Environment and Sustainability Panel Meeting

Online Meeting, Virtual Meeting Platform
Thursday, 28 January 2021 at 18:00

The Environment and Sustainability Panel explores methods of conservation of natural habitats and biodiversity through adapting existing practices or creating new ecologically diverse environments. The Panel encourages renewable energy generation and carbon footprint reduction in both the public and private sectors by examining air and water quality, plastic and waste reduction and renewable energy generation. The Panel monitors the progress and implementation of the Council's Emergency Climate Action Plan and regularly reports to Cabinet and Full Council.

Information for Members of the Public

Access to information and meetings

You have the right of access to all meetings of the Council, its Committees and Cabinet which may be conducted remotely such as by live audio or video broadcast / webcast. You also have the right to see the agenda (the list of items to be discussed at a meeting), which is published on the Council's website at least five working days before the meeting, and minutes once they are published. Dates of the meetings are available here:

https://colchester.cmis.uk.com/colchester/MeetingCalendar.aspx.

Occasionally certain issues, for instance, commercially sensitive information or details concerning an individual have to be considered in private. When this is the case an announcement will be made, the live broadcast will end and the meeting will be moved to consider in private.

Have Your Say!

The Council welcomes contributions in the form of written representations from members of the public at most public meetings. One single contribution to each meeting of no longer than 500 words may be made by each person which must be submitted via the form accessed by this link, before noon on the working day before the meeting date: Environment and Sustainability Have Your Say!

If you would like to submit representations to a meeting and need to find out more, please refer to the Have Your Say! arrangements here:
https://colchester.cmis.uk.com/colchester/HaveYourSay.aspx.

E-mail: democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk
www.colchester.gov.uk

Environment and Sustainability Panel - Terms of Reference (but not limited to)

1. To acknowledge our "Climate Emergency" and translate aspirations into actions.

2. To explore methods of conservation of natural habitats and biodiversity, whether through adapting existing practices and places or creating new ecologically diverse environments with sustainable practices built in.

3. To engage, communicate and collaborate with strategic partners, external bodies, Parish Councils and local communities, to encourage biodiversity enhancement and sustainable practices through their work.

4. To encourage environmental stewardship focusing on carbon footprint reduction by improving air quality, water quality, plastic and waste reduction and renewable energy generation in both public and private spheres across the Borough

5. To be a leading voice for environmental sustainability, promoting innovative environmental practices, having influence across the borough and beyond, including public and private sector policy, at regional and national levels.

6. To promote, monitor and regularly report to Cabinet and Full Council upon progress and implementation of the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan and it's goal to be net carbon neutral by 2030.

COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL
Environment and Sustainability Panel
Thursday, 28 January 2021 at 18:00

The Environment and Sustainability Panel Members are:

Councillor Mark Cory	Chairman
Councillor Peter Chillingworth	Deputy Chairman
Councillor Nigel Chapman	
Councillor Robert Davidson	
Councillor Mark Goacher	
Councillor Sam McCarthy	
Councillor Lee Scordis	
Councillor Lorcan Whitehead	

The Environment and Sustainability Panel Substitute Members are:
All members of the Council who are not Cabinet members or members of this Panel.

AGENDA
THE LIST OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING
(Part A - open to the public)

Please note that Agenda items 1 to 6 are normally dealt with briefly.

1   **Welcome and Announcements (Virtual Meetings)**

The Chairman will welcome members of the public and Councillors to the meeting and remind those participating to mute their microphones when not talking. The Chairman will invite all Councillors and Officers participating in the meeting to introduce themselves. The Chairman will, at regular intervals, ask Councillors to indicate if they wish to speak or ask a question and Councillors will be invited to speak in turn by the Chairman. A vote on each item of business will be taken by roll call of each Councillor and the outcome of each vote will be confirmed by the Democratic Services Officer.

2   **Substitutions**

Councillors will be asked to say if they are attending on behalf of a Committee member who is absent.

3   **Urgent Items**

The Chairman will announce if there is any item not on the published agenda which will be considered because it is urgent and will explain the reason for the urgency.

The Chairman has agreed to consider the following request that the Panel supports the motion below on the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill as an urgent item. The urgency arises from the need for any decision on the adoption of the motion to be taken by

Cabinet, and this is the last meeting of the Panel before the last Cabinet meeting of the municipal year on 10 March.

Motion to Support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill

Preamble

Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt in the UK and around the world. Global temperatures have increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO_2 levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm) and continue to rise. This far exceeds the 350ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity.

Without more significant and sustained action, the world is set to exceed the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit between 2030 and 2040. Therefore the current UK target of net zero by 2050 is not satisfactory. It is too little too late.

The increase in harm caused by a rise of 2°C rather than 1.5°C is significant. This is described by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C published in October 2018. According to the IPCC, limiting heating to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector and local communities. The costs of failing to address this crisis will far outstrip the investments required to prevent it. Investing now will bring many benefits in the form of good jobs, breathable cities and thriving communities.

Council notes that

i. This council has declared a climate and ecological emergency;

ii. Many local authorities have esta_blished Citizens' Assemblies that are playing an important role in assisting them in their plans to achieve net zero by 2030 or before; and that

iii.There is a Bill before Parliament—the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill (published as the "Climate and Ecology Bill")—according to which the Government must develop an emergency strategy that:

a.   requires that the UK plays its fair and proper role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with limiting global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial temperatures;

b.   ensures that all the UK's consumption emissions are accounted for;

c.   includes emissions from aviation and shipping;

d.   protects and restores biodiverse habitats along overseas supply chains;

e.   restores and regenerates the UK's depleted soils, wildlife habitats and species populations to healthy and robust states,

maximising their capacity to absorb CO_2 and their resistance to climate heating;

f.   sets up an independent Citizens' Assembly, representative of the UK's population, to engage with Parliament and Government and help develop the emergency strategy.

Council therefore resolves to:

i. Support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill

ii. Inform the local media of this decision;

iii. Write to local MPs, asking them to support the Bill; and

iv. Write to the CEE Bill Alliance, the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, expressing its support (campaign@ceebill.uk).

4   **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors will be asked to say if there are any items on the agenda about which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest which would prevent them from participating in any discussion of the item or participating in any vote upon the item, or any other pecuniary interest or non-pecuniary interest.

5   **Have Your Say! (Virtual Meetings)**

Members of the public may make representations to the meeting. Each representation may be no longer than three minutes (500 words). Members of the public may register their wish to address the meeting by registering online by 12.00 noon on the working day before the meeting date. In addition a written copy of the representation will need to be supplied for use in the event of unforeseen technical difficulties preventing participation at the meeting itself.

6   **Sustainability in Planning**   9 - 20

The Panel will consider a report outlining the new Planning Sustainability Check list as an explicit tool to identify the key sustainability credentials of proposed development, and will be invited to welcome the addition of the Checklist.

7   **Colchester eCargo Bike Library project update**   21 - 26

The Panel will consider an update on the Energy Saving Trust/Department for Transport funded eCargo bike trial project, and will hear that significant progress on implementing the project has been made, despite challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic and associated restrictions.

8   **Review of Environmental Sustainability Strategy**   27 - 32

The Panel will consider a report setting out a review of the Council's existing framework for managing the programme for sustainability, climate emergency response and carbon reduction.

The Panel will consider a report detailing key progress made with the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP), and other relevant updates since the previous meeting on 17 December 2020.

The Panel will consider a report setting out the current Work Programme 2020-2021 for the Environment and Sustainability Panel.

Exclusion of the Public (not Scrutiny or Executive)

In accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public, including the press, from the meeting so that any items containing exempt information (for example confidential personal, financial or legal advice), in Part B of this agenda (printed on yellow paper) can be decided. (Exempt information is defined in Section 100I and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972).

Part B
(not open to the public including the press)