Carbon Ashwell were examples of community energy projects already within Hertfordshire.
- Green Heat Coop provided advice on home energy renovations to residents, including a heat pump advisory service which provided an independent, unbiased review of their energy needs before purchasing a heat pump. The cost of this had been reduced as much as possible to increase its affordability.
- Their community outreach work included attendance at community events, holding local talks, and opening homes to showcase installations.
- Funding had been received from the Council towards their Royston Homes Energy Improvement Guide (RHEIG) in which they ran a householder questionnaire in Royston to find out more on issues with homes and whether there was interest in receiving home surveys. A good response had been received, and surveys had already been completed on numerous homes, with energy modelling in progress to retrofit them.
- Two Warm Home Evenings on 11 and 24 February would also be held to receive feedback on the RHEIG, and to provide tips on draft proofing.
- A drop-in session relating to the RHEIG would also be held on 14 February at Royston Repair Café.

- Residents could check whether they were on the cheapest energy tariff by checking their energy bill as energy providers were obligated to display this.
- Regular meter readings were encouraged so that residents only paid for what they used, however, smart meters were also worth considering.
- Heating controls and switching devices off when not in use were also recommended.
- The Priority Services Register allowed vulnerable residents to access extra services from their energy provider free of charge.
- They had flexible volunteering roles which varied from being a community energy champion focused on community outreach to administrative roles in governance.

The Chair encouraged those who were eligible to apply to be on the Priority Services Register.

The following members of the public asked questions:

- Roger Lovegrove
- Sue Lines
- Julia Sonander

In response to questions, Fiona Hughes advised that:

- It would be ideal for new homes to be built with renewable energy installations and energy efficiency measures rather than just the potential for them.
- Green Heat Coop were involved with the Hertfordshire Local Retrofit Strategy which would facilitate conversations on renewable energy in planning.
- There would be a push for more solar schools through the Great British Energy Fund, but it would be up to authorities like Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) to decide whether solar PV installations on schools were financially viable.
- Many groups were working with HCC already on this.

In response to questions, the Chair advised that:

- Updates to the NPPF in December would compel developers and local authorities to consider how roof orientation would facilitate low carbon generation.
- Not all school buildings were suitable for solar panel installations.

15 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Audio recording – 1 hour 9 minutes 15 seconds

The Chair advised that there was no specific participation from members of the public at this meeting, but that public participants had been included as part of discussions on Agenda Items 5 and 6.

16 SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Audio recording – 1 hour 9 minutes 29 seconds

The Chair led a discussion to consider items for future meetings of the Cabinet Panel.

The following Members and members of the public took part in the discussion:

- Gilly Chegwyn
- Roger Lovegrove
- Sue Lines
- Councillor Claire Strong

The following points were raised as part of the discussion:

- The Council should liaise with the County Council and Government on a blue light response to a food crisis as reserve food provisions were very low in the UK.
- There was no strategy to address the poor commuter parking in Letchworth and the increased pressures that development on the outskirts of the town would put on this.
- The effects of the National Planning Policy Framework refresh on the environment and planning policy should be discussed at a future meeting.

In response to points raised in the discussion, the Chair advised that:

- Modern houses generally had less storage and garden space to store or produce additional food supplies compared to older houses.
- The summary of the report by Tim Lang entitled 'Just In Case' that had been provided would be considered by Officers after the meeting.
- Lack of parking demand after 7pm in the Garden Square Multi-Storey Car Park in Letchworth meant that it was not financially feasible to keep it open after this time.
- Local Government Reorganisation in an environmental context could be discussed at a future meeting, however, members of the public could also contact the Executive Member for Local Government Reorganisation/Devolution in the meantime on this.

In response to points raised in the discussion, Councillor Claire Strong advised that the Garden Square Multi-Storey Car Park closed at 7pm due to past instances of anti-social behaviour.

The Chair advised that suggested items would be considered, alongside Officers, for inclusion at future meetings of the Cabinet Panel.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Chair

Agenda Item 5

CABINET PANEL ON THE ENVIRONMENT 11 February 2026

*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

TITLE OF INFORMATION NOTE: Council Activity Update and Action Tracker

EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR: ENVIRONMENT

PRIORITY: SUSTAINABILITY

1. SUMMARY

Panel Overview 2025/26

- 1.1 This note highlights the topic for this Panel meeting as well as a Council Activity Update, and Action Tracker Review (at Appendix A) for the Cabinet Panel on the Environment.
- 1.2 The Cabinet Panel aims to select topics which will enable open discussion that may lead to recommendations to Cabinet from the relevant Executive Members or Director, regarding actions that they believe the Council should be taking to address climate and environmental issues.

Panel Meeting: 11th February 2026

- 1.3 This Panel meeting will include an update on council activity pertaining to sustainability, including key progress made on our Sustainability Strategy Actions; review of the action tracker; a presentation from Icknield Infant School about an on-site biodiversity project; a presentation from Hitchin Boys School on green initiatives and student involvement; and the story of the construction of the first carbon neutral school in the UK from Buntingford First School.

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 June¹. The Constitutional Amendment Report of the 18th April 2023² recommended that this Panel be the only remaining panel going forward.

- 2.2 By way of update to the Panel, we have been involved in the following work:

3. COUNCIL ACTIVITY

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

- 3.1.i The third round of **Solar Together** has closed. Over 650 North Herts residents registered interest and 113 have accepted offers for Solar PV. North Herts also has one business accepted for battery storage. 73 solar installations have so far been completed in North Herts, totalling 773 panels. 69 batteries have also been installed. From the installations completed so far, it is estimated that 64,107kg of CO2 will be saved per year.

¹ [Appendix B - Revised Terms of Reference for Cabinet Panel on the Environment.pdf \(north-herts.gov.uk\)](#)

² [Constitutional amendment report 18.4.23.docx \(north-herts.gov.uk\)](#)

3.1.ii Hertfordshire County Council are expanding on Hertfordshire's first **Flood Kit Pilot Scheme**. The scheme was set up to support communities to become more resilient and prepared for future flooding. Communities across Hertfordshire has been selected as areas that recently experienced flooding. Each flood kit has been tailored to meet the local risk profile and community needs including equipment such as hydrosacks, high-vis jackets, puddle pumps and much more to help in the event of flooding. The kits are to be placed in a storage unit on land with public liability insurance and suitable for local access, quickly and efficiently. Hertfordshire County Council is now inviting other communities who have experienced flooding and would benefit from a shared kit and plan to register their interest. You can find our more on eligibility of your area and complete an application form on the County Council's website: [Flooding and water | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

3.2 Local Nature Recovery Strategy

3.3 Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are statutory spatial strategies which agree priorities for nature recovery and propose actions to achieve these priorities. These strategies are legislated for in The Environment Act 2021. Development of the LNRS for Hertfordshire has been led by Hertfordshire County Council (HCC), working in conjunction with the district councils and other stakeholders. The Strategy contains a local habitat map and a written statement of biodiversity priorities. Public consultation was open throughout summer 2025. The Strategy has now been published and was officially launched in January with a nature summit event. [Local Nature Recovery Strategy | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

3.4 Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS)

3.5 The project to decarbonise our leisure facilities is progressing. Design work for decarbonisation of Hitchin Town Hall, North Herts Museum, and the council offices is progressing as part of the second phase of our Public Sector Decarbonisation project.

3.6 Climate Engagement

3.7 The North Herts engagement hub for climate change and sustainability, the Climate Hive, now has over 950 subscribers. We continue to keep residents up to date on the latest surveys and consultations, eco events, national environment days, the Cabinet Panel for the Environment, and council activity.

3.8 Sustainable Communities Grant

3.9 The Sustainable Communities Grant, funded by UKSPP, launched and was open to applications until 14th September. The team assessed and scored applications during the second half of September. £62,778 has been awarded to six local organisations to support sustainability projects across the district. The recipients are Royston Museum for installation of an air source heat pump system; Benslow Music Trust for the installation of EV charging points; Kimpton Parish Council for the installation of solar pv and battery storage on the pavilion; St Mary's Church, Ashwell for biodiversity improvements; Create Community for delivery of sustainability educational sessions; and Green Heat Co-op for development of retrofit training and a Home Energy Upgrade Guide for Royston. [North Herts Council awards over £60,000 to local sustainability](#)

[projects | North Herts Council](#). It has been 3 months since the funding was awarded, so project updates are expected to be provided in the next few months.

3.10 Sustainability Briefings

3.11 The latest Sustainability briefings are available to view on the website at: [Latest updates on Sustainability | North Herts Council](#). They include information on available funding, upcoming events, and council activity.

4 SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2025-2030 UPDATES

4.1 The Sustainability Strategy 2025-2030 is available here: [Sustainability strategy | North Herts Council](#). Actions are being monitored by our Climate and Sustainability Officer Group and Political Liaison Board which is comprised of Cabinet Members and our Leadership Team. Key progress made so far includes:

- Ongoing progress on-site at our leisure centres as part of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Project.
- Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (HVO) is now in use in all refuse vehicles, as well as in hire vehicles which are being used prior to the arrival of EVs.
- A mandatory Sustainability e-learning module has been launched for all staff to aid understanding of the council's Sustainability aims and what staff can do to work towards these.
- New EV charge points have gone live in car parks across the district, with more due to gain grid connections.
- The Warm Homes Local Grant work continues to be progressed and was advertised in our Winter Outlook magazine to reach more of those who are eligible.
- Money from the Sustainable Communities Grant Fund has been distributed to recipients and projects are underway.
- The North Herts Council app has gone live, with additional guidance on recycling which is part of the effort to improve recycling rates. The app currently has over 15,000 downloads.
- Implementation of a process to record and monitor the impacts of extreme weather events on our services.
- Further areas in our open spaces are being considered for reduced mowing regimes in 2026.

The Sustainability Strategy updates remain largely the same since last panel due to it being less than a month ago. Monitoring sessions occur quarterly, and the next will be later this February. Therefore, newer updates can be expected at the next Cabinet Panel on The Environment.

5 INFORMATION TO NOTE

5.1 Our Environment inbox is a means for members of the public or organisations to provide suggestions/presentations for the panel's consideration. The address is - EnvironmentPanel@north-herts.gov.uk

5.2 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.

5.3 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.

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

5.5 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.

6 NEXT STEPS

6.1 Other topics for consideration and inclusion in the Panel's work programme can be suggested at each meeting, and also by emailing EnvironmentPanel@north-herts.gov.uk

7 APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix A – Work Programme and Action Tracker 2025/26

8 CONTACT OFFICERS

8.1 Georgina Chapman, Policy & Strategy Team Leader, 01462 474121
Georgina.Chapman@north-herts.gov.uk

8.2 Reuben Ayavoo, Policy & Community Manager, 01462 474212
Reuben.Ayavoo@north-herts.gov.uk

8.3 Ellie Hollingsworth, Policy & Strategy Officer, 01462 474220
Ellie.Hollingsworth@north-herts.gov.uk

8.4 Daisy Harris, Policy & Strategy Apprentice
Daisy.Harris@north-herts.gov.uk

8.5 Amber Smith-Howell, Policy & Strategy Graduate
Amber.Smith-Howell@north-herts.gov.uk

APPENDIX A – WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKER 2025/26

PROGRAMME FOR CABINET PANEL ON THE ENVIRONMENT MEETINGS 2025-26

Meeting 1. 17th September 2025	Letchworth Heritage Foundation's Design Principles and sustainability
Meeting 2. 14th January 2026	Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation – Environmental Update Green Heat Co-op – Community Energy Presentation
Meeting 3. 11th February 2026	Icknield Infant & Nursery School and Hitchin Boys School – Presentation on green initiatives, student involvement in sustainability and on-site biodiversity. Buntingford First School – the construction and story of the first carbon neutral school in the country.
Meeting 4. 1st April 2026	TBC

CABINET PANEL ON THE ENVIRONMENT – ACTION TRACKER

Action Number	Action	Objective	Team/Individual Responsible	Timeframe	Measurable	Status
1	Contact iChoosr to query inverter type and use of stored power during a power cut.	To resolve a query around inability to use stored power from system during a power outage.	Policy & Strategy Team Leader	To be completed by 22 nd January 2025	Response from iChoosr	Complete (see Information Note for 22/01/25 meeting for response. Webpage also updated with info).
2	Review the asks of Decarbonise Letchworth regarding retrofitting and Supplementary Planning Guidance; ascertain whether NHC can help progress action; ascertain NHC plans for SPDs and design guidance and communicate these to the group.	To help Decarbonise Letchworth progress retrofit in Letchworth Garden City.	Policy & Strategy Team Leader	To be completed by 1 st May 2025.	Communication to Decarbonise Letchworth.	Complete – Letchworth Heritage Foundation presented at the September Letchworth Forum meeting on this matter.