

Public Document Pack



ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 10 January 2022

Time: 6.00pm,

Location: Council Chamber - Daneshill House, Danestrete

Contact: Ramin Shams 01438 242308

Members: Councillors: M Downing (Chair), A Mitchell CC (Vice-Chair), J Ashley-Wren, D Bainbridge, S Booth, A Brown, W Kerby, M McKay, S Mead, C Parris and S Speller

AGENDA

PART 1

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. MINUTES - THURSDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2021

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18 November 2021.

Pages 5 – 10

3. INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR LUBO JANKOVIC DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE ZERO CARBON LAB

Members are invited to interview Professor Lubo Jankovic, Director of the University of Hertfordshire Zero Carbon Lab.

Professor Jankovic has provided some hyperlinks for Members to read and consider ahead of his in-person interview with the Committee as follows:

[How can UK housing projects be brought in line with net-zero carbon emission targets?](#)

[Jankovic, L.](#), Bharadwaj, P. & [Carta, S.](#), 29 Nov 2021, Frontiers in Built Environment, section Urban Science 11 p.

Article

[Embodied carbon: why truly net zero buildings could still be decades away](#)

[Jankovic, L.](#), 11 Nov 2021, The Conversation.

Article

[COP26: here's how much progress the UK has made on three key net zero pledges](#)

Fly, A., Wilson, G. & [Jankovic, L.](#), 1 Nov 2021, The Conversation.

Article

[A Simulation Method for Measuring Building Physics Properties](#)

[Jankovic, L.](#), 1 Apr 2020, *Proceedings of Building Simulation 2019: 16th Conference of IBPSA*. Corrado, V., Fabrizio, E., Gasparella, A. & Patuzzi, F. (eds.). International Building Performance Association (IBPSA), 8 p. (Proceedings of the International Building Performance Simulation Association; vol. 16).

Conference contribution

[Opportunities for financing sustainable development using complementary local currencies](#)

[Jankovic, L.](#), 2 Sep 2019, In: [IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science](#). 297, 1, 012023.

Conference article › peer-review

4. MEMBER MIND MAPPING AND QUICK WIN IDEAS FOLLOWING THE SESSION WITH HEART COMMUNITY GROUP

To receive and consider Members mind mapping ideas and quick wins following the session in November with the HEART (Hertfordshire Enabling and Adapting for Resilience Together) Community Group.

Pages 11 – 14

5. NOTES FROM A COP26 GREEN ZONE SEMINAR ON CITIES, REGIONS AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT HOSTED BY THE CARBON TRUST

Members are invited to consider the notes from a COP26 Seminar on Cities, Regions & the Built Environment, 11 November 2021 – Enhancing Ambition on climate change in cities and regions hosted by the Carbon Trust, and to see what issues could be directly transferable for the Council.

Pages 15 – 20

6. NOTES FROM A POST COP26 LGIU WEBINAR 19 NOVEMBER 2021

To receive and consider the Scrutiny Officer's notes of an LGiU (Local Government Information Unit) Post COP26 Webinar, 19 November 2021 and to see what issues could be directly transferable for the Council.

Pages 21 – 26

7. MAPPING EXERCISE DOCUMENT FOR THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY REVIEW

To consider the mapping exercise document for the review which will pinpoint specific actions for the review such as evidence to be gathered and when interviews are to be undertaken. This is a working document that will be updated as the review progresses, detailing what has been achieved so far and showing any outstanding data or interviews still to be undertaken.

Pages 27 – 40

8. URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS

To consider any Part 1 business accepted by the Chair as urgent.

9. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

To consider the following motions –

1. That under Section 100(A) 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.

10. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

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

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STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: Thursday, 18 November 2021

Time: 6.00pm

Place: Autun Room, Daneshill House, Danestrete

Present: Councillors: Michael Downing (Chair), Adam Mitchell CC (Vice Chair), Doug Bainbridge, Adrian Brown, Wendy Kerby, Maureen McKay, Sarah Mead, Claire Parris and Simon Speller

Start / End Time: Start Time: 06.00 pm
End Time: 08.10 pm

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

Apologies were received from Councillors Julie Ahsley-Wren and Stephen Booth.

There were no declarations of interest.

2 **MINUTES - 21 OCTOBER 2021**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the committee meeting held on Thursday 21 October 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3 **INTERVIEW WITH EXECUTIVE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ECONOMY ENTERPRISE AND TRANSPORT - CLIMATE EMERGENCY SCRUTINY REVIEW**

The Chair welcomed Councillor Lloyd Briscoe, the Executive Portfolio Holder for Economy Enterprise and Transport to the meeting. Councillor Briscoe had been invited to the meeting to be interviewed by Members of the Committee about the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan in relation to the transport and business impact on the climate change.

The Assistant Director for Planning and Regulatory provided an update in relation to the Climate Change Action Plan. He updated Members on the following key issues:

- Four key areas of carbon emission which included the transport and businesses impact on climate change, e-taxi licences, EV charging in neighbourhood centres and business and focused SME climate change support.
- Transport and Storage had been consistently rising since early 2000, and only dropped during the pandemic when compared to supply energy and manufacturing.
- The Council was working closely with the local taxi drivers and taxi companies to see how Council could support them to reduce their carbon emission.

- The Council would encourage taxi drivers to have electric cars and use renewable energy.
- The Council was currently bidding for the 18 new double bay charging points in car parks across Stevenage. It would cost about £112k. The Council would provide a contribution of £12k and the remainder would be funded by Central Government. The consultation of the charging points would be carried out over the next 2 months and the roll out should be by mid-2022.
- The Council was considering to re-starting the e-car club in 2022 after the funding had been withdrawn during the pandemic.
- Big businesses had set targets for improvements. Hertfordshire County Council had committed to net zero emission by 2030.
- The Council to engage with SMEs to support them by sharing knowledge and joint bids.
- The Council was considering £8k grants for local businesses for climate change improvements. These bids take time to arrange and require match funding.

A Councillor asked how many public members had been in the e-car club before it closed during the pandemic and what were the numbers for officer use of the cars? Officers agreed to provide Members with this information. It was suggested that when the Council branded e-car club relaunched that some thought should be given to rebranding making it clear that it is for public use, even if it is just for public use in the evening as the former scheme had been, as the old branding made it look like they were just for use by the Council.

The Business Relationship Manager provided an update on how the Council engaged with over 300 businesses and the opportunity for shared learning. The following key updates were provided:

- The Council sent out regular business updates to businesses across Stevenage concerning grants, access to new markets and other general support information.
- Currently there were two grant funding schemes available to businesses. Grants of up to 20k were available for the Eastern New Energy Programme to support energy efficiency and investment in renewable. Grants of up to 5k were also available for the energy efficiency and for upgrading equipment.
- Officers were considering an event in February next year together with other providers including Hertsmere, Welwyn and Hatfield and St Albans Councils with the Planet Mark, Carbon Battle Bus, that had been used at COP26 in Glasgow and was on a “Zero Carbon Tour” of Britain, to raise awareness of funding opportunities, promoting sustainability and new technology and general support available to businesses. The Herts Chamber of Commerce and the Herts Growth Hub will be involved in this event.

All of the big Gunnels Wood Road businesses are targeting 2030 for net zero and they are about 5 years ahead of us in their journey to net zero.

SME’s have the most to learn and as such the Business Relationship Manager was looking to work closely with them to provide them with the support they need to make their businesses lower carbon.

Local businesses were sharing best practise with one another regarding the retro-fitting of their premises to low carbon buildings, an example of this was the retro-fitting of the Institution of Engineering and Technology 1989 building at Faraday House, Stevenage.

In response to question by a Member, the Community Partnership Manager advised that there were support available for the local businesses to measure their carbon emission through the Herts Growth Strategy.

The Portfolio Holder for Business Enterprise and Transport advised Members on the following key issues in regards to the climate change emergency:

- The Council was working to double the number of EV charging points available at Council assets in 2022.
- The Business Support Team was actively engaged with local businesses to support them and raise awareness of funding.
- Hertfordshire County Council expressed interest in a Zero Emission Bus Regional Area (ZEBRA) scheme which would provide Stevenage with 30 new electric buses to help reduce carbon emission.
- The Council was working to support improvements to public transport and provide a cheaper and more frequent transport system fit for purpose similar to London.
- The COP26 conference was acknowledged as an opportunity for action and with optimism about the future.
- As portfolio holder he was engaged with the residents on matters of car park permits in Old Town, and car park restrictions and enforcements in Roebucks and Chells.

In response to a question from a Member, the Assistant Director for Planning and Regulatory advised the Committee that the Council was committed to reduce emission where it could including promoting of solar panels.

It was **RESOLVED** that the climate change update be noted.

4 **INTERVIEW WITH HEART COMMUNITY GROUP (HERTFORDSHIRE ENABLING AND ADAPTING FOR RESILIENCE TOGETHER)**

The Chair welcomed Kimberley Hare from Heart Community Group and her Team to the Committee meeting. Kimberley Hare had been invited to the meeting to be interviewed by Members of the Committee about their feedback on the Council's Climate Change Strategy September 2021. Kimberley Hare provided the following key updates to Committee Members in relation to the Climate Change Emergency:

- It was possible that a more extreme disruption could be unravelling and even a societal collapse as a result of inaction on climate change.
- Extreme disruption was possible to the usual way of life; similar to what was witnessed during the Covid19 pandemic.
- It was time to prepare in order to reduce suffering. Prioritise adaptation to increase local community resilience as well as mitigation.

- HEART offered free support for people who had developed climate anxiety and eco distress and helped people to reconnect.
- Twin focus on awareness education advocacy and also contributing to community resilience.
- The challenge faced were not limited to climate change, and also included the collapse of bio diversity and eco systems, economic fragility, increase in social justice and a crisis of disconnection and polarisation were possible.
- People should understand the vulnerability of the modern society; the World had left it too late to prevent the climate crisis. People should adapt to the worse climate chaos coming their way.
- HEART described climate change as a real public health threat, a national security threat and also a moral emergency and possibly an existential threat.
- It would also threaten food security as the UK imported over 80% of its food consumed.
- The Ministry of Defence had a large number of personnel currently engaged full time in planning for a severe breakdown.
- Climate migrants could be a major climate challenge, as climate disasters displaced more people when compared to wars in 2020.

Kimberley Hare informed Members that she and her Team would like to support and were happy to offer workshops for Members and members of the public free of charge. She advised Members that the Committee could draw an action plan for the Council to implement and build on the resources already located for the climate change. She praised the Council for the work already taken place on reducing emission and targeting net zero, and invited Members to broaden that vision to prepare and adapt now to create climate resilience communities.

Members agreed to undertake their own mind mapping exercise reflecting on the input from HEART and send these to the Scrutiny officer with possible quick wins that the Council could consider towards its Climate Change Strategy. The Chair thanked Kimberley Hare and her Team for their detailed presentation.

It was **RESOLVED** that the adaptation and community resilience update on climate change be noted.

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

The Committee requested that they receive a copy of the full Climate Change Citizen's Panel report (not just the executive summary) for their next meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** that

- (i) The mapping exercise document be noted;
- (ii) It was also agreed that a further consideration be given to the evidence of the Executive Portfolio holder for Economy, Enterprise and Transport;
- (iii) The offer by HEART community group to make a further presentation or work with a wider group of Members be accepted; and
- (iv) Given the size of the review and the number of issues emerging, it was likely that an interim report would be required before the end of the Council Municipal Year.

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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E&E Select Committee Members mind mapping exercise for Climate Emergency Scrutiny review

Councillor Sarah Mead:

Following the EE meeting I am more convinced that the council is not joining up policy and direction consistently through each department.

- There is inconsistency in approach to trees - SBC conveniently ignores the plight of trees in planning. It's time to demand developers take steps to relocate trees not replace with new trees.
- Types of tree for maximum carbon impact needs to happen - conifers and broad leaf trees for example.
- There are throwaway cups still being used
- There are still single use plastic water bottles evident in every meeting I attend - there needs to be a ban.
- Some members are still using paper copies in meetings - there needs to be a hard line on this - paperless only
- There needs to be a measure of success throughout as I said in the meeting
- The council needs to relay messages relating to the zero carbon policy consistently to residents in every publication.
- The climate emergency needs to appear in each agenda in every meeting to hold account and apply pressure.
- There needs to be consideration to energy production - solar panels, wind power. Policy is all relating to reducing carbon energy but no thought into replacing energy
- Overall we need to address every aspect of council work and sweat the small stuff as well as the greater plan - for example products being used, materials being used
- There needs to be a large scale campaign on recycling in order to address PE1 plastic
- As well as education on recycling. The last education was from Lee Myers where every household was given clear illustration
- We need to promote mend and repair over replace.
- Computers at Daneshill need to be turned off when. Or in use and not left on standby.
- the new hub building could be based on the Swansea model - it is a self-sufficient energy positive building - Google Swansea Bay technology centre for info

Councillor Simon Speller:

1. We ask HEART to be our partner critical friend 'without prejudice' (literally this means neither party is necessarily signed up to the other's statements, but that we share similar goals). We should sign a memo of understanding and actively promote it to mutual advantage via social media...now!!

2. We really do follow up on the Citizen's Panel debacle. It is so upsetting to hear Wendy's and Jim Borchard's feedback. It's not acceptable! I will use my role on P&D as far as I can, together with all my P&D colleagues? Zayd will be our go to AD to inject energy here! If we need to, call it in.

3. The accent has to be on full on ENGAGEMENT. We are (To me personally) so far off beam it is embarrassing. Where are our active and on-going day to day links with young people??

Our best way is via the Mayor of the year. That special role is ideal for mobilising schools and young people, since we are a second tier authority.

Talk about the Youth Mayor and Council is beside the point. In fact it looks tokenistic if we use the Arnstein 'Ladder of Participation'. (I will send this to Stephen for everybody)

4. And also on ACTION over 'blah blah blah': lots and lots of small projects in neighbourhoods under our CNM banner: litter picks and woodland clear ups in particular. These are already happening. We need Steve D (our AD link) and Rob G to help us with that in particular. Julia Hill is the key facilitator here! Low hanging fruit, quick wins...

Connect this to the '20 minute Neighbourhood'. We were onto this in Stevenage back in 1946! If you do the history walks and talks you'll see this very clearly.

5. Planning. Yep, agree with HEART and former Mayor Jim Brown on this. P&D are on the case..

That's it so far from me I think as a brainstorm...

Councillor Wendy Kerby:

- Workshop with local producers of food how we can increase local shopping in support of the 20 minute community theory
- Engage with gardening clubs to see if they can support education for people growing vegetables at home - I suspect lots of people would love to and don't have a clue how to start
- Facilitate a link people who want to do so. Maybe some people have the money or the space but not the time or inclination and some people are green fingered and don't have a garden. Could pool resources
- Reach out to (very) small businesses who advertise on Facebook etc to see how we can support their advertising - maybe create a directory with links to their websites. Crafts, candles, cakes etc. Anything that we could buy locally rather than on Amazon
- Advertise where you can recycle less common items, eg Superdrug in the town take blister packs, the Co-op at the Hyde take crisp packets, Sainsbury's take printer cartridges. What's left? We could engage with Teracycle if all the bases aren't covered

- Re-fill pantries are cropping up in Herts and we're behind the curve. They have them in St Albans, Letchworth, Ware and Hertford. How can we get one in Stevenage?
- Lead by example at the Council offices. Communicate to Councillors that they should bring in re-fillable bottles and coffee cups and get rid of the single use plastic and wax coated throw-away cups.

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Notes from a COP26 Seminar on Cities, Regions & the Built Environment
11 November 2021 – Enhancing Ambition on climate change in cities and regions -
watch it here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ePUqtdkK1k>

The Climate Trust hosted a Green Zone Panel session on what local government is doing around the world to address climate change. The session was hosted by Poppy Potter of the Climate Trust and included representatives from the UK, City of London Corporation, The Welsh Assembly, Guadalajara Mexico and China.

Opening remarks – Local Government has a key role to play in Climate Change and is working with citizens, education, industry and businesses to make the changes to make it happen. We often see and hear about Government targets but it's really cities and regions where this will actually happen. It's a big complicated jigsaw puzzle and requires a whole world approach to solve it. It will be important to remember to "Don't leave anyone out".

Each representative delegate had a 5 minute case study to share. (1) Implementing a net zero Wales (2) Coordinated climate action in Mexico (3) Net zero strategy for the City of London (4) Driving climate action in China's cities



Welsh Assembly

Deputy Minister for Climate Change in the Welsh Government, Lee Waters.

The Welsh Assembly has passed the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, the first piece of legislation of its kind to make sure that every decision they take has regard for the impact it will have on future generations.

The Welsh Government wanted to focus on a few things that can drive change in the next 1 to 3 years. Three areas of focus are:

- (1) Stop doing bad things – if there are no diggers in the ground on a new road scheme it won't happen – all stopped. Drive towards a modal shift of public transport, cycling and walking

- (2) Tree Planting – Held a meeting with all of the people needed and have a plan to plant 86 million trees (a 15 fold increase) by the end of the decade. Took a dozen influential people to meet 3 times a week over 3 months over 100 hours of meeting to get a workable plan with 50 things that need to change to make it happen.
- (3) Similar process to above to scale up community based renewable energy, which will be a just transition but will be hard to do. It requires the right Political Science to do the difficult things (politicians don't like plans that will take long term commitment and will likely be unpopular but it has to be done). Community Ownership is important to share the benefits as well as the pain of change. Economic History of Wales is one of capitalism taking the resources out with little to no thought about the environmental and social impact on the workers. What is now needed is a community led industrial green revolution where communities keep the wealth and benefits which stay in the area creating wealth and jobs.

An example of a just transition is the decarbonisation of travel. In UK there is a fragmented public transport system including Buses. To shift bus fleet over to an electric fleet will involve hundreds of millions of pounds of spend, if they conglomerate all of the areas future electric bus provision they could create enough demand through an order book to have a factory in Wales, creating green jobs and keeping the wealth locally. A proposal like this will help locally people see the benefits and not be just asking people to make sacrifices and change.

City of London Corporation

Alderman and Sheriff of the City of London Corporation, Alison Gowman. 96% of the City of London Corporation's carbon footprint is from its investments. The Corporation has two timescales to its Climate Action Strategy. Scope 1 & 2 emissions are actions from 2021 to target date of 2027 and scope 3 emissions is for the target date of 2040.

There is a £68Million Investment Plan for scope 1 & 2 emissions to increase and create 800 Green jobs. There is a green plan with green walls and roofs for the Corporation buildings. On its estate it's creating a car free area and lower carbon roads and manages their open spaces in a sustainable way. The Corporation has an investment portfolio which it is targeting to reduce its carbon footprint by 24% by 2025 and 55% by 2030 and 100% by 2040. They have links with the Green Finance Institute developing green investments and making capital available for green projects.

Guadalajara City – Mexico

General Director of Planning & Development at the Metropolitan area of Guadalajara City, Mexico, Mario Ramon Silva Rodriguez. The metropolitan area covers 9 districts and is the second largest city in Mexico (5.2 million people) and in terms of mitigations they are focusing on waste and recycling, transport and energy and have short, medium and long term targets in an action plan to address these issues up to 2030. All of these plans are to stop emitting 9 million tonnes of Co2 into the atmosphere a year. They are targeting reducing the waste going to landfill (less the 30% by 2030) and making better use of bicycles by increasing by 42% pedestrian and cycle network from current provision by 2030, with an increase of 142km of cycle lanes in the last two years. Regarding reducing energy usage they are receiving no help from central government and are working on their plans in partnership with local private sector businesses, to this end they have agreed a target with the private sector based in the city region to reduce their carbon energy use and to replace it with green energy sources again by 42% by 2030. In terms of adaptations they have developed strong technical tools but they are still to make this a reality in terms of how to finance this as the country still struggles from Covid-19.

China

Head of Climate Action Planning at C40 Cities, Lu Sun. C40 Cities is a Climate Leadership Group of 97 cities around the world that represents one twelfth of the world's population and a quarter of the global economy.

Cities represent 50% of the world's population and generate 70% of the emissions. Cities are clearly at the centre of the climate crisis part of the problem but they are also the solution and where the answers are to be found.

Planning is very important. Cities that have a plan are 3 times more likely to take action than those who don't.

There are 4 essential components to the C40 Cities science based solutions:

1. Ambitions mitigation targets
2. Resilience to climate hazards
3. Inclusivity and benefits
4. Governance and collaboration

China has 19 out of the top 100 largest cities in the world, and has over 100 cities with a population over 1 million residents, and this figure is set to double over the next decade.

Mitigations - In China one example of future solutions is from public transport. In the Chinese city of Zhengzhou (population in 2019 of 10.3 million) has an expansive bus electrification scheme where they have converted the whole of their 11,000 public transport buses to electric and installed 4,000 ev charging stations across the city. Another Chinese city has more than 120,000 public shared bikes, enabling 300,000 citizens to use the bikes every day. (For western capitalist democracies this is harder to achieve but shows how much of a challenge the current public transport system has in the UK but if harnessed what potential there could be)

Adaptations – another coastal city in China has an extensive plan to adapt its citizens homes to cope with rising sea levels. Other cities have used the example of London's low emission zone to replicate in several large Chinese cities and have seen the benefits of improved air quality in only a few years from its implementation.

Turning ambition into action

The panellists were asked where did they begin their climate action planning process? There feedback included the following responses:

- It needs to be science led, have local evidence which leads to analysis to help to identify the focus area
- Work with all tiers of government and local universities and community groups (both climate based community groups and other non-climate focused groups)
- Work with local people, be honest with the scale of the problem, provide tangible help
- For local authorities it is vital that all pull in the same direction, from the Members, Chief Executive Officer and the leadership team across to all service delivery areas
- Establish metrics for each area of the Council to see how they are moving towards sustainable solutions?

- Set early milestones so you can know if you are on the right path to meet the 2030 target
- Measure your carbon footprint then communicate what you are trying to achieve
- Partnerships are really important – team up with others to reach common goals
- Incentivise good behaviours, such as active travel and recycling
- Fines for local authorities who don't reach their targets (need carrot and stick)

Questions from delegates

- A councillor from a district council in England asked for examples and advice regarding the challenge of retrofitting homes - coupled with the need to deliver new homes which are not currently zero carbon/passive house and currently having no powers to make them be zero carbon?

Response from Wales: In Wales they have the Optimised retrofit scheme (Optimised Retrofit Programme to **transform over 1,000 social housing properties in Wales**. A new Welsh Government initiative backed by almost £20m has been launched to transform the quality and sustainability of social housing in Wales and boost the green economic recovery. The Optimised Retrofit Programme (ORP) is funding a suite of smart energy efficiency measures that will help Wales move towards a net-zero carbon economy and is a key part of the Welsh Government's plans for a green recovery. [Optimised Retrofit Programme to transform social housing in Wales](#)) In addition, in Wales there is now a policy to move away from importing nearly all of its wood for construction projects from currently 4% to a target of 80% by 2040, a large scale tree planting programme has already begun to make this ambition a reality. By doing this the Welsh government will create a Wood economy and supply chain that currently doesn't exist.

Response from Mexico: This is a major problem in Mexico, there are a large number of people in poverty involved in the construction industry and other toxic industries such as mining. Workers often have poor health and have to work in terrible conditions so there are challenges affecting social, public health, economic and environmental aspects. There are also problems with urban sprawl.

Response from China: In China they are beginning to tackle the huge challenge of retrofitting huge numbers of high rise tenement buildings. The country is in the grip of an exponential expansion in its house building programme to accommodate its huge population. The standard of the construction with regard to insulation and energy use for a large part of these buildings have been at a very low level so retrofitting them all will be a very large task. China is embracing new technologies and renewable energy for heating and cooling systems. They have introduced legislation on clean construction, which affects the whole supply chain, setting standards for lower carbon for each element of the chain and which codifies the requirements for the lifecycle of the building. Under new regulations each building needs to what the climate impact of the building is. In addition through the private sector consumers are widely using an App that names and shames the worst polluters in a city (including residential housing developments) so this is forcing change on private investment to clean up their act.

City of London Corporation

Over 200 financial institutions including the high street banks, investment banks and building societies are working together to make green mortgages available to fund social housing and retrofitting schemes.

What measures are being taken to support active travel of walking and cycling with the 10 minute cities initiative? In Mexico the bike sharing scheme has increased

cycling in the areas that it is available by 66% but it in itself is just one part of the solution. In public transport solutions in Wales they are seeking to address the problem that in the UK over half of all journeys are under 5 miles in length and 10% of car journeys are under 1 mile in length. Cycling is not an option for all of the population, people with acute health conditions etc. may not be able to access it, but many can and need to be provided with options to access it. Cycle storage is often an issue for those living in flats or cramped housing, so other innovative schemes need to be provided so that making the right thing to do is also the easiest thing to do. Active travel is hard to achieve as you are going against 70 years of custom and practice, using the car first. Local authorities should ask themselves what sort of cycling infrastructure do we have in place to encourage cycling, safe storage, easy access?

Practical suggestion for E&E:

Some non-cyclist Members be taken on a tour of Stevenage's cycle network on a cycle tour of the town (possibly by an active cyclist – Cllr Speller?) to see what the experience is like and to come up with possible suggestions to encourage reluctant cyclists?

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Agenda Item 6

Post COP26 LGiU Webinar – in association with the Uni of Liverpool – Heseltine Institute for Public Policy, Practise & Place, Fri 19 November 2021 — [Watch it here](#)

Panel of contributors:

Panel Chair, Jonathan Carr-west, CEO Local Government Information Unit
Chris Murray Director of Core Cities (Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Sheffield)
Anna Marie Delaney – Chief Executive, Offley County Council, Ireland
Mark Atherton – Director of Environment Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Opening remarks - Jonathan Carr-west, CEO Local Government Information Unit – The voice of local government is often squeezed out in this debate but it has a strong role to play and can act as mediator with public.

Reflections on COP26:

Chris Murray – Core Cities

Attended COP26 and public engagement was good. Local leaders were further down the road than many other speakers. Model for net zero investment. Finance leaders in City Chambers – they get it now – future investment

We know what we need to do – broadly public opinion is moving towards this but we just don't have the finance – core 12 cities require £200 Billion, this is way beyond local government's current capacity. Investors say plans are not well worked up and can't make a return. Public money needed to de-risk private investment. Good return on Renewable energy schemes but retro-fit and recycling hard to get a return – Need one scheme to pay for another – groups of cities to work together to get Billion pound schemes for low and long term returns. When this was discussed at COP Heads of Banks liked it. Need to get to proof of concept to get over the line to make it happen and be the first.

Not enough focus on place and local govt to make it happen.

Anna Marie Delaney – CE Offley County Council, Ireland:

The Coal phase out/scale down was the biggest progress from COP26. \$8.5 Billion US Europe – agreement to pay for South Africa to have a just transition to move away from Coal

In Ireland the Midlands just transition test case – In Ireland there were centuries of peat extraction in the midlands, but in the later part of 20th Century and into the 21st Century this was on an industrial scale – Finally in 2018 there was a Peat cessation, which resulted in a sudden loss of industry in the region. Regional and Local employers and employees worked together on a training and upskilling programme to new clean energies new tech and skills.

Financing transitioning to new technologies is key and it's a huge change for some communities

Mark Atherton – Greater Manchester Authority

Common ground is found on the innovation agenda – Scale up tech in industries who produce 50% of carbon emissions. Challenge – decarbonise our heat and travel. Energy efficiency is key.

1.5 degrees target may have been lost but 1.8 to 2.4 degrees, and the lower end of this is still achievable – new tech will get us there

Local authorities are now at the forefront for the net zero plan. Without our own plans we won't convince others business and public.

International Mayors are working together cities leading the way – transferable projects that are already having an impact to share ideas. See what's working and transfer it. This is key in next 2 years

What do we need local government to be doing?

What do we need to do re knowledge transfer? Anna Marie – Leadership role of local government makes us well placed to do it. Chris – new financial models – community leadership – how bring together? Collaboration is key - share ideas.

Great things happened in Covid – shut roads pedestrianised for cafes etc. stopped traffic
Local Govt. should have more power to affect change
Local Govt. funding base not working – CT & Business Rate (7% of tax base kept in UK Council's needs to be at 12 to 15% - in the rest of Europe is closer to 40 to 50%) would open local government up to a lot more funding investment opportunities. Collaboration drives innovation in this case not competition.

We have a decade to get this done – Local Govt. has faced the same challenges and not moved forward.

Devolution is needed. We need same level of autonomy as European cities have. Need to move around the obstacle if we can't remove it. Joint venture partnership – work together to de risk the project – moves away from national finance. Regen and transport you can do that but not others. Some of the population will be able to pay/invest in their private property – local govt. can help to create informed clients and can invest themselves (give confidence)

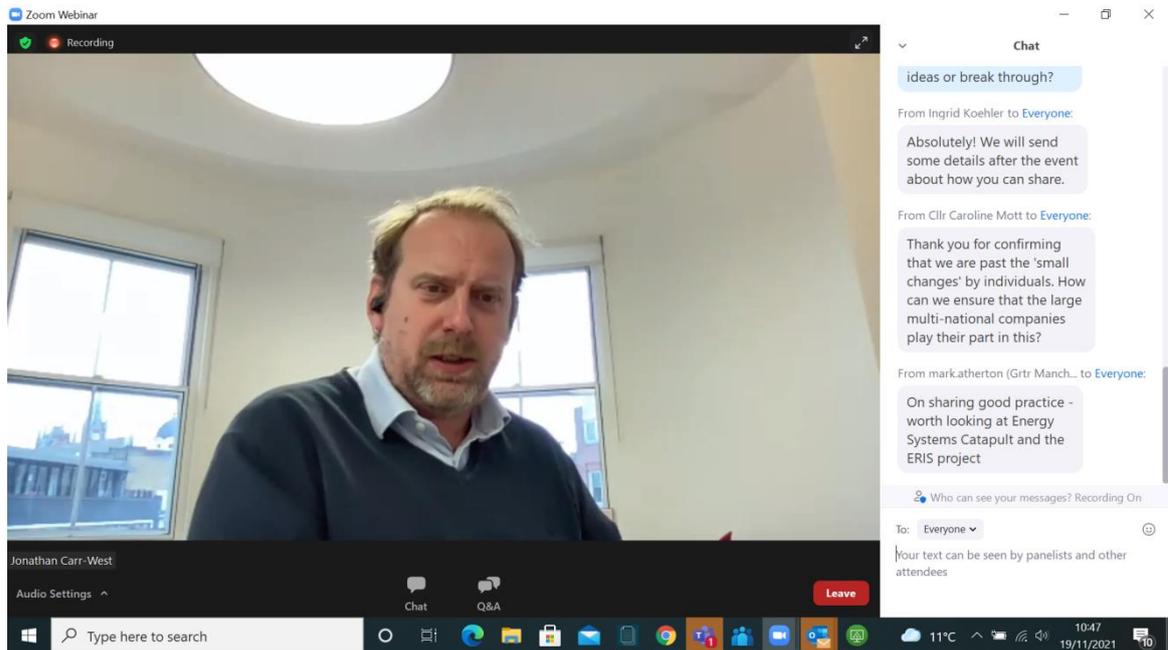
Bidding for the same pot of money is bad – must move away from this model.

Quantum of scale (Hertfordshire should do it – re retrofit social housing, all ten districts and the County would be large enough to get the level of investment needed)

Mark Atherton - Trust – You can't sell a hair shirt to the public – narrative needs to show a path to change. It's actually a lie to say everyone needs to make a small change and this will get us there – it's a lie – its big changes for individuals and for society, business and government – Politicians need to be able to sell this – tell the truth but stay positive.

Anne Marie – Levels of fear and uncertainty – can have overwhelming affect – local govt. leadership role – galvanize people to do local measures and show it is making a difference. Encourage you to make use of the research with local Universities – Retro fitting – reskilling work etc. Promote projects and initiatives that work. European Green Deal – (need a UK fund now to replace this)

Local Govt. is pivotal – business support to get there and with the public.



Need to get into the weeds – do in a pragmatic way, place based co-commissioning now, to help us move the conversation forward – strategic views – drive change by bringing in the private sector in, build a relationship – A local and national dynamic needs to evolve quickly.

Public Trust is crucial – complex big partnership needed. Mark GM -Trust deficit now? Yes, sadly we do. But don't know how far the trust has eroded? Democracy at local level feels more accessible. Build a collective with community groups and NGOs. Social and mainstream media – need to find a way to reengage with our communities.

Anna Marie – Research of 9 countries working on energy – worth looking at. Relationship with citizens is crucial – we should be doing what we are good at – collaborative piece is critical to deliver change.

Engagement with Universities – Sue Jarvis – place leadership – reach out to local Universities and University estates. Role of research and innovation – how utilise by local govt. and businesses – Citizen's Panels – bring additional resource.

Chris – sponsorship – companies with poor green credentials are finding push back Housing Retrofit – employees twice as many people as new build. That resonates with local people.

Adaptation – Financial models – flood defences.

Dialogue with G7 – Urban 7 – Devolved places – dialogue with national govt. is poor internationally and they all see need to work together.

Questions – How do you affect change – Stevenage getting a lot of push back on even small changes – how do we get over this?

Engage with the NHS and other large multinationals etc. Mark Atherton – some of the big multi-nationals say they are net zero already – need to carefully test this. Role for wider public sector lead by example – don't preach to businesses – create a framework for larger businesses to talk to SME's and small business to affect change.

If want change – need to make it easier, cheaper of sexier – Arts can drive this. Create alternative (Stevenage Football Club – work with them on their journey). Won't change capitalism but help people value things that are less carbon intensive.

Develop affordability – help people do the right thing – grants etc. Persistence is important. Local Govt. can host local business engagement. Regional and National Govt. need to support what local govt. is doing.

Is use of data strong? - Chris Murray - no

Public Health locally was very strong through pandemic – could use same levers towards climate change. Seen what has worked well and what has not worked well.

Planning and Development – Mark Atherton GM – Planning vital – complex area – need to understand what the transition looks like – take best available data and understand energy use and efficiency of stock and estate, transport – EV charging – local energy plan for your area.

Spatial Framework – in the Manchester Combines Authority they unilaterally accelerated target net zero for new build to 2028 – but this should be a national standard (not sustainable to do lots of local standards different in different areas – so national target needs to be more challenging) Elevated land values in the future to pay for the schemes and they still make profit. Tried to add in conditions on existing property – lift by an EPC rating – weak ground on EPC – needs a national framework and standard.

Wales has shown this is possible – The Welsh Assembly has put a total stop to major road building projects.

Remote working helping – hot desking – counteract 5 day a week commuting.

LGiU Summary notes from the event:

The event began with panellists highlighting their key moments of COP.

Chris Murray reflected on the leadership and the innovative dialogue displayed by local authorities at COP, noting the significance of a key finance event organised by Core Cities. He did, however, express frustration at the lack of acknowledgement, during COP, of the role of local places confronting the challenges of climate.

Anna Marie Delaney highlighted the importance of coal phase-out within the COP discussions, the [\\$8.5 billion partnership](#) to fund South Africa's transition to net zero. She reflected on the challenges she, as a leader in an area undergoing socio-economic transition due to the shut down of peat mining and fossil fuel-based electricity generation, has to confront on an ongoing basis as the Midlands Just Transition process in Ireland is advanced.

Mark Atherton spoke about some of the achievements that have been lost in the media reporting including successes in investing in innovation, the [Break Through Agenda](#) which all of the major emitters signed up to, the launch of a COP26 product efficiency call to action and the participation of local authorities in the Race to Zero.

What exactly do we need local government to be doing to unlock progress?

The Panellists went on to discuss what actions are required to enable knowledge transfer and progress on net zero at a local level. Anna Marie Delaney highlighted the importance of finance, the key position local authorities hold in communities, the role of community leadership and the urgency of addressing policy silos, principally at national level.

Chris Murray highlighted the role of demonstrator projects, working with the private sector and the need to set aside the notion that competition is the best driver of progress. There is a need to focus on collaborating with stakeholders from across a wide range of sectors. In doing so he highlighted three key challenges to collaboration

1. In order to solve the climate crisis, we must tackle the social care crisis.
2. The issue of centralisation – particularly in the UK – and the revenue streams available at the local level to tackle net zero.
3. Lack of strategic funding – national funding that local authorities are forced to compete for.

Mark Atherton emphasised the opportunities available to local places by working directly with the investment market, in developing ‘informed clients’ who are willing to invest in local places and creating the right narrative around behaviour change.

Anna Marie Delaney noted that in many local communities there are a lot of fears and anxiety around the climate crisis. Local governments must play a key role in combating those fears, encouraging communities to take advantage of the many opportunities, economic and social, that climate transition can bring to the local areas most affected by climate enforced transition. Dealing with uncertainty and supporting climate action should be delivered through the lens of opportunity. Leading by example is a key part of that approach, alongside communicating the co-benefits of climate change.

Is there a crisis of trust in institutions?

Mark Atherton discussed the opportunity for local authorities to work with a range of community partners but also highlighted the weakening communication link in the UK between local government and communities.

Anna Marie Delaney noted the contrast in that regard with the relationships between local authorities in Ireland and their diverse communities. She spoke about the evolving and fluctuating nature of trust with communities and the important role which local authorities play in pulling different stakeholders together to deliver messages locally.

Chris Murray highlighted the role of social pressure in facilitating behaviour change, of articulating the co-benefits of the net zero pathway and the importance of adaptation.

How do we sell behaviour change to individuals? How do we engage other big players in both the public and private sector?

Mark Atherton highlighted the role for local government working with larger public and private organisations and of holding them to account. Also, the importance of trying to get people to buy and value things that are less carbon-intensive.

Anna Marie Delaney emphasised the importance of building resilience, of ensuring affordability and of persisting through adversity. The voice of local government and of local communities must be vital in advancing the net zero agenda.

How do we put conditionality on new developments to ensure low energy usage?

Mark Atherton emphasised the importance of local area energy plans, of building a street-by-street understanding of current energy systems and future requirements.

Is our use of data sufficiently strong in this area?

Chris Murray discussed how much more local authorities could be doing to join the dots between datasets and how they inform policy-making. The importance of learning from the pandemic- what worked well and what did not.

How is this transition different in rural communities?

Chris Murray highlights the links between urban and rural areas and Anna Marie Delaney spoke about the opportunities available in rural areas such as remote working opportunities, future employment opportunities, working with universities, health and wellbeing, green tourism and of piloting decarbonisation zones in towns.

What is the one thing you want to achieve over the next year

All speakers emphasised the importance of collaboration but Anna Marie finished up with a critical message: "...enough of talking and making plans, let's get on with it!"

Related content: *The Heseltine Institute's latest policy brief, '[Climate Finance and Urban Futures at COP26](#)', is from Heseltine Institute Research Associate Dr Sawyer Phinney, who attended the conference in Glasgow. [In this briefing](#), they highlight the challenge of attracting private investment and identify a series of policy tools that could be adopted to increase spending.*

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: If complete sign off in table:	Action & date required
Interview with Exec Portfolio Holder for Environment & Regeneration		Cllr John Gardner, Executive Portfolio Holder for Environment & Regeneration.	Presentation of Portfolio area strategy and actions towards climate change.	21 October 2021 – Received presentation from the Cllr John Gardner & Officers See link - Supplementary Agenda - Presentation on Environment & Regeneration Portfolio area	Not complete yet due to supplementary questions to be canvassed and completed.	Further written questions for the Exec Portfolio Holder for Environment & Regeneration – SW to email E&E Committee to invite written questions from Members and link with generic questions for the Exec Portfolio Holders when these are agreed – by End of November 2021
Critique of the SBC Climate	N/A	(ii) HEART (Hertfordshire for	(ii) HEART have provided a critique of	18 November 2021 – Interview with	Confirmed date : Thursday 18 Nov	(i) Scrutiny Officer to invite Kim Hare

Agenda Item 7

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Change Action Plan from external critical friends – (ii) HEART 18 Nov 2021		Enabling and Adapting for Resilience Together)	SBC's Climate Change Strategy	HEART HEART critique of SBC's Climate Action Plan	2021	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
Interview with Exec Portfolio Holder for Economy,		Cllr Lloyd Briscoe, Executive Portfolio Holder for Economy, Enterprise and	Presentation of Executive Portfolio area including action plan linked to	18 November 2021 – interviewed Cllr Lloyd Briscoe who answered Members	Confirmed date : Thursday 18 Nov 2021	Zayd Al-Jawed has confirmed that Cllr Lloyd Briscoe will attend on 18 Nov. ✓

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Enterprise and Transport Page 29		Transport	Climate Change Strategy & Q&A session.	written questions - E&E Select Committee 18 11 21 item 3		Scrutiny Officer to circulate written questions for the Exec Portfolio ahead of 18 Nov meeting. ✓ <u>Outstanding Action</u> – The Scrutiny Officer to circulate Cllr Briscoe's written response to the committee's questions to help Members formulate any supplementary written questions.
Critique of the SBC Climate	N/A	(i) University of Hertfordshire -	Professor Jankovic to provide a critique		Confirmed date: Monday 10	Scrutiny Officer to invite Professor

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Change Action Plan from external critical friends – (i) University of Hertfordshire/		Professor Lubo Jankovic – Prof. of Advanced Building Design/Director of Zero Carbon Lab (School of Creative Arts)	of SBC Climate Change Strategy		January 2022	Jankovic to Committee meeting ✓ (Scrutiny Officer has arranged a daytime pre-meeting informal zoom meeting & ahead of the Committee on 6 December ✓ and a further meeting 5 Jan at 2pm)✓
Interview with the Leader		The Leader	Overarching view of the Council's leadership and targets to get to Net Zero for 2030		To be arranged – Chair and Vice-Chair have suggested that this should be early in the process as an	To be arranged. The Chair has asked the Scrutiny Officer to target a committee date in February 2022.

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Page 31					overarching view of the Council's plans regarding the Climate Emergency will be important to be established.	
Interview with Exec Portfolio Holder for Resources		Cllr Mrs Joan Lloyd, Executive Portfolio Holder for Resources	Presentation of Executive Portfolio area including action plan linked to Climate Change Strategy & Q&A session.		To be arranged - Chair and Vice-Chair have suggested that this should be early in the process as the Council's use and plans for its Estate will be a significant local factor in its climate change plans.	To be arranged. The Chair has asked the Scrutiny Officer to target a committee date in February 2022.
How will we		Assistant Director –	Establishing a base		To be arranged.	Monitor progress

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<p>know if we are on target to meet Net Zero for SBC and for the town by 2030?</p>		<p>Planning Regulatory to advise on agreed mechanism for ongoing monitoring.</p>	<p>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.</p>			<p>through the meetings with the University of Hertfordshire Zero Carbon Lab.</p>
<p>Critique of the SBC Climate Change Action Plan from external critical friends – (iii)</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>(iii) Friends of the Earth</p>	<p>(ii) Friends of the Earth to provide a critique of SBC's Climate Change Strategy</p>		<p>To be arranged.</p>	<p>Scrutiny Officer to invite Friends of the Earth (Andy Holthams and Peter Foord)</p>

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Friends of the Earth Page 33						The Scrutiny Officer has not yet approached the Friends of the Earth – This will be scheduled later on in the review in the 2022/23 Municipal Year.
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, linked to this David is helping the review and liaising with the		Whilst David is in contract has agreed to attend the E&E Select Committee meeting meetings when it is considering the Climate Emergency Review	To be arranged.	The Scrutiny Officer to discuss with the Chair whether the review requires a specific interview session with the E&E Select Committee.

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Page 63		University of Hertfordshire Zero Carbon Lab.				
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	To be arranged.	The Scrutiny Officer to discuss with the Chair whether the review requires a specific interview session with the E&E Select Committee.
Interview with Exec Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods & Co-operative Council		Cllr Rob Broom, Executive Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods & Co-operative Council	Presentation of Executive Portfolio area including action plan linked to Climate Change Strategy & Q&A session.		To be arranged.	To be arranged.

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Interview with Exec Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People, Leisure & Culture		Cllr Richard Henry, Executive Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People, Leisure & Culture	Presentation of Executive Portfolio area including action plan linked to Climate Change Strategy & Q&A session.		To be arranged.	To be arranged.
Interview with Exec Portfolio Holder for Communities, Community Safety and Equalities		Cllr Jackie Hollywell, Executive Portfolio Holder for Communities, Community Safety and Equalities	Presentation of Executive Portfolio area including action plan linked to Climate Change Strategy & Q&A session.		To be arranged.	To be arranged.
Interview with Exec Portfolio Holder for Housing, Health and Older People		Cllr Jeannette Thomas, Executive Portfolio Holder for Housing, Health and Older People	Presentation of Executive Portfolio area including action plan linked to Climate Change		To be arranged.	To be arranged.

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P 3093			Strategy & Q&A session.			
HCC Executive Portfolio Holder for Environment		Cllr Eric Buckmaster, HCC Executive Portfolio Holder for Environment	Presentation of HCC Executive Portfolio area including action plan linked to Climate Change Strategy & Q&A session.		To be arranged.	To be arranged.
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.	To be arranged.
Herts Sustainability Panel Chair –		Cllr Graham McAndrew East Herts District Council –	Presentation of Herts Sustainability Panel including their		To be arranged.	To be arranged.

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Cllr Graham McAndrew East Herts District Council		Chair of Herts Sustainability Panel	action plans and Climate Change Strategy & Q&A session.			
Plans for large industry based in Stevenage?		Mena Caldbeck, SBC Business Relationship Manager	Provide some information regarding their businesses plans to work towards low carbon/net zero		Mena Caldbeck met E&E Members on 18 November 2021	Members to indicate if they would like to interview the officer at a later date to update the verbal information provided?
Plans for SME's in Stevenage?		Mena Caldbeck, SBC Business Relationship Manager	Provide some information regarding their businesses plans to work towards low carbon/net zero		Mena Caldbeck met E&E Members on 18 November 2021	Members to indicate if they would like to interview the officer at a later date to update the verbal information provided?
Representative of Lister Hospital		Invite the East & North Hertfordshire	What plans and actions are they		To be arranged.	To be arranged.

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: If complete sign off in table:	Action & date required
Page 38		NHS Trust CE	taking re the expansion of the Hospital Estate and the ongoing use of resources at Lister Hospital to address Climate Change?			
A representative of Stevenage tenants & leaseholders	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		To be arranged.	To be arranged.
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		To be arranged.	To be arranged.

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			view/aspirations			
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.	To be arranged.

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