

CABINET PANEL ON THE ENVIRONMENT
16th November 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)

The Biodiversity Action Plan was officially launched at HCCSP's COP26 event on the 3rd of November. It will be finally approved by HCCSP at the end of the month.

Regular meetings around the county-wide biodiversity baseline continue to occur. Recent meetings have looked to establish a data hierarchy (reflecting the varying levels of confidence in the numerous datasets which will be utilised); discuss if/how habitat condition can be included in the data; and discuss various aspects of usability and how we can make the finished dataset as user-friendly as possible for officers and others who would like to use it.

The papers on the county-wide Solar Bulk Purchase Scheme have been taken to PLB as part of internal processes for approval. The project received broadly positive feedback. The papers will be taken to HCCSP for approval at the end of November and NH's Managing Director has suggested that our formal decision to participate in the scheme be taken by

delegated decision (by the Service Director for Legal & Community) once it has been approved there.

We continue to attend meetings of the Behaviour Change subgroup and are currently identifying which actions we can work on from the other subgroup action plans and establishing which of these are priorities, as well as where there are gaps for other actions.

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, the Recycling and Environment Bulletin and Insight. October's theme covered 'Shopping and Consumption' whilst November and December will cover Christmas related actions. The Policy team have also reviewed climate-change related posts and press releases which are planned to be posted and published over COP26.

The communications plan for climate change and sustainability is still in the process of being formed.

Carbon Footprint Calculators

As a result of discussions from previous Cabinet Panels on the Environment, a range of footprint calculators have been reviewed by the Policy Team. Comments from the Cabinet Panel have been considered and a range of other factors have been taken into account. Considerations include user-friendliness, level of detail, consistency with other calculators and what, if any, positive action users are encouraged to take upon completion. Further details on this are included in the attached document.

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 Communities Manager
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-herts.gov.uk

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

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 Appendix A Action Tracker