

Overview & Scrutiny Task Group Meeting Notes



Review topic	Date of Meeting
Climate Emergency	13 December 2021

Attendance	Venue
Members: Norman (Chair) Robertson A. Little Warburton Apologies Powell Officers: Christine Lewis Witnesses: None	Virtual

Areas Discussed
<p>Welcome and introductions The Chair of the Task Group, Councillor Steven Norman welcomed everyone to the meeting</p> <p>Draft Scoping Document The Task Group discussed the draft coping Document including the objectives of the group, terms of reference and desired outcomes. The Chair reminded the group of the resolution made at the Council meeting on the 19th December 2019 where a Climate Emergency was recognised and resolved to take this into account as a factor in future decision making and take action including supporting the Government’s target to be net zero carbon by 2050.</p> <p>The Chair gave a presentation on what some other Authorities had done and more importantly, communicated to its residents via their websites. It was shown that there was information regarding Lichfield District on the SCC website but nothing was easy to find. It was agreed that this did not help take residents on the journey with the Council.</p> <p>It was agreed to invite TransitionLichfield to a future meeting as well as Cllr Mike Wilcox due to his links with the LGA. It was also agreed to invite the Cabinet Member and lead Head of Service with them an open meeting with the Public after that in the spring.</p>

There was some discussion on the progress to date on tackling the Climate Emergency and there was some disappointment at the slow pace and lack of information forthcoming to Overview & Scrutiny. It was felt that the role of the group should be to develop the policy or policies for Cabinet's consideration as there wasn't anything available for them to scrutinise. Again it was reminded that it was resolved at Council to let Overview & Scrutiny investigate initiatives that will reduce our impact on the environment.

There were some initial ideas of initiatives discussed including small quick wins as well as larger scale projects including electric vehicles. It was felt that the District Council should consider what it can do itself as an organisation but also what it can do to take the lead wider in the community and work with partners including Parishes. It was noted that Whittington & Fisherwick Parish Council had a very good policy and an active environmental group. It was agreed that the Cabinet Member should be asked what the ambition was and whether it was just to focus on what the Council could do internally or whether it was to lead change. It was also discussed that there should be more joined up thinking and not consider climate change as stand alone. An example given was that increasing cycling and developing cycle routes would be beneficial however this would not be successful unless the risk of theft was tackled as well.

The need for data was discussed and it was agreed that without the numerical information on the current emission levels the path to the net zero carbon emission goal would be difficult to measure. It was reported that there was a spreadsheet on Local Authority CO2 emissions between 2005-2019 however was not thought to be user-friendly.

Outcomes

That the scoping document be agreed as well as the plan for future meetings be agreed including list of stakeholders.

Further Work Required/Next Steps:

To invite the Cabinet Member, Lead Officer, a representative from Transition, a representative from Whittington & Fisherwick Environmental Group and Cllr Mike Wilcox to the next meeting. To arrange an open meeting with the Public.