

Overview & Scrutiny Task Group

Meeting Notes



Review topic	Date of Meeting
Climate Emergency	20 September 2023

Attendance	Venue
Members: S. Norman (Chair) D. Robertson W. Ho Mike Kinghan – Whittington Pam Beale – Transition Lichfield Apologies J. Powell Kristie Charlesworth Ecology and Climate Change Manager Officers: Will Stevenson Lucy Robinson Policy and Strategy Manager Witnesses: M. Wilcox Cabinet Member	Seward Room

Areas Discussed
<p>The Chair of the Task Group, Councillor Steven Norman welcomed everyone to the meeting</p> <p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Mike Kinghan declared an interest in Staffordshire Community Energy.</p> <p>LDC Organisational Carbon Reduction Action Plan</p> <p>The Cabinet member, Mike Wilcox, introduced himself to the task group. He explained that LDC operate a joint Waste Service with Tamworth and are currently examining the procurement of equipment to facilitate the potential roll out of food waste collection. They are also finalising the launch of new recycling campaign.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Members asked if changes to the dual stream system had increased the recycling rate in the district?

The Cabinet member confirmed this had not happened but hoped work in schools will improve the recycling rate.

- Members asked if the dual stream system had reduced the number of contaminated loads?

The Cabinet member confirmed that it had.

The Cabinet member highlighted that many organisations in the district want to work with the council on improving recycling. There was a strong desire from all present to get councillors involved in spreading this message, and engaging with parishes, communities on this and the wider plan to reduce the carbon footprint of the district.

- Members asked if dual stream had led to an increase of recyclables being thrown in black bins.

The Cabinet member stated he did not believe there has been an increase in that respect.

- Members asked what the council should do given the Prime Minister's decision to shelve the green paper on multi-waste streams.

The Cabinet member believed the council should continue moving forward with plans independently, as waiting for central Government guidance could cause significant delays.

The Task Group reviewed the councils Organisational Carbon Reduction Action Plan.

The Cabinet member confirmed a carbon dashboard is being developed that will illustrate the councils carbon reduction performance. Once this is finished the intention is to then develop a dashboard for the district. Work on a district council carbon baseline is ongoing and is expected to be finished during October. The insourcing of the leisure centres will naturally have an impact on the council's carbon footprint.

Members recommended including wording that mentions LDC's declaration of a climate emergency. Wording was also recommended to specify that this plan is for the district council only but will have an impact on the wider district too.

The Task Group raised concerns about the time elapsed, highlighting that we are 12.5% of the way to 2050 since the climate emergency was declared. The Cabinet member confirmed that the new strategic plan 'Lichfield 2050' is currently out for consultation - this will be adopted before the end of the financial year. A district wide climate change action plan will then be developed that will form part of an implementation plan for Lichfield 2050.

The Task Group request that the district council provide support to parish councils in calculating their own carbon footprint.

The Task Group suggested looking at schemes to encourage sustainable travel – taking away the capital cost of purchasing a bike for staff.

The need to improve comms on "No Mow May" was highlighted, as well as training staff and parishes about this.

The Cabinet member advised that an officer Climate and Environment group is being set up to revise the council Organisational Carbon Reduction Action Plan which is meeting for the first time on the 17th October.

The Task Group requested to be updated whenever the action plan is amended on the website.

Task Group asked for information about ways to improve the heating system of Lichfield District Council House.

A formal Citizens Assembly on climate change was suggested to engage residents, councillors, businesses, parishes and draw upon a range of ideas.

The Task Group requested confirmation that the amendment to a motion approved at Full Council in October 2020 would not preclude the application for a heat network delivery unit being made by Shenstone.

Outcomes

- The Task Group recommended wording amendments to the councils Carbon Reduction Action Plan. It was suggested that the plan should be removed from the website whilst these changes were made.
- The Task Group requested to be updated whenever the action plan is amended on the website.
- The Task Group requested district council support for parish councils calculating their own carbon footprint.
- The Task Group asked for information about ways to improve the heating system of Lichfield District Council House.
- The Task Group requested confirmation that the amendment to a motion approved at Full Council in October 2020 would not preclude the application for a heat network delivery unit being made by Shenstone.

Further Work Required/Next Steps:

- Planned recycling initiatives will be run by the District Council.
- The updated council carbon reduction plan will be circulated