

Environment & Economy Select Committee - Action Tracker

<u>Review Title & C'ttee</u>	<u>Date added to the work programme</u>	<u>Scoping/ started complete/ updated</u>	<u>Review start date (& follow-up dates)</u>	<u>Review Status (date if completed)</u>	<u>Key Recommendations</u>	<u>Exec Portfolio Holder Response</u>	<u>Date brought back to Committee for monitoring</u>
Bus Scrutiny	23/03/23	14/06/23	14/06/23	16/01/24	<p>Rec 1 SBC Executive Portfolio Holder for Transport be invited to consider holding a yearly transport seminar for Stevenage bringing together the HCC transport unit and the public transport providers to hold them to account regarding the performance of their contracts with a view to champion local users' needs and bring a focus on improved performance.</p> <p>Rec 2 It is recommended that (i) Arriva be strongly encouraged to update the real time information for bus services on their website and App, as bus users rely on this information to wait for bus services, if cancelled or delayed; and (ii) that real-time information also be included at bus stops, so passengers know when the next bus is due and also if a service is not running etc.</p> <p>Rec 3 (i) to help wheelchair users and disabled and the visually impaired that some (a least two or three) of the information screens in the bus interchange be lowered and the contrast of those screens be adjusted to provide a good contrast to enable those users to be able to read the information more easily, and (ii) in addition, that a similar sign to the RNIB signage used near the ticket office at the railway station be installed at the bus interchange.</p> <p>Rec 4 (i) The HCC Passenger Transport Unit and Arriva need to engage in an open and ongoing conversation with disability groups like Herts Vision Loss to help refine and shape the services, as it appeared to Members that this was not currently the case; and (ii) the use of trusted apps for those with disabilities be championed by bus providers and transport authorities at HCC.</p> <p>Rec 5 Arriva should revisit their driver training regarding courtesy and care towards disabled passengers. This should be looked at based on the evidence submitted by Herts Vision Loss, who reported that their members were, on occasion, not given sufficient time to be seated when boarding or were dismissed or ignored by some drivers when asking for assistance or information about the bus route etc.</p> <p>Rec 6 HCC Passenger Transport Unit and Arriva advance the roll out of audio announcement on buses as well as visual displays screens, which need to be retrofitted to all existing fleet and be provided as standard on any new fleet stock.</p> <p>Rec 7 (i) In the first instance, bus companies should be encouraged to consider electric vehicles or other alternatives to move away from fossil fuels; and (ii) during the long transition to EV electric replacement buses and considering the variable supply of hydrogen, that HCC and Arriva be invited to consider using a more environmentally friendly Biodiesel which produces 90% less carbon than conventional diesel.</p> <p>Rec 8 regarding new housing developments, that SBC Planning and Development Officers should consult with Bus Companies regarding their views to help avoid any unintended consequences to buses using routes into new housing developments and that HCC Highways Officers should be invited to consult with bus companies regarding the introduction of traffic calming measures such as speed bumps, narrowed roads or chicanes that can make bus journeys slower and therefore not run to optimum journey times. If there are to be any changes made to road schemes for traffic calming these should consider such measures as bus gates.</p>		

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E&E Final Report & Recs Climate Emergency	Continuation of review (23 03 22)	N/A continuation of review	Final part of review started 23 06 22	Final report 17 01 23	<p>1 SBC & Area Wide Pathway & Targets - It is recommended that clear targets and a pathway to 2030 for both SBC targets and area wide targets need to be established. It is not currently clear what the targets or pathway are to see how Stevenage gets from where it is now to 2030. The way progress against the 2018 baseline figure is measured and publicised needs to be thought through so that this is clearly described to show what progress is being made each year and understood by officers, Members and by the public.</p>	Exec Member response - 23 03 23	To be scheduled
					<p>2 Pace - Is the climate emergency really being treated as an emergency? It is recommended that there is a need to ramp up the pace to get to net zero for the town by 2030. Members accept there are challenges around funding but where it sits in corporate priorities is an area that is a decision for the authority. Members will be looking to see how the pace is picked up leading to 2030.</p>		
					<p>3 Adaptations - The review established that due to extreme weather events linked to climate change there is already a need for adaptations to buildings and for up-to-date emergency response plans to care for older residents in sheltered housing schemes. It is recommended that there be an audit of all adaptations required across the Council.</p>		
					<p>4 Behaviour Change - It is recommended that officers from SBC link up with officers from the HCC Behaviour Change unit to work together on behaviour change initiatives.</p>		
					<p>5 Review - It has been recommended by the Chair of the Environment and Economy Select Committee that the issue of the climate emergency should be under regular review by the Committee and that a progress report should be brought back to the committee on a yearly basis.</p>		
					<p>6 Training - The Committee recommends the creation of a training package for members, and additional training for senior officers, on climate change mitigations and adaption, so that future decision makers are well informed in all aspects of the councils' operations, and the bearing climate change mitigation and adaption may have on them.</p>		

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E&E Interim report & Reccs Climate Emergency	E&E Select Committee - 22 09 20 - Work Programme	E&E Select Committee - 4 Oct 2021 - Scoping Document	04 10 21	Interim report & recommendations complete - 23 03 22	1 Recognising the main areas of emissions for the Stevenage area - (Transport and domestic emissions combined 2/3 of the overall emissions (64%) (i) Provide details of plans to decarbonise the housing stock & (ii) share plans for influencing local people, modal shift.	Date sent 05/04/22 Date due 31/05/22	To be scheduled
					2 Resident engagement - Regards the Citizens Panel, handling of future iterations needs to be improved re feedback.		
					3 Refine Baseline figures - measuring our Net Zero targets for 2030 Rec'mndation: Continue to work with the Uni of Herts Zero Carbon Lab towards our zero carbon ambitions.		
					4 Est.of a Climate Change Lead Officer Rec'mndation: that the post be made permanent.		
					5 HEART – Challenge Rec'mndation: engage with HEART to provide Member seminars & team up in support of a social enterprise such as a Climate Emergency Centre.		
					6 Mainstreaming of Climate Emergency thinking re all Council activities. Rec'mndation: (i) consider how an activity or an event can be made as low carbon as possible.		
					7 Tree Canopy - Rec'mndation: Exec establish an ambitious plan to meet the 2% gap in Stevenage's Tree Canopy, then expand the number of trees in Stevenage or offset elsewhere, as this offers the		
					8 Planning & Development Rec'mndation: Within the constraints of exiting legislation, establish a plan to make Climate change a planning consideration for all applications.		
					9 Focus on improved Recycling Exec brings back a report on the actions and strategy to improve the Council's recycling rates.		
					10 Protecting climate emergency targets in the budget setting process (i) Mbrs and Officers involved in the budget setting process, consider the climate change implications of any budget decisions, with no cut to services if there is a detrimental climate change implication; & (ii) Exec consider creating a small ring fenced budget to investigate the long term budget implications of climate change for business units.		
					11 EV Charging in neighbourhood centres: (i) were possible, the locations used should be close to the cycle network; (ii) when Electric Car Club charging equipment is reinstalled a promotion campaign with neighbouring residents be carried out & (iii) consider rebranding it, making it clear		
					12 SBC Social Housing (i)That new tenants receive info on climate change in their “welcome packs”, to include the Council's ten climate change pledges & info on recycling at their property; (ii) more be done with residents groups to move away from day to day housing tenant issues to consider wider Climate change matters (iii) encourage very local, small scale events that focus residents on environmental projects (gardens/trees) or community kitchen/growing or bulk buying schemes.		

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					<p>13 Recommendations of Informal Member Working Group (i) devise a strategy re tree management & P&D (Strategic); (ii) Mbrs & Officers lead by example, even if benefits small e.g. plastic bottles, drinks cups etc. (Quick wins); (iii) Consider how to represent the progress of the strategy? Fishbone chart/Gantt chart, target lines, KPIs (Strategic); (iv) Communications plan is needed with channels, calendar, etc. start with a campaign to reduce your heating by 2 degrees (Strategic); (v) Review Council activities to ensure carbon friendly practices are truly embedded. (Strategic) (vi) Engage with young people via schools, Youth Mayor and Mayor's activities. (Distinct Project); (vii) Promoting the 20 Minute Neighbourhood theory, encourage local businesses to tap into big business. Would suit a workshop to be facilitated externally to tease out tangible actions. (Distinct Project).</p>		

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E&E - Economic Impact of Covid-19	E&E Select Committee 22 09 20 - Work Programme	E&E Select Committee - 10 Nov 2020 - Scoping Document	10/11/20	Complete - 21 10 21	1 Executive supports, with whatever means are at its disposal (in kind buildings/officer time/promotion via LCB funding), the efforts of STEMPOINT East to provide some hands on events in 2022 of STEM sessions looking to promote and build "science capital" in young people.	E&E Select Committee - 23 03 22 - Exec Member Response	To be scheduled
					2 Exec consider the case study of partners working in micro areas (sub-neighborhoods) such as at the Oval project, with 8 or 9 Young People who would be in danger of becoming NEET and that the AD for Communities & Neighbourhoods meet with the interested parties from HCC YCH, STEMPOINT and NH College to explore what role SBC could do to further support.		
					3 Exec consider the case study of Brandles School foodbank outreach to vulnerable families. Exec to provide examples of where they are already doing this type of outreach through the Co-operative Neighbourhood Management or other programmes and to consider new opportunities to reach out to vulnerable families to help young people access services and opportunities.		
					4 establish a local work experience project for Stevenage school leavers in 2022 to enable them to find local employers who can offer work experience.		
					5 Exec consider the case study of the Herts Careers School Hub that all partners work together to establish how funding can be found to assist the STEM Centre to secure its future funding.		
					6 The Exec lobby HCC and partners via the Covid-19 Community Reassurance Cell to check that they carry out a revised impact assessment on the impact on BAME, Disabled and Young People, looking at all ten districts not just the County as a whole, as Stevenage had particular challenges with disabled, BAME and young people, who in many cases stated the pandemic in a deficit position and were in danger of this being further compounded.		
E&E - Neighbourhood Centres	13/03/19	25/06/19	11/02/2020, 10/03/2020 & 22/09/2020	Complete - 13 01 2021	1 Small scale timely interventions including routine maintenance, cleansing, repair and using existing budgets/Local Community Budgets via funding bids as well as local HCC LCBs.	05-Jul-21	To be scheduled
					2 Approach partner authorities/partner bodies to hold them to account for failure to maintain infrastructure.		
					3 That the Co-operative Neighbourhood Management approach to addressing local issues in the Neighbourhood Centres be monitored by the Executive Member with Portfolio responsibility for Neighbourhoods and Co-Operative Working to see if this is working.		
					4 That each Neighbourhood Centre area establishes a friends group to help with projects and community gardens at each Centre.		
					5 When Members have met with Head of Estates and AD Housing Development they will then be able to include a relevant recommendation in regard of these plans.		

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E&E - Post Offices	13/03/19	25/06/19	25/06/2019 03/09/19 & 20/11/19	Complete 20/11/2019 Members wish to keep	1 That Officers be requested to approach Post Office Ltd to seek provision of an emergency post office the Old Town and to provide such assistance as necessary to facilitate the arrangement.	N/A	To be scheduled
					2 That the subject of post office provision be reviewed at a meeting in the New Year.		
E&E - Rail Station Update	13/06/18	N/A 2nd meeting 28/02/2019	Initail meeting 18/10/2018 then update follow ups on 28/02/2019	Commitment from GTR & Railtrack to bring an update to the Committee.	1 the Committee considers holding a follow up meeting for all stakeholders in the spring of 2019, following the December 2018 timetable changes (February/March)	N/A	29 07 2019 for update. Any further date to be scheduled
					2 That GTR and other operators provide statistics about the number of Stevenage commuters at peak times		
					3 There were a number of other recommendations regarding consultaion with users and with the Council and specifically the shceduled May 2019 Timetable changes. Finally in July 2019 the Committee noted the updates on the Stevenage Turnback (5th Platform) project, the Govia		
E&E - Indoor Market	01/03/17	03/07/17	Review met on 5 occasions from 03/0717 to 16/01/18	16/01/18	x Engage an external company to carry out market research to find out what kind of market offer local people want. Other recommendations included:	21/03/18	03/12/18
					1 restore access to the multi-storey car park		
					2 incentives for Market Traders to keep to the opening trading times and days		
					3 consider options open to varying the car parking charges		
					4 Town Centre Manager to incorporate the Indoor Market into Town Centre events		
					5 discuss with the MTA ways to encourage a wider diversity of traders in the Market		
					6 staggered rent for new traders		
					7 promote other uses of void spaces and to casual traders		
					8 options for a future alternative location for the indoor market be included in the town centre regeneration plans		
					9 if a wholesale move for the indoor market can't be achieved then purchase a smaller satellite retail site with footfall from the town centre be considered for a smaller reconfigured market with a focus on business start-ups in the regenerated Town Centre		
10 consider approaching an independent company to administrate the market on a commercial basis for the Council							