

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

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7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 Appendix A Action Tracker