



## ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE

**Date: Thursday, 20 October 2022**

**Time: 6.00pm**

**Location: Council Chamber, Daneshill House, Danestrete**

**Contact: Stephen Weaver (01438) 242332**

**committees@stevenage.gov.uk**

Members: Councillors: R Broom (Chair), A Mitchell CC (Vice-Chair), J Ashley-Wren, S Booth, A Brown, J Brown, M Creasey, M Downing, B Facey, C Parris and L Rossati.

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### AGENDA

#### **PART I**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**2. MINUTES - 20 SEPTEMBER 2022**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 20 September 2022

Pages 3 – 8

**3. INTERVIEWS WITH EXECUTIVE PORTFOLIO HOLDERS**

Members are invited to interview the Executive Portfolio Holders for Deputy Leader, Culture, Leisure, Children and Young People, Cllr Richard Henry; Communities, Neighbourhoods and Co-operative Council, Cllr Sandra Barr and Community Safety, Equalities, Health and Older People, Cllr Jackie Hollywell.

A copy of the questions set by the Chair for the three Portfolio Holders are provided and the written response are included in the agenda papers.

Pages 9 – 14

**4. UPDATE ON THE TREE CANOPY IN STEVENAGE**

To receive an update on options to increase the tree canopy in Stevenage in relation to the climate emergency challenge.

Pages 15 – 20

**5. UPDATE ON IMPROVED RECYCLING RATES IN STEVENAGE**

To receive a report on the focus on improved recycling rates in Stevenage as part of the response to the climate emergency.

Pages 21 – 28

**6. UPDATED MAPPING EXERCISE DOCUMENT FOR THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY REVIEW**

To receive the updated mapping exercise document for the Climate Emergency Scrutiny Review.  
Pages 29 – 54

**7. URGENT PART I BUSINESS**

To consider any Part I business accepted by the Chair as urgent.

**8. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

To consider the following motions –

1. That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in Paragraphs 1 – 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as amended by Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

2. That Members consider the reasons for the following reports being in Part II and determine whether or not maintaining the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

**9. URGENT PART II BUSINESS**

To consider any Part II business accepted by the Chair as urgent.

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

## ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, 20 September 2022

Time: 6.00pm

Place: Council Chamber, Daneshill House, Danestrete

**Present:** Councillors: Rob Broom (Chair), Adam Mitchell CC (Vice Chair), Julie Ashley-Wren, Stephen Booth, Adrian Brown, Jim Brown, Matt Creasey, Bret Facey and Claire Parris

**Start / End Time:** Start Time: 6.00pm  
End Time: 7.45pm

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Michael Downing and Lorraine Rossati.

There were no declarations of interest.

### 2 MINUTES - 13 JULY 2022

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Economy Select Committee held on 13 July 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### 3 EXECUTIVE MEMBER RESPONSE TO INTERIM CLIMATE EMERGENCY REVIEW

The Committee considered the Executive Member's response to the Committee's interim review of the Council's response to the Climate Emergency.

The following comments were made:

#### Recommendation 1 – Resident Engagement

- in order to engage with local people and hold community meetings, additional resources would be required;
- The Assistant Director (Planning and Regeneration) advised that the Citizens Panel had held a one-off meeting in 2020 but this would be re-formatted for more bespoke local engagement next year;
- Councillor Barr to replace Councillor Broom in the list of Executive Members.

#### Recommendation 2 – Baseline Figures

- Members were encouraged to hear about the proposals for the new Hub

building to be as energy efficient as possible. Members agreed that it was important for the reduction of carbon to be in the construction as well as the use of the building;

- Further work with the University would be welcomed as it was agreed that expertise and knowledge should be shared to address the issue. This was also relevant in relation to other Local Authorities;
- In response to a question regarding progress measurement, the Assistant Director advised that data was given to the Council on an annual basis by the Government and that the latest figures would be available by the end of the year.

### **Recommendation 3 – Establishment of a Climate Change Lead Officer**

- Members noted the permanent appointment of Veronica Chan, Climate Change Lead Officer, from 13 September 2022.

### **Recommendation 4 – Community Group – Challenge**

- The potential growth of social enterprises was welcomed by Members;
- The Council's Engagement with HEART would continue as part of a wider Topic Reference panel and for sharing advice. It was noted that HEART's main focus was the emotional and psychological impacts of climate change although Members agreed the importance of reducing climate change as well as mitigating the effects of climate change.

### **Recommendation 5 – Mainstreaming of climate emergency thinking with regards to all Council activities**

- It was noted that all Assistant Directors within SBC would be challenged to demonstrate how their Business Units worked in a low carbon way.

### **Recommendation 6 – Protected and Enhanced Tree Canopy**

- Additional tree planting was welcomed by the Committee.
- Officers advised that a report outlining future opportunities for consideration by members would be presented at the October meeting.

### **Recommendation 7 – Planning and Development**

- Noted.

### **Recommendation 8 – Focus on Improved Recycling**

- Officers advised that a full report on recycling would be submitted to the October meeting of this Committee;
- It was noted that the Government's emerging national Resources and Waste Strategy had been pushed back from Spring of this year. It was envisaged there would be requirements for separate weekly food waste collections, extended responsibilities for waste producers and more consistency of

- recycling materials;
- Particular challenges for recycling were noted for flat blocks;
- Members agreed the importance of spreading the message encouraging residents to use less so that less which would result in less waste overall.

#### **Recommendation 9 – Protecting Climate Emergency Targets within the Budget Setting Process**

- Noted.

#### **Recommendation 10 – EV Charging points in Neighbourhood Centres and Electric Car Club**

- Members questioned the logic of the installation of a number of EV charging points having been installed on or near cycleways;
- Officers advised that they were currently looking into the potential for an ebike/escooter scheme.

#### **Recommendation 11 – Social Housing and resident led environmental community projects**

- Members were pleased to note the proposed increased consultation with local tenants.

### **4 INTERVIEW WITH THE EXECUTIVE PORTFOLIO ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE**

The Committee received a presentation from the Executive Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change, Councillor Simon Speller, on his vision for the development of the Council's Climate Change strategy.

Cllr Speller spoke about the 9 levels of engagement for Climate Change strategies and highlighted the need for Stevenage Borough Council to focus on neighbourhoods and street level alongside engagement with the local community.

The gaps in Stevenage Climate Change partnerships were highlighted and the proposals to fill those gaps noted including the use of Portfolio Holders, Outside Bodies, Resident Groups and People Panels.

In relation to Portfolio Holders engaging with people, Cllr Briscoe would be talking to local businesses, Cllr Henry would link with young people including the Youth Mayor and schools and Cllr Barr would link with residents groups through the next level of community and neighbourhood management work.

In relation to the Citizens Panel, Councillor Speller advised that the proposal was to separate into topic focussed people's panels and specialist reference groups to get more targeted results.

The Portfolio Holder was keen to support Members in terms of proposals within their own ward areas including identifying potential spaces for tree planting or plans for

smaller sites where possible. Ward members would be used as a conduit and gateway for resident proposals for their areas. Engagement with communities was key to this with a better use of digital communications as back-up to contact work.

Pilot areas for monthly engagement meetings were suggested including Pin Green/Bedwell, St Nicholas/Martins Wood and Shephall/Bandle Hill. A Member suggested that Chells and Manor could also be included in this pilot.

In terms of within Stevenage Borough Council, work would be undertaken to recognise and build on what had been done since 2020 and join up work streams where it made sense.

Members thanked Cllr Speller for his presentation and welcomed the potential for much closer working and the increased engagement proposals. It was suggested that the engagement should not just focus on tenants and leaseholders but be for all Stevenage residents.

Cllr Speller concluded by thanking the former Portfolio Holder for Environment, Councillor John Gardner, for his work and commitment to this issue in recent years.

## **5      UPDATED MAPPING EXERCISE DOCUMENT FOR THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY REVIEW**

The Scrutiny Officer presented Members with an updated Mapping Exercise Document for the Climate Change Emergency Review.

Recent updates to the document were highlighted, including:

- Questions were to be formulated for the Portfolio Holders for Neighbourhoods and Co-operative Council, Culture, Leisure, Children and Young People, and Community Safety, Equalities, Health and Older People to be sent by 24 September;
- The Scrutiny Officer advised that he would set up a meeting for Members to attend a future Youth Council meeting;
- A provisional date of 24 October had been scheduled for a Zoom meeting for an informal sub-group of the Committee to meet with representatives from Friends of the Earth;
- HCC Portfolio Holder for the Environment, Councillor Eric Buckmaster had been invited to 17 November meeting along with the HCC Deputy Portfolio Holder for Transport Councillor Graham McAndrew;
- The Scrutiny Officer advised that he would be drafting an email for the Chair to approach the Lister Hospital CE, Adam Sewell-Jones, in relation to their plans and actions on climate change;
- The SBC Operations Director, Rob Gregory had provided guidance relating to engagement with tenants and leaseholders.

The Chair also advised the Committee that he would add an item to the Committee's Work programme for later in the Municipal Year relating to the Council's approach to the Cost of living crisis.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Mapping Exercise Document be noted.

6      **URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS**

None.

7      **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Not required.

8      **URGENT PART II BUSINESS**

None.

**CHAIR**

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Questions for Executive Portfolio Holder for Deputy Leader, Culture, Leisure, Children and Young People regarding the Environment & Economy Select Committee Climate Emergency Scrutiny Review

1. What issues do you perceive to be the main challenges for the Council to address in the Council's Climate Change Strategy to meet Net Zero, and thinking of your Portfolio area:

- (i) what are the main challenges for the plans for the new leisure services contract for 2023? In developing a new leisure facility in Stevenage, as part of Stevenage Borough Council's regeneration goals, are you satisfied that the energy efficiency of the build, and other environment impact consideration (water use, the health food offer in associated food outlets), will be fully considered? Excepting that going forward, SBC has responsibility to be an exemplar in all areas of climate change mitigation and supporting healthy lifestyles. Are you satisfied that the procurement process for Leisure Services for services and goods, has sufficient rigour in highlight the desirability of contractors considering the environmental impact of their business models?

This is a really valid point and something the Programme Board has considered as part of the procurement process for the new leisure contract. We are currently part way through the procurement process but we have specifically invited bidders to consider investments into our leisure stock to mitigate climate change and energy consumption. This will be built into the appraisal of such bids. Alongside this the council has insisted that social value is scored at 10% and assessed through our own social value portal to assess additional value (social, economic and environmental) leveraged through the contract.

Regarding a new leisure facility, we are very keen to fully factor climate impact considerations into the full business case for a new leisure facility. We will be working on the wider business case in the coming months with our regeneration team and I look forward to championing such considerations.

- (ii) regarding culture is there a space for encouraging ideas about climate change in a creative way especially around engagement with local residents?

At a local neighbourhood level I know that this work is already happening through our Creative Schools Network with a number of local schools developing a number of exhibitions and art installations in relation to climate change. We can further facilitate this agenda through the way we utilise our new "Event Island" in our town centre. There will be opportunities for exhibitions and events which we could connect with wider climate change activities. We could also explore future museum programmes linking to climate heritage and sustainability. I'd be happy to explore these opportunities with local cultural partners.

- (iii) regarding Children and Young People what engagement have you been involved in or are aware of regarding young people and climate change? Also, regarding young people and engagement in "Green Issues", there seems to be a heavy reliance on schools to do the heavy lifting on this locally. What is the extent of "forest schools" in Stevenage? What are

other community players doing (Scouts, after school clubs, environmental groups) to engage young people on environmental issues?

We rightly expect the county council to fulfil its responsibility around services for children and young people, including through education, but we also recognise that other organisations in the town support children out of school time. We do not maintain a directory of specific climate change activities undertaken by others, but this is something we could raise with YC Herts. Our play centres have been accessed previously by local Schools wanting to develop Forest School offers. We also know that climate change is a priority focus for our Youth Council. I will be happy to ask the Youth Council and Youth Mayor to consider these issues and would welcome the opportunity for a joint debate in the future

- (iv) Do you feel that SBC is doing enough to ensure that “green” groups, charities, and other agencies are represented at Stevenage Day? Do we have, or are you considering a “climate zone” in future Stevenage Days, informing residents about lifestyle choices, that support climate change mitigation?

The Stevenage Day web page is updated at the start of each calendar year with details of the forthcoming year’s event and a signup form for groups wishing to get involved. <https://www.stevenage.gov.uk/town-and-community/stevenage-day> We also maintain a mailing list of local organisations and will be happy to include new “green” groups as the develop. I am happy to explore the options of climate change zone

2. As an Executive Member of the Council do you think the issue yet has the priority it needs?

Clearly there are resource issues to contend with and I know that a number of officers across the council are contributing to this.

With the focus that Cllr Speller is devoting to this urgent matter and the engagement of other portfolio holders as well as the Youth Mayor and Youth Councils interest and input, I think, at the moment, the answer is yes.

3. More generally, what level of public engagement do you think the Council should have for this over the remainder of this decade?

It is absolutely right that we keep a dialogue going with our local communities around climate change. The situation will continue to evolve and we need to continue a joined up approach across portfolios to maximise the opportunities for the council to make a positive difference.

E&E Select Committee Members may have further supplementary questions for you at the meeting.

Questions for Executive Portfolio Holder for Communities, Neighbourhoods & Co-operative Council, Cllr Sandra Barr, regarding the Environment & Economy Select Committee Climate Emergency Scrutiny Review

1. Regarding your Portfolio area:

(i) What can be done in terms of ideas and funding, to encourage members to engage with residents, and support “green” pocket neighbourhood projects in wards. (Tree planting, communal garden projects, taking ownership of areas in the public realm)? Are we going to release our full cooperative potential, to see innovative and challenging green use of our public spaces?

Members will be aware of the Climate Change Annual Update discussed at Executive in October. This includes plans for our next phase of work which aligns with our approach to the development of Co-operative Neighbourhoods. Part of this approach is about working at a very localised street-level to encourage ideas on local initiatives to tackle climate change. This may include the development of local “green pockets” in neighbourhoods. I’ve been proud of the work that’s been progressed by ward Cllrs and community members in my own neighbourhood on developing a Community Orchard. I know we have a range of emerging initiatives across the town and I would like to see this continue.

(iii) How can our community associations and Stevenage based charities be encouraged to be “greener”?

The Cost of Living Crisis is forcing local charities including our community associations into making some difficult decisions. A number of these are going to be relating to reducing energy use. For a number of charities the ability to access funding to support upfront investment in carbon reduction measures is a challenge and we continue to advocate and lobby for their adequate support. We are currently working with the Social Inclusion Partnership to create a multi-stakeholder Co-operative to enable joint funding bids from local organisations.

(iv) Does Stevenage lack a centralised green project, such as the Triangle Garden Project in Hitchin, or Mudlarks in Ware? Do you see the mental and physical health benefits, and climate benefits of such projects, in enabling residents to work in nature-based projects? and

There are a range of green projects in wards across Stevenage which ward members across the town are supporting in different ways, ranging from support through LCB’s to volunteer days and community clear ups. This is encouraging as it demonstrates the appetite and need for such initiatives across the town, rather than in one centralised location. We particularly recognise the benefits of such activities to individual’s mental health and physical wellbeing. This is why the council continues to operate a successful Green Space Volunteer scheme across our parks and open spaces and support a Community Allotment for those who have worked through the No More Service. We are actively encouraging new initiatives with different partners. For example, we’ve recently started working with North Herts College on their community Allotment Project for Stevenage – This will see local students developing their skills in horticulture and bring wider benefit to local communities.

(v) Is there a list of climate projects happening at ward level, maintained by the Community Development team? Can Members access this, or information on funding green initiatives in their ward?

As part of the next stage of development of Co-operative Neighbourhoods teams will be reporting on a number of neighbourhood initiatives that support council-wide ambitions. This will include reporting on climate change initiatives, so access to this can be made available. I would encourage Members to discuss ideas with their Community Development Officer or Neighbourhood Warden or bring to their regular neighbourhood group meeting to enable project ideas to develop. Members are encouraged to think about how they utilise their own local Community Budgets to support such initiatives.

2. As an Executive Member of the Council do you think the issue yet has the priority it needs?

Whilst there is always room for improvement in any organisation, Councillor Simon Speller, Councillor Richard Henry and myself meet regularly with officers, on a Climate Change Progress Group and we all agree that a bottom up approach is extremely important in a town like Stevenage, as well as a top down Government funded projects.

Following our cooperative neighbourhood approach, we agree that including local small environmental groups is the way forward, but especially working with local elected ward members. There are no defined lines within portfolios on Executive and we recognise the overlap. We ensure we have regular updates on the impact of environmental issues to Exec. I sit on many outside voluntary groups who look at the environmental impact, as well as the emphasis in community wealth building. The environment and the economy are intertwined within our communities. And are a priority in everything I do. However, the autonomy of choice must come cooperatively with ward members taking the lead. I am always open to being contacted at any time irrespective of what colours you work under, we are stronger together. Our children's future on this planet is paramount and should be all of our lasting legacy.

3. E&E Select Committee Members may have further supplementary questions for you at the meeting.

Questions for Executive Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Equalities, Health and Older People, Cllr Jackie Hollywell, regarding the Environment & Economy Select Committee Climate Emergency Scrutiny Review

1. What issues do you perceive to be the main challenges for the Council to address in the Council's Climate Change Strategy to meet Net Zero, and thinking of your Portfolio area:

- (i) Recent Summers have seen high temperatures, with all the inherent risks to the health of the elderly, and those with chronic conditions. Are we working co-operatively with other agencies, to ensure that information is made available to vulnerable groups during heat waves, to ward off the worst health impacts, we all now recognise this weather can bring? Those in SBCs sheltered Housing Schemes and elderly tenants living on their own in the community come to mind.

The Healthy Stevenage Partnership provides a local forum for partners to come together to respond to local health needs. We need to start thinking about seasonal preparedness as part of these discussions with public health. We employ a health and activities co-ordinator within our own housing schemes to support residents with a range of health needs. The service has been particularly pro-active during both Covid-19 and this summer's heatwave in providing additional support to those most vulnerable.

- (ii) Should we be critiquing the County Council and individual school academies, to ensure that pupils are being offered a "green" meat free, healthier options on school meal menus.

Tackling obesity remains one of the core priorities of our Healthy Stevenage Strategy 2018-22 <https://www.stevenage.gov.uk/leisure-culture-and-wellbeing/healthy-stevenage-partnership/healthy-stevenage-partnership-strategies> which Hertfordshire Public Health has signed up to. The health benefits of meat free diets are also being increasingly evidenced. This should therefore be further explored by Children's Services and Public Health and we could raise this with them.

- (iii) Climate anxiety is a frequent topic of discussion, especially for our younger residents. Should we be sign posting residents to support services which deal with this aspect of mental health, and where are they in Stevenage?.

This is a really relevant point and this is one we will raise with our partners working on the Young People's Healthy Hub. Signposting to current mental health provision is included in the offer. Details of the hub can be found via the following link <https://www.stevenage.gov.uk/leisure-culture-and-wellbeing/young-peoples-healthy-hub/about-the-young-peoples-healthy-hub>

- (iv) Regarding equalities, do you consider if any of the characteristic groups are likely to be adversely affected now and in the future by climate change, and if so what can be done to help them?

The Stevenage Equalities Commission will shortly be reporting to Executive, alongside our Equality and Diversity Action plan moving

forwards. We need to further consider the equality impacts of climate change on protected characteristic groups. We know that lower socio-economic groups are disproportionately affected by the rising cost of fossil fuels to heat their homes, but often lack the resources to invest in energy efficiency measures or renewable alternatives. Similarly, for people with disabilities and in particular long term health conditions as they and/or their carers often have to use equipment that is made of single use plastics as no other alternatives are available to safely use. For example, personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, aprons and face masks have to be disposed of once used. These type of consideration needs to be factored into future community impact assessments.

2. As an Executive Member of the Council do you think the issue yet has the priority it needs?

We need to continue to raise the importance of climate change through all of our work across the council. We are joining up these conversations at Executive, as you may have noted in the Climate Change progress report this month. Of course, more still needs to be done at a local, regional, national and international level.

3. More generally, what level of public engagement do you think the Council should have for this over the remainder of this decade?

I would be keen to ensure we look at the join up across portfolios when we conduct engagement. None of these issues sit in isolation. For example we know that cycling is as much about health and wellbeing, as it is about leisure and as it is about climate change and sustainable travel. We need to maintain ongoing dialogues with our communities on all of these issues over the coming years.

E&E Select Committee Members may have further supplementary questions for you at the meeting.

**Meeting** Environment & Economy Scrutiny Committee

**Portfolio Area** Environment & Regeneration

**Date** 20 October 2022



## TREE CANOPY COVER

**Author:** Julia Hill, Environmental Policy & Development Manager

**Contributors:** Zayd Al-Jawad, Assistant Director - Planning & Regulatory Services  
David Thorogood, HCCSP Env. Strategy & Development Manager

### 1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform Members of how we intend to increase tree canopy cover in Stevenage by 2% to provide a minimum of 19%.
- 1.2 To consider an even more ambitious plan to expand the number of trees in Stevenage and / or offsetting in other locations.

### 2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note that officers will develop a Tree & Woodland Strategy during 2022/23, to support the delivery of the Amenity Tree Management Policy, incorporating additional tree planting to deliver a tree canopy cover of at least 19% by 2050.
- 2.2 Officers to consider the availability of suitable land to plant sufficient trees to help achieve net zero by 2030, and the potential impact on other uses of that land.

### 3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Trees and woodlands make a significant contribution to every community, providing a wide range of benefits including:



- Environmental: air quality, moderating local climate, reducing rainstorm impact, increasing biodiversity
  - Health: filtering polluted air, promoting well-being, reducing stress
  - Social: creating a sense of place, slowing traffic, creating an attractive environment that people want to visit and spend time in
  - Economic: can increase property values by 7-15%, create an environment conducive to economic growth and encouraging investment
  - Climate Change: Trees help the response to the climate crises by capturing unavoidable emissions, improving air quality, absorbing pollutants, and helping to mitigate surface water flooding.
- 3.2 In 2000 it was estimated that there were around 40,000 amenity trees in Stevenage. Today there are around 32,500 amenity trees in the town. The tree canopy cover in Stevenage, including woodlands, (in 2016) was 17%.
- 3.3 In September 2020 the Climate Change Strategy set out objectives which included:
- development of a tree protection and planting strategy
  - planting over 2,000 trees by 2030
- 3.4 One of the key recommendations from the Emergency Tree Plan for the UK (Woodland Trust, 2020) is to provide a minimum of 19% tree cover to support the UK being carbon neutral by 2050.
- 3.5 In January 2021 the Council approved an Amenity Tree Management Policy that seeks to:
- retain a high quality extensive amenity tree stock throughout the Town
  - aspires to maintain the Town's tree cover at present levels, as a minimum
  - encourage community involvement in new tree planting and subsequent maintenance
  - require all new developments to support new tree planting, either directly or through planning contributions, equivalent to a minimum 20% tree canopy cover at maturity
  - ensure all trees planted on Council land are UK sourced and grown.
- 3.6 The total working budget for the tree's service for 2022/23 is £107K. This budget is used to provide tools, personal protective equipment (PPE) and vehicles for the Council's tree team. Within this budget there is also an allowance of £3k per annum - sufficient to supply, plant and establish around 100 trees.
- 3.7 To achieve the planting, and successful establishment, of an additional 2,000 trees by 2030 will cost around £55,500 per annum. On reaching maturity this number of trees would increase the Town's tree canopy cover by 1%.
- 3.8 To achieve 19% tree canopy cover by 2050 would require the planting of an estimated additional 4,000 trees by 2030 to enable the target of 19% tree canopy cover to be reached by 2050. The cost to plant and successfully establish 4,000 trees is around £1m.



- 3.9 The Council, as part of its scrutiny review into climate change, has engaged with Prof Lubo Jankovic, Director of Zero Carbon Lab, University of Hertfordshire, to assess options to achieve an effective climate emergency response for the Borough.

Prof Jankovic's report looked at a range of options to determine the feasibility of achieving net zero. It is clear from the report that the mass planting of trees to capture carbon as they grow could have a very significant impact on assisting the Borough achieve its net zero ambitions.

If trees were adopted as the main carbon offsetting measure then the report estimates some 300,000 would be required to be planted to help achieve net zero by 2030 (at a cost estimate of circa £75m). There would be challenges identifying suitable land opportunities for this number of trees.

#### **4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION AND OTHER OPTIONS**

- 4.1 The planting of an additional 4,000 trees over the next nine years will require significant consideration and planning to ensure that sufficient and suitable, tree stock is available along with the resources to plant and maintain them.

- 4.2 Identification of suitable land space required to facilitate the trees will also need to be considered. Tree planting should also be balanced with the development of other habitats that also help tackle the climate / biodiversity emergency. In addition, trees may be most effective in tackling the effects of climate change when planted close to sources of high pollution levels, such as major roads, or within built up areas to reduce temperature fluctuations etc.

- 4.3 During 2022/23 officers will develop a Tree and Woodland Strategy that will set out more detail about how the tree planting targets for Stevenage can realistically be achieved. In the meantime solutions might include some / all of the following:

- 4.3.1 Planning contributions, in the form of S106, CIL or Biodiversity Net Gain, can all contribute to additional tree planting.

- 4.3.2 Developers planting sufficient tree numbers in accordance with Policy 21: *All new developments will support new tree planting, either directly or through planning contributions, equivalent to a minimum 20% tree canopy cover at maturity*, of the Amenity Tree Management Policy.

Developers delivering the North of Stevenage scheme are required to plant around 2,250 trees within the site, for example.

- 4.3.3 External funding applications have already helped to deliver six new community orchards, a total of 72 new trees, during 2021/22 – 2022/23. Further funding streams could support additional planting.

- 4.3.4 We know from previous engagement activities that our local community support efforts to tackle climate change. Opportunities to actively engage with the community might include:

- Sponsorship: providing opportunities for individuals, community groups and local business to provide funding to support tree planting. A sound and auditable process must be developed to facilitate this option, but

could potentially link with the existing Advertising and Sponsorship contract.

- Adopt a Tree: around half of the cost of successful tree planting and establishment is associated with the maintenance during the first three years following planting, i.e. watering, checking tree ties etc. Particularly where trees are planted within residential areas it may be possible to develop a scheme where local residents can adopt a tree, keeping it watered during the spring/summer and reporting issues to the Council as necessary.
- Tree Giveaway: not all tree planting has to take place on public open space. Tree planting in private gardens and school grounds for example can contribute to the tree canopy cover for the Town. With suitable funding it may be possible to deliver a scheme to provide small trees to local residents and schools to plant on their land.  
As part of HCC's Tree & Woodland Strategy they plan to give away 100,000 trees to local residents, businesses and community groups over the next four years. The scheme will be launched during September/October 2022, and this Council will be supporting the distribution of trees to Stevenage based participants.
- Community Woodland: During the winter of 2022/23 officers plan to invite the local community to plant tree seeds and saplings to create a new area of woodland in Fairlands Valley Park South Field. This will be a pilot project that, if successful, could be rolled out to further sites in future. It is anticipated that around 4,000 saplings will be planted.

4.4 All options will be considered and detailed further in the Tree & Woodland Strategy.

## **5. Implications**

### **5.1 Financial Implications**

- 5.1.1 To achieve the planting and establishment of 2,000 trees by 2030, in support of the Climate Change Strategy, would cost around £63,000 per year for the next 8 years - £504,000 total. However, this can be achieved through developer planting in the North of Stevenage scheme and at no cost to the Council.
- 5.1.2 To achieve 19% tree canopy cover by 2050, an aspiration of the Amenity Tree Management Policy and key recommendations from the Emergency Tree Plan for the UK (Woodland Trust, 2020), would require the planting of an estimated additional 4,000 trees. The cost to plant and successfully establish 4,000 trees is around £1m, although at least half of this commitment will be achieved through developer planting in north Stevenage.
- 5.1.3 To plant 300,000 trees to help achieve net zero by 2030 would cost around £75m over the next nine years.

- 5.1.4 Some of the costs may be achieved through developer contributions, but further work is required to establish the shortfall.

## **5.2 Legal Implications**

- 5.2.1 There are no legal obligations to providing additional tree planting.
- 5.2.2 Officers would need to determine if Stevenage has sufficient suitable land to plant 300,000 trees to help achieve net zero by 2030.

If there is not sufficient suitable land, the Council may wish to consider the purchase of nearby agricultural land to support the additional tree planting.

## **5.3 Policy Implications**

- 5.3.1 The Climate Change Strategy states that the Council will plant over 2,000 trees by 2030 – around 250 trees per year for the next 8 years.

## **5.4 Staffing & Accommodation Implications**

- 5.4.1 Stevenage Direct Services (SDS) does not have sufficient capacity within its current workforce to plant 2,000 trees by 2030, therefore consideration would need to be given to the use of contractors as well as volunteering support.

## **5.6 Risk Implications**

- 5.6.1 There is a risk of reputational damage if Stevenage is unable to meet its Climate Change Strategy targets, and its objective to achieve net zero by 2030.

## **5.7 Climate Change Implications**

- 5.7.1 The Council declared a climate change emergency at the June 2019 Council meeting, with a resolution to work towards a target of achieving net zero emissions by 2030.

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**Meeting** Environment & Economy Scrutiny Committee

**Portfolio Area** Environment & Regeneration

**Date** 20 October 2022



## FOCUS ON IMPROVED RECYCLING

**Author:** Julia Hill, Environmental Policy & Development Manager

**Contributors:** Kris White – Acting Operations Manager  
Colin Littlechild – Acting Assistant Operations Manager

### 1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform Members of actions being taken to improve the Council's recycling rates.

### 2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are asked to consider the report and provide their feedback at the meeting.

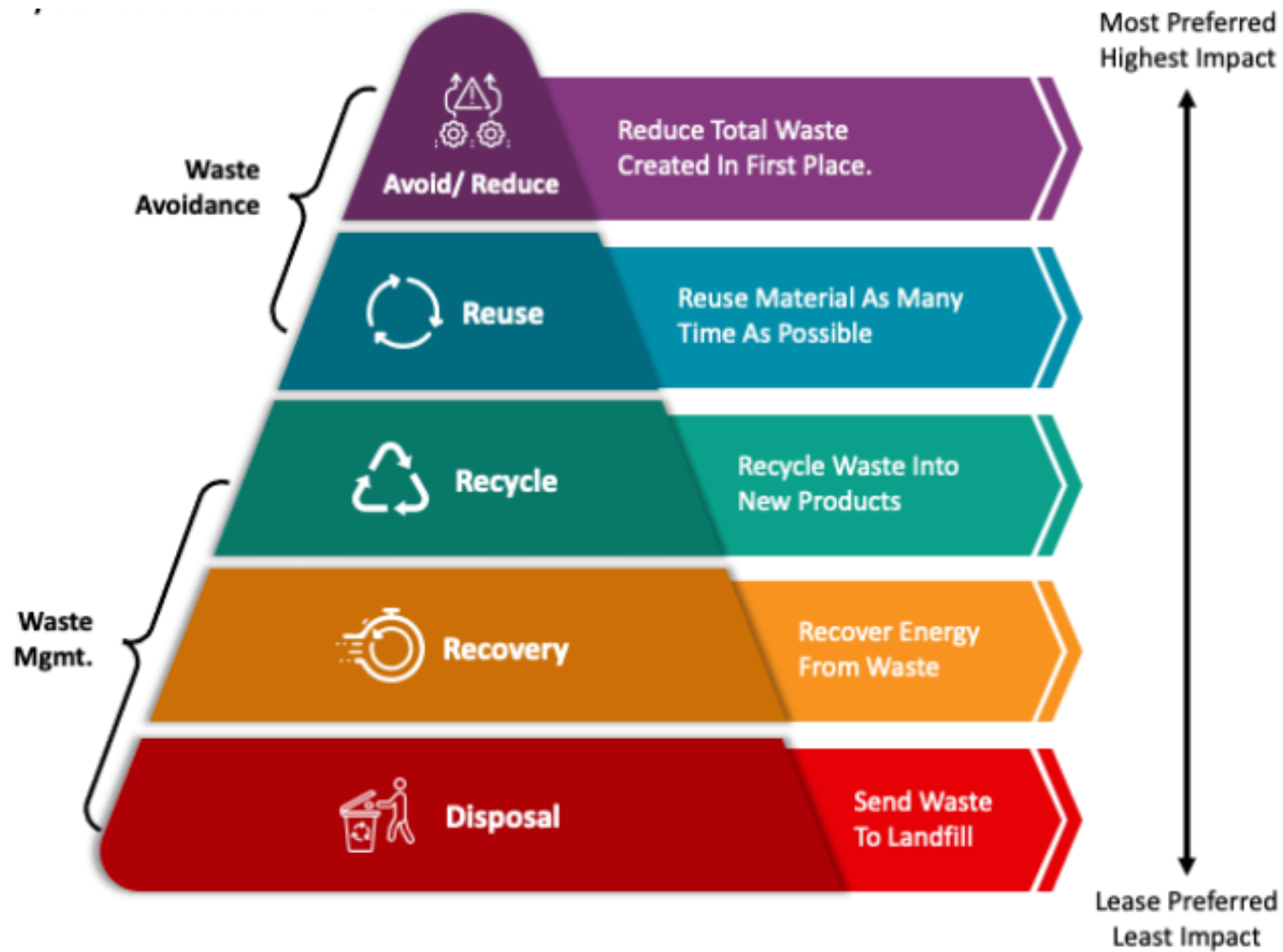
### 3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The "waste hierarchy" ranks waste management options according to what is best for the environment.

It gives top priority to preventing waste in the first place. When waste is created, it gives priority to preparing it for re-use, then recycling, then recovery, and last of all disposal (e.g. landfill). See Figure 1.

There is an increased focus on the environment and environmental sustainability, which also aligns to our climate change ambitions.

Figure 1: The Waste Hierarchy



- 3.2 Despite Stevenage households producing one of the lowest rates of waste in the County (Appendix 1, Table 1), we have consistently fallen below the County and national recycling rates. Our current recycling rate is 40% while the national average, in 2020, was 44%. The average recycling rate in Hertfordshire, in 2020/21, was 52.4%.
- 3.3 We have the lowest recycling rate in Hertfordshire (Appendix 1, Table 2), however Stevenage has a different demographic to many of our neighbours in Hertfordshire, plus a several hundred flatted properties, and this does impact on recycling rates.
- In 2018-19; 85% of local authorities that were among the top 20% most deprived had household recycling rates below the overall average of 42%. By contrast, just one in five of the 20% least deprived areas have a below-average recycling rate.
- 3.4 In 2019/20 Three Rivers District Council achieved the highest recycling rate in the country, at 64.1%. They provide a fortnightly collection of 140lt refuse bins, alongside a weekly collection of recycling and food waste.
- 3.5 In contrast to many of our counterparts across Hertfordshire, Stevenage operates an 'at source separation' system. That is we require residents to present separate material streams for kerb-side collection, rather than having a 'co-mingled' system where material streams are mixed in a single wheeled bin for collection.
- 3.6 This type of service has been delivered in Stevenage as it generates significant income, which helps to off-set some of the cost of the waste service. In 2019/20 over £655,000 of income was realised through the sale of household recycling to re-processors, and through recycling credits received from the County Council.
- In contrast, many local authorities collecting co-mingled dry recycling currently have to pay for the re-processing of their materials.
- 3.7 A report that the Waste & Resources Action Partnership (WRAP) produced for Stevenage in 2019 showed that:
- when compared to all other UK authorities, Stevenage falls into the top 50% for the capture of metal cans, plastic bottles and mixed plastic packaging.
  - When compared against authorities with the same rurality the Council falls into the top 25% for the capture of metal cans, plastic bottles and mixed plastic packaging.
- 3.8 WRAP also noted that we perform comparably or better than average, in terms of the efficiency of our kerbside collections.

- 3.9 Following the approval of the Stevenage Household Waste Policy in 2020 the standard size of residual waste bin now provided has been reduced from 240lt to 180lt, with more robust criteria for households requesting a larger bin.

#### **4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION AND OTHER OPTIONS**

There are a number of measures that have been or are being considered to help increase recycling rates in Stevenage:

##### **4.1 Introducing a separate weekly food waste collection service**

This proposal also forms part of the governments emerging national Resources & Waste Strategy which is delayed, but it is hoped that it will be published during 2022.

When a legislative / policy change like this is implemented, the government are expected to provide funding to pay for the costs of implementing the changes e.g. additional staff and vehicles, and this is known as 'new burdens' funding.

Officers have undertaken preparatory work regarding the implementation of a separate weekly food waste collection service, however clarity on new burdens is required which is expected within the Resources & Waste Strategy. This preparatory work also considers different ways in which this, and our existing kerbside collection service, can be delivered to maximise the benefits and encourage residents to recycle more.

One consideration is providing a weekly recycling collection alongside the existing fortnightly residual waste collection; something that St Albans and Three Rivers Council's already do. This, and other options, will need to be costed and considered in line with the national Strategy.

- 4.2 Early work with WRAP suggests the reduction to 180ltr bins and a separate food waste could result in a potential 9-10% increase in our recycling rate. The smaller bin size is a measure accounted for within the Household Waste Management Policy, however these bins are being provided on a replacement basis and not rolled out Town wide.

##### **4.3 Review of recycling facilities for residents living in flat blocks, with the aim of improving recycling rates in these locations.**

Capital funding has been approved in 2022/23 to enable a pilot to be delivered to 3-4 flat block sites. A short survey of residents in those flat blocks is being finalised and will be made available in October 2022. The results of the survey will be used to design a programme of improvements to those sites.

Works may include:



- implementation of new bins, infrastructure and signage similar to that delivered as a pilot to three bring bank sites during 2021;
  - new campaign information to support use of new / improved recycling facilities;
  - identifying residents who are willing, and able, to act as Recycling Champions – providing encouragement, support and advice to other residents in the flat block to improve recycling.
- 4.4 Consideration of on-the-go recycling facilities, and associated education / campaigns, in the town centre, High Street and Neighbourhood Centres.
- 4.5 A Stevenage Household Waste Strategy, to support the delivery of these and other actions aimed at minimising waste and maximising recycling has been drafted. However, finalising the document has been put on hold, pending the publication of the Resources & Waste Strategy, to ensure that the local strategy aligns with the national one.
- 4.6 The restrictions in place over the last 24 months, due to Covid, have had a significant impact on our ability to engage with the community to promote waste minimisation and improve recycling / reuse. However, in 2022 we recommenced our engagement with schools, and will be looking to community events such as Stevenage Day etc again.
- 4.8 Within the next 12 months we expect to have greater clarification on the requirements of the national Resources & Waste Strategy and data from the flat block pilot, both of which will help inform our future service delivery, promotion and education. These activities also support the wider environmental sustainability and climate change ambitions of the Council.

## Appendix 1

Table 1. Total household wastes (kilograms per household)

Year	Broxbourne	Dacorum	East Herts	Hertsmere	North Herts	St Albans	Stevenage	Three Rivers	Watford	Wel / Hat
2020/21	950	933	917	930	864	943	896	910	858	876
2019/20	865	838	867	854	795	825	814	862	802	781
2018/19	871	851	884	863	803	838	829	864	810	800
2017/18	916	873	901	899	866	859	846	899	841	788
2016/17	923	895	889	904	872	868	861	907	859	821
2015/16	907	895	910	912	875	869	881	927	858	871
2014/15	930	887	906	920	866	869	890	950	855	931
2013/14	919	898	902	923	856	877	857	953	845	962

(source: WasteDataFlow – includes updated figures for previous years where available)

Table 2. Recycling percentages

Year	Broxbourne	Dacorum	East Herts	Hertsmere	North Herts	St Albans	Stevenage	Three Rivers	Watford	Wel / Hat
2020/21	42.4	54.5	51.5	44.4	55.9	64.2	40.2	63.1	50.0	47.8
2019/20	41.5	52.8	50.7	44.4	57.5	63.0	39.5	64.1	45.3	46.6
2018/19	42.0	52.3	49.9	44.3	56.8	62.1	40.0	63.0	45.1	45.4
2017/18	41.8	52.5	49.4	43.6	57.5	59.5	38.3	62.4	44.3	43.4
2016/17	41.1	51.1	51.2	43.4	58.9	57.5	39.8	61.9	42.9	53.0
2015/16	40.3	49.1	48.4	42.1	57.6	52.2	39.4	59.4	40.1	48.5
2014/15	35.0	46.3	49.5	43.3	58.5	50.4	38.2	63.2	41.7	48.0
2013/14	35.0	46.2	48.5	43.2	57.3	47.7	37.4	62.4	40.6	46.6

(source: WasteDataFlow – includes updated figures for previous years where available)

Table 3. Changes in recycling and composting in 2020/21

Authority	2019/20	2020/21	Change
<b>Broxbourne</b>	41.5%	42.4%	+0.9%
<b>Dacorum</b>	52.8%	54.5%	+1.7%
<b>East Herts</b>	50.7%	51.5%	+0.8%
<b>Hertsmere</b>	44.4%	44.4%	---
<b>North Herts</b>	57.5%	55.9%	-1.6%
<b>St Albans</b>	63.0%	64.2%	+1.2%
<b>Stevenage</b>	39.5%	40.2%	+0.7%
<b>Three Rivers</b>	64.1%	63.1%	-1.0%
<b>Watford</b>	45.3%	50.0%	+4.7%
<b>Wel / Hat</b>	46.6%	47.8%	+1.2%
<b>Herts CC</b>	58.7%	56.9%	-1.7%
<b>HWP</b>	52.3%	52.4%	+0.1%

(source: Hertfordshire Waste Partnership)

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## Mapping exercise for E&E Select Committee – Climate Change Emergency Scrutiny Review

Issue	Who's effected? (where relevant)	Who identified to address this/provide data and interview? (whether they are internal SBC or external partner)	What evidence/data can they provide?	Meeting interview/ evidence received date:  Link to Committee meeting where evidence/interview was undertaken:	Meeting scheduled for date:  How the info will be gathered? (i.e. formal meetings, informal sub-groups meetings, written representations)	Action & date required  If complete sign off in table:
<p>Interview with Exec Portfolio Holder for Environment &amp; Regeneration</p> <p>May 2022 – New Executive Portfolio Holder for Environment &amp; Climate Change</p>		<p>Cllr John Gardner, Executive Portfolio Holder for Environment &amp; Regeneration.</p> <p>Cllr Simon Speller Executive Portfolio Holder for Environment Climate Change</p>	Presentation of Portfolio area strategy and actions towards climate change.	<p>21 October 2021 – Received presentation from the Cllr John Gardner &amp; Officers</p> <p>See link - <a href="#">Supplementary Agenda - Presentation on Environment &amp; Regeneration Portfolio area</a></p> <p><a href="#">E&amp;E Select Committee 20 09 22</a></p>	Formal Committee meeting session completed - <b>21 Oct 2022.</b>	<p>✓</p> <p><b>UPDATE – 20 Oct 2022</b> Cllr Speller attended E&amp;E Select Committee on 20 Sep providing a presentation on priorities for CC and answered questions.</p> <p>✓</p>

Issue	Who's effected? (where relevant)	Who identified to address this/provide data and interview? (whether they are internal SBC or external partner)	What evidence/data can they provide?	Meeting interview/ evidence received date:  Link to Committee meeting where evidence/interview was undertaken:	Meeting scheduled for date:  How the info will be gathered? (i.e. formal meetings, informal sub-groups meetings, written representations)	Action & date required  If complete sign off in table:
Critique of the SBC Climate Change Action Plan from external critical friends – (ii) HEART	N/A	(ii) HEART (Hertfordshire for Enabling and Adapting for Resilience Together)	(ii) HEART have provided a critique of SBC's Climate Change Strategy	18 November 2021 – Interview with HEART <a href="#">HEART critique of SBC's Climate Action Plan</a>	Formal Committee meeting session completed <b>Thursday 18 Nov 2021</b>	(i) Scrutiny Officer to invite Kim Hare HEART ✓ Kim has agreed that HEART can attend ✓ (ii) Scrutiny Officer to circulate background of the review with HEART ahead of the Committee meeting on 18 Nov. ✓  <u>Outstanding Action</u> – develop the offer from HEART to work with a wider group of Members – June 2022 Update: Informal meetings

Issue	Who's effected? (where relevant)	Who identified to address this/provide data and interview? (whether they are internal SBC or external partner)	What evidence/data can they provide?	Meeting interview/ evidence received date:  Link to Committee meeting where evidence/interview was undertaken:	Meeting scheduled for date:  How the info will be gathered? (i.e. formal meetings, informal sub-groups meetings, written representations)	Action & date required  If complete sign off in table:
Page 3						with HEART have been ongoing – Exec Portfolio for Env. & Climate Change is now leading
Interview with Exec Portfolio Holder for Economy, Enterprise and Transport		Cllr Lloyd Briscoe, Executive Portfolio Holder for Economy, Enterprise and Transport	Presentation of Executive Portfolio area including action plan linked to Climate Change Strategy & Q&A session.	18 November 2021 – interviewed Cllr Lloyd Briscoe who answered Members written questions - <a href="#">E&amp;E Select Committee 18 11 21 item 3</a>	Formal Committee meeting session completed <b>Thursday 18 Nov 2021</b>	Zayd Al-Jawed has confirmed that Cllr Lloyd Briscoe will attend on 18 Nov.✓  Scrutiny Officer to circulate written questions for the Exec Portfolio ahead of 18 Nov meeting.✓  Scrutiny Officer circulated Cllr Briscoe's written

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Page 32						response to the committee's questions. ✓
Critique of the SBC Climate Change Action Plan from external critical friends – (i) University of Hertfordshire/	N/A	(i) University of Hertfordshire - Professor Lubo Jankovic – Prof. of Advanced Building Design/Director of Zero Carbon Lab (School of Creative Arts)	Professor Jankovic to provide a critique of SBC Climate Change Strategy	<a href="#">Agenda for Environment &amp; Economy Select Committee on Monday, 10 January 2022, 6.00pm</a> – see item 3	Formal Committee meeting session completed <b>Monday 10 January 2022</b>	Scrutiny Officer to invite Professor Jankovic to Committee meeting ✓  Scrutiny Officer arranged a daytime pre-meeting informal zoom meeting & ahead of the Committee on 6 December ✓ and a further meeting 5 Jan at 2pm✓



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Page 33						Update - offer from Professor Lubo Jankovic to attend a follow up meeting of the E&E when the Uni of Herts project is near completion (March 2022). June 2022 Update – Uni. of Herts Zero Carbon Lab report complete and considered by the Committee. ✓
Interview with Exec Portfolio Holder for Housing, Health and Older People		Cllr Jeannette Thomas, Executive Portfolio Holder for Housing, Health and Older People (as was	Presentation of Executive Portfolio area including action plan linked to Climate Change	<a href="#">Agenda for Environment &amp; Economy Select Committee on Wednesday, 23</a>	Informal E&E Select Committee meeting completed on 03 03 22	Scrutiny Officer arrange meeting and co-ordinate officer support for Exec Member response to

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Page 34		the designation at the time)	Strategy & Q&A session.	<a href="#">March 2022, 6.00pm</a> – see item 2 Notes of informal meeting 3 March 2022		E&E Members questions.  ✓
How will we know if we are on target to meet Net Zero for SBC and for the town by 2030?		Assistant Director – Planning Regulatory to advise on agreed mechanism for ongoing monitoring.	Establishing a base line for the Council to see how far it is along its journey to net zero. An ambition of the work with the University of Hertfordshire is that this will help the Council establish a baseline for the authority and if possible for the town as a whole (with land	Zayd Al-Jawed has assisted the review through all formal and informal meetings as well as sessions with the Uni of Herts. Zero Carbon Lab to help establish a refined baseline so this strand has been achieved.	University of Hertfordshire Zero Carbon Lab's work/report on Stevenage Borough Council's Net Zero target for 2030 for the whole of Stevenage area should be ready by mid-April 2022.	Monitor progress through the meetings with the University of Hertfordshire Zero Carbon Lab. – These meetings are ongoing. David Thorogood has provided data to the University Research fellow Rebecca Onafuye, including data on Stevenage Area CO2 emissions.

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Page 35			mark milestones per sector such as Transport/Domestic/ Industry/Commercial /Public Sector			Update June 2022: Report Complete ✓ Uni. of Herts. Zero Carbon Lab keen to continue collaboration – via Herts Climate Change & Sustainability Partnership. - <b>Ongoing</b>
Interview with David Thorogood, EHDC/SBC Environmental Campaigns Officer		David Thorogood is employed by SBC on a temporary six month contract and is assisting the Council towards its Climate Change ambitions,		Whilst David is in contract has agreed to attend the E&E Select Committee meeting meetings when it is considering the	Ongoing attendance at meetings.	✓

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Page 36		linked to this David is helping the review and liaising with the University of Hertfordshire Zero Carbon Lab.		Climate Emergency Review. <a href="#">Agenda for Environment &amp; Economy Select Committee on Monday, 10 January 2022, 6.00pm</a>		
Interview with Jonathan Sayers, SBC Interim Communications Campaigns Manager		Jonathan Sayers has been employed on a temporary basis to undertake a communications campaign for the Council's Climate Emergency.		Whilst Jonathan is in contract he has agreed to attend the E&E Select Committee meeting meetings when it is considering the Climate Emergency Review.	Ongoing attendance at meetings.	✓
Plans for large industry based in Stevenage?		Mena Caldbeck, SBC Business Relationship Manager	Provide some information regarding their	<a href="#">Minutes 18 November 2021 - Business</a>	Mena Caldbeck met E&E Members	Members to indicate if they would like to interview the officer

Issue	Who's effected? (where relevant)	Who identified to address this/provide data and interview? (whether they are internal SBC or external partner)	What evidence/data can they provide?	Meeting interview/ evidence received date:  Link to Committee meeting where evidence/interview was undertaken:	Meeting scheduled for date:  How the info will be gathered? (i.e. formal meetings, informal sub-groups meetings, written representations)	Action & date required  If complete sign off in table:
Plans for SME's in Stevenage?		Mena Caldbeck, SBC Business Relationship Manager	businesses plans to work towards low carbon/net zero	<a href="#">Relationship Manager.pdf</a>	on 18 November 2021	at a later date to update the verbal information provided?
Interview with the Leader		The Leader	Overarching view of the Council's leadership and targets to get to Net Zero for 2030	<a href="#">Minutes 18 November 2021 - Business Relationship Manager.pdf</a>	Update June 2022 - Agreed interview date <b>13 July 2022</b> . Chair and Vice-Chair suggested it be important to receive an overarching view of the Council's plans regarding the	Scrutiny Officer to circulate questions for the Leader ✓  Interview completed 13 July 2022 ✓

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Page 38					Climate Emergency from the Leader (to be interviewed with the Resources Portfolio Holder to see the scale of the financial challenge and what plans are in place from the Resources Portfolio to address this.	
Interview with Exec Portfolio Holder for Resources		Cllr Mrs Joan Lloyd, Executive Portfolio Holder for Resources & IT	Presentation of Executive Portfolio area including action plan linked to Climate Change Strategy & Q&A session.		Update June 2022 - Agreed interview date <b>13 July 2022</b> (As above) To interview the Executive Resources Portfolio	Agreed date 13 July 2022.  Scrutiny Officer to circulate questions for the Executive

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Page 39					Holder to see the scale of the financial challenge and what plans are in place from the Resources Portfolio Holder to address this.	Resources Portfolio Holder ✓  Interview completed 13 July 2022 ✓
Interview with Exec Portfolio Holder for Communities, Neighbourhoods & Co-operative Council		Cllr Sandra Barr, Executive Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods & Co-operative Council	Presentation of Executive Portfolio area including action plan linked to Climate Change Strategy & Q&A session.		<b>20 October 2022</b>	To be arranged with the Exec Portfolio Holder. ✓ The Scrutiny Officer to check with the Chair & VC if the generic questions for Cllr Barr need amending for this Portfolio areas? (date

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Page 40						for action – July 2022) ✓ <b>UPDATE – 20 Oct 2022</b> – Scrutiny Officer & Chair formulated questions 28 Sep – sent to Exec Member 3 Oct
Interview with Exec Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Children & Young People.		Cllr Richard Henry, Executive Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Children & Young People.	Presentation of Executive Portfolio area including action plan linked to Climate Change Strategy & Q&A session.		<b>20 October 2022</b>	To be arranged with the Exec Portfolio Holder. The Scrutiny Officer to check with the Chair & VC if the generic questions for Cllr Henry need amending for this Portfolio areas? (date



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Page 41						for action – July 2022) ✓ <b>UPDATE – 20 Oct 2022</b> – Scrutiny Officer & Chair formulated questions 28 Sep – sent to Exec Member 3 Oct – Scrutiny Officer has sought to clarify if Cllr Henry can attend on 20 Oct
Interview with Exec Portfolio Holder for Community Safety,		Cllr Jackie Hollywell, Executive Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Equalities, Health & Older People.	Presentation of Executive Portfolio area including action plan linked to Climate Change		<b>20 October 2022</b>	To be arranged with the Exec Portfolio Holder. The Scrutiny Officer to check with the Chair & VC if the generic questions for

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<p>Equalities, Health and Older People.</p> <p>Page 42</p>			Strategy & Q&A session.			<p>Cllr Hollywell need amending for this Portfolio areas? (date for action – July 2022) ✓</p> <p><b>UPDATE – 20 Oct 2022</b> – Scrutiny Officer &amp; Chair formulated questions 28 Sep – sent to Exec Member 3 Oct</p>
Chair of Youth Council & Youth Mayor	Young People	Chair of Youth Council & Youth Mayor – Consult with the Youth Council	Attend witness session and answer questions/provide challenge re young people's view/aspirations		<p><del>16-02-2022</del> To be arranged</p> <p><b>UPDATE 20 10 22</b> Informal sub-group of the Chair, Cllr Rob Broom, and</p>	<p>Scrutiny Officer to circulate questions for the Youth Council✓</p> <p>Scrutiny Officer to discuss with Ryan</p>

Issue	Who's effected? (where relevant)	Who identified to address this/provide data and interview? (whether they are internal SBC or external partner)	What evidence/data can they provide?	Meeting interview/ evidence received date:  Link to Committee meeting where evidence/interview was undertaken:	Meeting scheduled for date:  How the info will be gathered? (i.e. formal meetings, informal sub-groups meetings, written representations)	Action & date required  If complete sign off in table:
Page 43					Clare Parris confirmed attending. Invite to Cllrs Stephen Booth & Adam Mitchell.	Ansell Community Development Officer re a date for E&ESC Members to attend Youth Council meeting. <b>UPDATE 20 Oct 2022</b> a small sub- group are attending a Young People Climate Change Group meeting on 16 Nov 2022
Critique of the SBC Climate Change Action Plan from external critical friends – (iii)	N/A	(iii) Friends of the Earth	(ii) Friends of the Earth to provide a critique of SBC's Climate Change Strategy		To be arranged.	Scrutiny Officer to invite Friends of the Earth (Andy Holthams and Peter Foord)

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<p>Friends of the Earth</p> <p>Page 44</p>						<p>UPDATE 20 Sep 2022 - Based on Members comments at 23 June E&amp;E will look to set up a meeting via Zoom with a sub-group of the E&amp;E Members. Provisional date <u>24 Oct 2022</u> for informal Zoom meeting.</p> <p>UPDATE 20 Oct 2022 – 24 Oct confirmed and Zoom codes sent.</p>
HCC Executive Portfolio Holder for Environment		Cllr Eric Buckmaster, HCC Executive	Presentation of HCC Executive Portfolio area including action		Written evidence to be collected.	Chair & VC have advised they would

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Page 45		Portfolio Holder for Environment	plan linked to Climate Change Strategy & Q&A session.		Possibly 17 November 2022.	<p>like this to be an interview with the Committee. Possibly same meeting as with Phil Bibby – 17 November 2022. Scrutiny Officer to draft the questions and invite to interview – deadline for action end of July 2022.</p> <p>UPDATE 20 Sep 2022 -HCC Cllr Buckmaster invited to 17 Nov meeting ✓ Chair &amp; VC to agree questions for Cllr Buckmaster</p>

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Page 46						<div data-bbox="1872 724 2188 1023" data-label="Text"> <p><b>UPDATE 20 Oct 2022</b> – Scrutiny Officer &amp; Chair meeting with Zayd &amp; Veronica Chan to agree wording of questions – Wed 12 Oct</p> </div>
HCC Executive Portfolio Holder for Transport		Cllr Phil Bibby, HCC Executive Portfolio Holder for Transport	Presentation of HCC Executive Portfolio area including action plan linked to Climate Change Strategy & Q&A session.		To be arranged.  Possibly 17 November 2022.	Scrutiny Officer to Contact Cllr Phil Bibby re attending 17 November meeting – set questions – deadline for action – end of July 2022.✓

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Page 47						<p>UPDATE 20 Sep 2022 – Cllr Bibby is unable to attend the session on 17 November but can respond in writing and Cllr Graham McAndrew will be in attendance and is Cllr Bibby's deputy.</p> <p>UPDATE 20 Oct 2022 – Scrutiny Officer &amp; Chair meeting with Zayd &amp; Veronica Chan to agree wording of questions – Wed 12 Oct</p>

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Herts Sustainability Panel Chair – Cllr Graham McAndrew East Herts District Council		Cllr Graham McAndrew East Herts District Council – Chair of Herts Sustainability Panel	Presentation of Herts Sustainability Panel including their action plans and Climate Change Strategy & Q&A session.		Written evidence to be collected.  ?	UPDATE – 20 Sep 2022: [REDACTED] Scrutiny Officer has invited Cllr [REDACTED] McAndrew, who has confirmed that he is able to attend the meeting on 17 November. ✓  Action - draft questions for Herts Sustainability Panel Chair (questions to be approved by Chair & VC) –deadline for



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Page 49						<p>action - end of September 2022 (engage with David Thorogood re the best way to engage/questions etc.)</p> <p>Chair &amp; VC have indicated that this session should be an in-person interview now.</p> <p><b>UPDATE 20 Oct 2022 – Scrutiny Officer &amp; Chair meeting with Zayd &amp; Veronica Chan to agree wording of</b></p>

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Page 50						questions – Wed 12 Oct
Representative of Lister Hospital		Invite the East & North Hertfordshire NHS Trust CE	What plans and actions are they taking re the expansion of the Hospital Estate and the ongoing use of resources at Lister Hospital to address Climate Change?		To be arranged.	Chair & VC have advised this should be via a written submission of evidence.  UPDATE 20 Sep 2022 – Scrutiny Officer to draft an email for the Chair to approach Lister Hospital CE, Adam Sewell-Jones.

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A representative of Stevenage tenants & leaseholders 2022 51	All SBC tenants and leaseholder	To be advised by Assistant Director Communities & Neighbourhoods	Attend witness session and answer questions/provide challenge re pace of Environmental changes to SBC housing stock		UPDATE from Rob Gregory – 20 Sep 2022: Due to the requirements of the Social Housing White Paper the need for more dynamic engagement with tenants and leaseholders will be required. This is currently shaping through the Co-operative Neighbourhoods Programme but will provide an opportunity to engage with different	Scrutiny Officer to Liaise with Rob Gregory/Jane Konopka re how the review might engage with tenants & leaseholders via new forum? – deadline for action – end of August 2022 UPDATE 20 Sep 2022 – Scrutiny Officer has sought guidance from the Director, Rob Gregory – see column to left.

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Page 52					tenants and leaseholders in different ways. The community development team can build this requirement into planned engagement, including digital, with tenants and leaseholders.	
Link to primary and secondary Schools and NH College	Young People	A representative of each tier?	Find out what young people's views are and what actions they are taking?		To be arranged.	Chair has said its important to interview representatives of the Youth Council at Committee and re Schools a written

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Page 53						response from Terry Douris at HCC re what actions schools are taking in Hertfordshire.

Suggested options for phase II of the review from the Strategic Director, Tom Pike which would provide assistance corporately to the Council's response to the Climate Emergency which would suit a Member sub-group of the main E&E Select Committee:

- **Case study visit:** Given the committee are seeking to ensure the Council's work on climate change has the fullest impact, it may be appropriate for a small group to conduct a case study visit to another Council to share best practice. – The Scrutiny Officer has undertaken some desk top research into Bristol City Council who have been a leading exemplar for local authorities in its journey towards net zero. Bristol had established its carbon footprint from 2005. In 1999 they set a target to reduce their carbon emissions by 10% by 2010. Between 2005 and 2021, they reduced their carbon emissions by 87%. Clearly they are far ahead of most local authorities. Officers and Members should reach out to their counterparts to see how they undertook their journey.
- **Community projects:** Perhaps some desk research into other community projects which are live and could support local action? Officers can provide information to support this.

- **Cost estimates:** One or two authorities (Manchester, for example) have started to quantify the types of investment made thus far. A potential option for the Committee would be to seek some information on how they have approached this task.

This work could be supported by some informal evidence gathering, potentially seeking external examples of best practice based related to one or two most impactful of the 8 themes of the Stevenage Climate Action Plan (e.g. transport, homes, comms.). Given the breadth of the review it is suggested that the committee perhaps highlight a couple of themes to look at in greater depth.