

**Executive Member Response To Environment & Economy Select Committee Review – Interim Recommendations of the Climate Emergency review**

**Date Recommendations agreed by Environment & Economy Select Committee:**

Wednesday 23 March 2022  
(circulated Tuesday 5 April 2022)

**Date responses should be made by:**

Executive response on behalf of the relevant Executive Portfolio Holders should be received by Tuesday 31 May 2022

**Recommendations:**

**Executive Response:**

**Resident engagement:**

**RECOMMENDATION 1**

- (i) With regards to the Citizen Panel, the handling of future iterations needs to be improved regarding the feedback with the group and ongoing engagement.
- (ii) That the plans for working alongside and influencing local people be provided to Members.

*Response supported by AD Planning & Regulatory Zayd Al-Jawed and Operations Director, Housing Investment & Communities & Neighbourhoods, Rob Gregory and Executive Portfolio Holders with responsibility for Environment, Cllr Simon Speller, Neighbourhoods, Cllr Rob Broom, and Communities, Cllr Jackie Hollywell.*

*(i) Officers have responded to all previous Panel Members. Future **Topic People Panel** style engagement will provide an opportunity for local ward*

<p><b>Action: AD Planning &amp; Regulatory Zayd Al-Jawed and Operations Director, Housing Investment &amp; Communities &amp; Neighbourhoods, Rob Gregory</b></p>	<p>members and officers to hear the concerns of local people and provide opportunities for engagement and involvement in driving solutions. (ii) Moving forwards the Co-operative Neighbourhoods approach will develop to include resident engagement at a local street/neighbourhood level around climate change. This will enable local ward members to be at the forefront of this engagement activity with local people.</p>
<p><u><b>Baseline figures</b></u> - measuring how we are doing with regards to our Net Zero targets for 2030 linked to a shared study with the University of Hertfordshire Zero Carbon Lab</p> <p><u><b>RECOMMENDATION 2</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Officers continue to work with the University of Hertfordshire to assist with achieving the council's zero carbon ambitions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: AD Planning &amp; Regulatory, Zayd Al-Jawed and Operations Director, Environmental Sustainability Co-ordinator EH &amp; SBC, David Thorogood</b></p>	<p><i>Response supported by AD Planning &amp; Regulatory Zayd Al-Jawed and Operations Director, Environmental Sustainability Co-ordinator EH &amp; SBC, David Thorogood and Executive Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Environment, Cllr Simon Speller.</i></p> <p>SBC is continuing to work with the University of Hertfordshire Zero Carbon Lab on areas of joint research. It is also working with the Lab through HSCCP on research about lower carbon buildings.</p>
<p><u><b>Establishment of a Climate Change Lead Officer</b></u></p> <p><u><b>RECOMMENDATION 3</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>that this post be made permanent.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: AD Planning &amp; Regulatory, Zayd Al-Jawed &amp; SD Resources, Section 151 Officer Clare Fletcher</b></p>	<p><i>Response supported by AD Planning &amp; Regulatory, Zayd Al-Jawed and SD Resources Section 151 Officer, Clare Fletcher and Executive Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Environment, Cllr Simon Speller and Executive Portfolio Holder for Resources, Cllr Joan Lloyd.</i></p> <p>The post has been made permanent, and Veronica Chan has been appointed and starts with SBC on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September 2022.</p>
<p><u><b>HEART – Community Group - Challenge</b></u></p> <p><u><b>RECOMMENDATION 4</b></u></p>	<p><i>Response supported by AD Planning &amp; Regulatory, Zayd Al-Jawed and Operations Director, Housing Investment &amp; Communities &amp; Neighbourhoods, Rob Gregory and Executive Portfolio Holders with</i></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>that the Council engage further with HEART to provide some Member seminars on the Climate Emergency and that the Council teams up with HEART in support of a social enterprise such as a Climate Resilience Hub, or Climate Emergency Centres (CEC's) Increasingly, these local physical hubs or spaces are popping up over the UK, and they collaborate, network and learn from each other. There are none so far in Hertfordshire – <a href="#">see presentation to E&amp;E Select Committee 18 11 21</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Action: AD Planning &amp; Regulatory Zayd Al-Jawed and Operations Director, Housing Investment &amp; Communities &amp; Neighbourhoods, Rob Gregory</b></p>	<p><i>responsibility for Environment, Cllr John Gardner, for Neighbourhoods, Cllr Rob Broom, and Communities, Cllr Jackie Hollywell.</i></p> <p>Through the recent award of the Shared Prosperity Fund the council will be keen to support the growth of social enterprises and co-operatives of this nature. This can be explored with HEART.</p> <p>Both E&amp;E and officers continue to engagement with HEART and they are likely to be part of our work through Topic Reference Panels and wider advice sharing.</p>
<p><b><u>Mainstreaming of Climate Emergency thinking with regards to all Council activities</u></b></p> <p><b><u>RECOMMENDATION 5</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review Council activities to ensure carbon friendly practices are truly embedded. (Strategic)</li> <li>Look for opportunities where the Council can consider if an activity or an event can be made as low carbon as possible. A helpful tool is the good ideas about running a reduced carbon and more sustainable event, considering things such as measuring the current event's carbon footprint; making a plan; consulting with contractors; organise essential waste management and start simple – <a href="#">How to make an event sustainable (7 examples) Eventbrite blog</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Action: AD Planning &amp; Regulatory, Zayd Al-Jawed and Operations Director, Environmental Sustainability Co-ordinator EH &amp; SBC, David Thorogood</b></p>	<p><i>Response supported by AD Planning &amp; Regulatory Zayd Al-Jawed and Operations Director, Environmental Sustainability Co-ordinator EH &amp; SBC, David Thorogood and Executive Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Environment, Cllr Simon Speller and the Leader of the Council, Cllr Sharon Taylor</i></p> <p>With the appointment of the new Climate Change Lead Officer, they will be reviewing the Council work streams and challenging each AD to demonstrate how their Business Unit is work in a low car bon way.</p> <p>Due consideration will be given to the council's own events calendar, alongside new events being programmed at the new Event Island in the Town Centre. In addition the current guide for community organisations on running and event provided by the council events team will be updated to include such considerations. The ideas from Eventbrite will be considered where suitable.</p>

<p><b><u>Protected and enhanced Tree Canopy</u></b></p> <p><b><u>RECOMMENDATION 6</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That the Executive Portfolio Holder for the Environment and Regeneration and Officers establish a plan to meet the 2% gap in Stevenage’s Tree Canopy, and that an even more ambitious plan be considered to expand the number of trees in Stevenage or offsetting in other locations as this offers one of the best measures for carbon reduction open to the Council ideally once any feasible mitigation measures have been implemented.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: AD Planning &amp; Regulatory, Zayd Al-Jawed and Operations Director, Environmental Sustainability Co-ordinator EH &amp; SBC, David Thorogood &amp; Arboriculture &amp; Conservation Manager, Cristian Pinta &amp; Environmental Policy &amp; Development Manager, Julia Hill</b></p>	<p><i>Response supported by AD Planning &amp; Regulatory Zayd Al-Jawed and Operations Director, Environmental Sustainability Co-ordinator EH &amp; SBC, David Thorogood, Arboriculture &amp; Conservation Manager, Cristian Pinta and Executive Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Environment, Cllr Simon Speller.</i></p> <p>Officers have drafted a report, outlining future opportunities for consideration by Environment &amp; Economy Scrutiny Committee. Officers are anticipating presenting this report to Members at the meeting on the 20 October 2022.</p> <p>Officers are also finalising a public consultation document that will help inform the development of a Tree &amp; Woodland Strategy (alongside the Amenity Tree Management Policy) that will provide further direction about how additional tree planting can be delivered successfully and with support from the Stevenage community.</p>
<p><b><u>Planning &amp; Development</u></b></p> <p><b><u>RECOMMENDATION 7</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within the constraints of the exiting planning legislation and powers for local planning authorities, establish a plan to make Climate change a planning consideration for all applications.</li> <li>Officers devise a strategy re tree management &amp; Planning &amp; Development (Strategic)</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: AD Planning &amp; Regulatory, Zayd Al-Jawed and Operations Director, Environmental Sustainability Co-ordinator EH &amp; SBC, David Thorogood &amp; Arboriculture &amp; Conservation Manager,</b></p>	<p><i>Response supported by AD Planning &amp; Regulatory Zayd Al-Jawed and Executive Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Environment, Cllr Simon Speller.</i></p> <p>All Strategic Major applications now have a paragraph on Climate Change impact so decisions makers can understand the impact.</p> <p>The Local Plan review will have a large focus on where we can strengthen Local Plan Policies around Climate Change, particularly low carbon buildings and the identification of ‘carbon sinks’</p> <p>Planning working with SDS will develop an updated tree management strategy.</p>

<p><b>Cristian Pinta &amp; Environmental Policy &amp; Development Manager, Julia Hill</b></p>	
<p><b><u>Focus on improved Recycling</u></b></p> <p><b><u>RECOMMENDATION 8</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That the Executive Portfolio Holder for the Environment and Regeneration and AD Stevenage Direct Services brings back a report to Scrutiny Members on the actions and strategy it is taking to improve the Council's recycling rates.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: AD Stevenage Direct Services, Steve Dupoy. Environmental Policy &amp; Development Manager, Julia Hill, &amp; Interim Assistant Operations Manager, Colin Littlechild.</b></p>	<p><i>Response supported by AD Stevenage Direct Services and Executive Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Environment, Simon Speller.</i></p> <p>Officers have drafted a report for consideration by Environment &amp; Economy Scrutiny Committee, outlining actions to date and future opportunities for improving recycling rates. Officers are anticipating presenting this report to Members at the meeting on the 20 October 2022.</p> <p>Some future actions, which have the ability to have an impact on local recycling rates, will be influenced by the Governments' emerging Resources &amp; Waste Strategy.</p>
<p><b><u>Protecting climate emergency targets within the budget setting process</u></b></p> <p><b><u>RECOMMENDATION 9</u></b></p> <p>(i) That Members and Officers involved in the budget setting process, as a minimum, consider the climate change implications of any budget decisions. Nor should there be a cut to services if there is a detrimental climate change implication; and</p> <p>(ii) Going further, scrutiny members would like the Executive to consider creating a small ring fenced budget in each service delivery area to investigate the long term budget implications of climate change for that business unit.</p> <p><b>Action: SD Resources, Section 151 Officer Clare Fletcher</b></p>	<p><i>Response supported by SD Resources Section 151 Officer, Clare Fletcher and Executive Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Resources, Cllr Joan Lloyd</i></p> <p>All Executive reports now have a climate change section to detail the impact of that decision on climate change. Going forward officers are reviewing options for more clearly reporting on both the climate change impact sand the funding required to deliver it.</p> <p>At the October Executive there is a report coming forward for the PH for Environment &amp; Climate Change about allocating £15k per neighbourhood area towards local infrastructure improvement, that could be used to lower carbon and improve local biodiversity.</p> <p>PH and AD will need to identify from their own resources any additional requirements, however the new Climate Change Lead officer can offer both support and guidance across the Council.</p>

	<p>When considering the need to make savings Officers and Members will have due regard for all the Council's priorities and set out any implications prior to any options being approved.</p>
<p><b><u>EV Charing Points in Neighbourhood Centres &amp; Electric Car Club</u></b></p> <p><b><u>RECOMMENDATION 10 (i) &amp; (ii)</u></b></p> <p>(i) Re EV Charging in neighbourhood centres – Members recommended that, where possible, officers consider the locations used should be close to the cycle network.</p> <p>(ii) Members suggested that when the Electric Car Club charging equipment was reinstalled in town centre locations that a promotional campaign with residents of town centre accommodation be carried out to promote their use and officers should consider rebranding it, making it clear that it is for public use not just for SBC officers as the original livery made it appear it was just for corporate use.</p> <p><b>Action: AD Planning &amp; Regulatory, Zayd Al-Jawed</b></p>	<p><i>Response supported by AD Planning &amp; Regulatory Zayd Al-Jawed and Executive Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Economy, Enterprise &amp; Transport, Cllr Lloyd Briscoe.</i></p> <p>(i) And (ii) are agreed and under way.</p>
<p><b><u>SBC Social Housing &amp; resident led environmental community projects</u></b></p> <p><b><u>RECOMMENDATION 11 (i) , (ii) , (iii) &amp; (iv)</u></b></p> <p>(i) That Officer's provide Members with the plans to decarbonise its housing stock over the coming decade.</p> <p>(ii) That new tenants receive information on climate change in their "welcome packs" when they enter a new property, to include the Council's ten climate change pledges and the most up to date information on recycling at their property.</p> <p>(iii) In addressing the gap between the Council's current engagement processes and where it needs to be, can more</p>	<p><i>Jeannette Thomas</i></p> <p><i>Response supported by Operations Director, Housing Investment &amp; Communities &amp; Neighbourhoods, Rob Gregory and Executive Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Housing, Health and Older People, Cllr Jeannette Thomas.</i></p> <p>(i) The HRA Business Plan will include the council's aspirations to decarbonise its housing stock over the next 30 years. This will be updated this year. It will be vital that funds are released from central government to enable this to happen. In addition officer's will be proactive in bidding for any external opportunities to deliver on the decarbonisation agenda.</p> <p>(ii) This will be included as part of the next refresh of "welcome packs".</p>

<p>(iv) be done with residents groups to, over time, move residents away from the day to day housing tenant issues to considering wider, more strategic, Climate change matters that in time will affect all residents? encouraging very local, small scale, grass roots events that can focus resident's involvement in things such as environmental projects (gardens/trees) or community kitchen/growing or bulk buying schemes as an example, which needs to be joined up with other neighbourhood activities and needs to be a thread through all activities to address climate change, not as an add on or special one off focus. The Assistant Director, Communities and Neighbourhoods, Rob Gregory agreed with this approach and informed members that he was working with his teams to mainstream this as a default thinking and activity for all things they do.</p> <p><b>Action: Operations Director, Housing Investment &amp; Communities &amp; Neighbourhoods, Rob Gregory</b></p>	<p>(iii) This will form part of new resident involvement functions through Co-operative Neighbourhoods, where council tenants and leaseholders will engage on wider neighbourhood issues beyond housing management. (iv) A number of these types of projects and initiatives are emerging across the town and the neighbourhood teams continue to encourage and facilitate these as communities come forward with ideas.</p>
<p><b><u>E&amp;E Members Quick Wins &amp; Strategic Projects</u></b></p> <p><b><u>RECOMMENDATION 11 – (1 to 5)</u></b></p> <p>(i) Members and Officers lead by example, even if the benefits are small by acting appropriately in Council offices, plastic bottles, drinks cups etc. (Quick wins)</p> <p>(ii) Consider how to represent the progress of the strategy? Fishbone chart/Gantt chart, target lines, KPIs etc.(Strategic)</p> <p>(iii) A communications plan needed with channels, calendar, key messages, campaigns etc. Suggest starting with a campaign on the reduce your heating by 2 degrees (Strategic)</p> <p>(iv) Engage with young people via schools, Youth Mayor and Mayor's activities. (Distinct Project)</p>	<p><i>Response supported by AD Planning &amp; Regulatory Zayd Al-Jawed Communications Manager Jonathan Sayers, Operations Director, Housing Investment &amp; Communities &amp; Neighbourhoods, Rob Gregory and Executive Portfolio Holders with responsibility for Members, the Leader, for the Environment, Cllr Simon Speller and Children, Young People, Leisure and Culture Cllr Richard Henry.</i></p> <p>(i) This is supported and Comms can support with this messaging (ii) Under review as part of our climate change reporting (iii) Comms Plan for Climate Change in 22/23 about to be agreed. (iv) The Youth Mayor and Youth Council are keen to support Climate Change activities and would be keen to champion new projects identified. (v) Can be supported by the community development teams.</p>

<p>(v) Promoting the 20 Minute Neighbourhood theory and willingness to encourage local businesses and tap into big business. These items would suit a workshop that needs to be facilitated externally to tease out some tangible actions. Possible HEART (focus on adaptations only, in their view we are past the point where behaviour can affect significant climate change) or Mutual Gain (a neutral facilitation company who facilitated the Climate Emergency Panel – circa £5K) or another external organisation to facilitate? (Officers have suggested that adaptation measures will also be considered on a countywide basis through the Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership of which Stevenage is an active member) (Distinct Project)</p> <p><b>Action: AD Planning &amp; Regulatory, Zayd Al-Jawed and Operations Director, Housing Investment &amp; Communities &amp; Neighbourhoods, Rob Gregory</b></p>	
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