

Environment and Sustainability Panel Meeting

**Online Meeting, Virtual Meeting Platform
Thursday, 29 October 2020 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:

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

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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, 29 October 2020 at 18:00

The Environment and Sustainability Panel Members are:

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

Chairman
Deputy Chairman

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.

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 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Councillors will be invited to confirm that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2020 are a correct record.

Environment and Sustainability Panel draft minutes - 17-09-2020

7 - 14

6 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.

7 Climate Emergency and Community Engagement

15 - 22

The Panel will consider a report setting out several methods for community engagement, including case study examples from other local authorities. The findings from the engagements will inform the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan.

8 Air Quality Project Update

23 - 26

The Panel will consider a report providing an update on the progress of the DEFRA funded air quality project.

9 Positive Parking Review

27 - 30

The Panel will receive an update on the Positive Parking Review that has been undertaken to inform Colchester's Parking Strategy for the next five years. The strategy is in the process of being finalised to reflect feedback from public consultation before being taken to Cabinet for endorsement.

10 Safer Greener Healthier – Active Travel In Colchester

31 - 32

The Panel will consider a report outlining the work Essex County Council are carrying out to encourage more walking and cycling in Colchester, including the funding bid to Government to improve the routes and access to the town centre. This is part of the Government's initiative to promote active travel to help people access the town centres, jobs and services in a sustainable way, as part of the Covid19 recovery plan.

11 **Brief verbal update**

The Panel will receive a brief verbal update from officers on the following topics:

- The introduction of the new Sustainability and Climate Change Manager
- Update on the progress of the Carbon Management Plan

12 **Work Programme 2020-2021**

33 - 36

The Panel is asked to note the contents of the Work Programme for 2020-2021.

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

Environment and Sustainability Panel

17 September 2020

Present: Councillor Nigel Chapman
Councillor Peter Chillingworth
Councillor Mark Cory
Councillor Mark Goacher
Councillor Sam McCarthy
Councillor Lee Scordis
Councillor Lorcan Whitehead

Substitutes: Councillor Paul Dundas for Councillor Robert Davidson

1. Appointment of Chairman

RESOLVED (UNANIMOUSLY) that Councillor Cory be elected Chairman for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

2. Appointment of Deputy Chairman

RESOLVED (UNANIMOUSLY) that Councillor Chillingworth be elected Deputy Chairman for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

3. Introduction to the work of the Panel and Terms of Reference

Councillor Cory introduced the item and explained that the Panel had been set up to continue the work of a Task and Finish Group. He explained the Environment and Sustainability Panel explored methods of conservation of natural habitats and biodiversity through adapting existing practices or creating new ecologically diverse environments. The Panel encouraged 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 monitored the progress and implementation of the Council's Emergency Climate Action Plan and regularly reported to Cabinet and Full Council.

Councillor Cory explained that he had been looking at the Panel's Terms of Reference with Officers, and had made some amendments to the Terms of Reference originally agreed by Council, with the aim of making the work of the Panel more collaborative with the public and partners across the community, both within and outside the Colchester district.

The Panel carefully considered the proposed amended Terms of Reference, adding in Parish Councils as a strategic partner following a request from Councillor Chapman. Councillor Chillingworth was keen to demonstrate what the Council had achieved to the communities of Colchester from an early stage, and wanted the communities to understand that the Council was trying to set an example of best practice on environmental issues. He felt that the environmental agenda needed to be promoted to communities and felt that the work of the Panel and the Council needed to be made public, and he questioned whether the wording of the third paragraph of the proposed Terms of Reference allowed for this. Although it was

explained that the Council's work on the Climate Emergency Action Plan had been promoted via social media, Councillor Chillingworth made the point that not everyone used social media to access new stories, and it was agreed that paragraph three of the proposed Terms of Reference be amended to include the word 'communicate'.

Following further debate, it was agreed that the wording of paragraph six of the proposed Terms of Reference be amended to include reference to the promotion of the work of the Council, and that the exact wording would be left to be determined by Councillor Cory and Rory Doyle, Assistant Director – Environment.

RESOLVED: that the agreed changes be made to the proposed Terms of Reference subject to the further amendment of paragraph six, and that Cabinet be asked to ratify these.

4. Climate Emergency – One Year On

Rory Doyle, Assistance Director – Environment attended to present the report and assist the Panel with their enquiries. He advised the Panel that there would be a new Climate Emergency Manager joining the Council in September to drive the environmental agenda forward assisted by supporting Officers. Rory provided an update to the Panel on the work that had been done in respect of the Climate Emergency Action Plan following the climate emergency declaration which was made by the Council in July 2019, and the agreement of the Action Plan in January 2020. The Panel heard that this action plan was intended as a first draft document, and it was expected that it would change as circumstances did and it would be continually amended and detail added to as time went on. This detail would include specific objectives and identified areas that required investment and additional resources to allow the success of the Council to be measured to ensure that the plan was on track over the next ten years. It was the intention of Officers to bring regular updates on the progress of the Climate Emergency Action Plan to this Panel.

Ben Plummer, Climate Emergency Project Officer addressed the Panel to provide a detailed update and highlight some key achievements on projects that had a strong link to environmental sustainability over the past year. One of these achievements was the recognition by Friends of the Earth of Colchester Borough Council and Colchester Borough as a whole as being the joint top climate friendly area in the East of England. Additionally, in January 2020 it was confirmed by the Carbon Trust that the Council had achieved its goal of a forty percent reduction in carbon emissions relative to the levels in 2008.

The Panel heard that the Northern Gateway Heat Network was an innovative project which provided access to low carbon heat to the Northern Gateway Development, the construction of which had begun in 2020, and which would power six hundred and fifty homes and 500,000 feet of commercial space via ground source heat pumps. Further work was being carried out by Amphora Energy who were leading on the project for the Council into the feasibility of extending the heat network even further, increasing its benefit.

The Role of the Authority as a Planning Authority was highlighted as being of importance in tackling the climate emergency in terms of ensuring that emergency efficient standards were met, and how developments were set up and located to promote use of public transport and the protection of biodiversity and green spaces. An example of this was given in terms of the new sports park that was being developed and which would be furnished with electric vehicle charge points. The Planning Team at the Council was creating a Climate Emergency Checklist to give to prospective developers containing recommendations that can be included in development to make them more environmentally sustainable.

As part of the 'Clean Air for Colchester' campaign a survey was conducted at the start of the year to determine residents knowledge of air quality and investigate what measures it was thought would assist in changing behaviours. It was suggested that reminders by the side of the road to remind residents to turn off their engines when stationary could be very effective, and as a result of this planning for some signage had been applied for in areas with the poorest air quality and it was hoped that signage would be rolled out in the near future.

The Panel heard that funding had been obtained from the Energy Saving Trust to purchase twenty five electric cargo bikes this year together with five electric trailers which would be used instead of cars or vans to deliver goods. Ten local businesses would be provided with cargo bikes, and some would also be used by the Council and available to loan to businesses to test out from October this year when the bikes became available. Emily Harrop, Project Officer (Transport and Sustainability) explained that there were a variety of different cargo bikes selected by individual business champions to meet their individual needs, and a variety of bikes would be used by Colchester Borough Council. Anyone using one of the bikes had to be trained, and Essex County Council had provided this training for a reduced fee of £10 to encourage as many people as possible to take this up.

Ben Plummer advised the Panel that as part of the Council's approach to embedding environmental sustainability in its working culture, any new project had to consider its environmental impact and take mitigating steps accordingly. New staff were also being made aware of the Council's climate emergency declaration and Action Plan when they started work to show how important the plan was to the Council.

The Panel received an update on the Woodland Project, which aimed to plant 200,000 trees by the year 2024, and in the first year had planted 4,486 trees with a further 11,200 due to be planted in the second year. The project would ensure that there was a focus on increasing tree cover and protecting biodiversity.

An overview was given of the Carbon Trust Report which contained further analysis on Council emissions and demonstrated that Council emissions were set to reduce to 2,780 tonnes of carbon by 2030. The report provided further insight into the Council's indirect emissions which stemmed largely from housing stock and procured goods and services. Future planning would be undertaken to reduce these emissions wherever possible, and it was anticipated that strategies in the future would look at reducing the Council's carbon output at a greater rate than had been predicted.

The Panel heard that environmental sustainability was threaded through the whole of the Council's Covid-19 recovery plan, and where environmental issues could be considered in the delivery of projects they would be. An example of more sustainable working was the surge in working from home which reduced emissions from travel, and additionally the delivery of Community Hub services online as opposed to from the library where they had previously been based. Further work was planned with Essex County Council to make travelling even easier for walkers and cyclists in the borough.

In response to questions from Councillor Scordis, Councillor Cory explained that he had regular meetings with Essex County Council and other Councillors and Officers and encouraging cycling and walking was a key element of the Colchester Transport Strategy which was currently being developed with the County Council and was in draft form. He confirmed that staff were being encouraged to work as flexibly as possible, although where this was difficult, or collaboration was required, work space would be made available. Ben Plummer confirmed that even in areas where there had not yet been an identified need for the no idling signage, there would still be marshals going around the town centre identifying

people who might be idling and trying to change that behaviour. The Panel heard that of key importance to encourage great walking and cycling was not only to make use of new infrastructure, but to change people's behaviours, and this was being built into a number of upcoming projects around health and wellbeing with Officers seeking external funding to support this work. Councillor Scordis made a recommendation that Colchester Civic Society be consulted with in relation to the 'no idling' signage being put up to ensure that they were on board with the scheme.

The Panel discussed the importance of planning policy in shaping future sustainability, and the need to put pressure on developers to provide environmentally friendly developments. They supported the rise in home working and the ecological benefits that it brings, although concern was raised that increased isolation may be an issue for some people. Councillor Chillingworth suggested that work areas could be provided where people could hire desks on an ad hoc temporary basis to go to work from with colleagues or to provide respite from the home environment. Councillor Cory confirmed that use of alternative Council sites for this purpose had been discussed, and confirmed that he would discuss the matter with the Portfolio Holder for the Local Plan to see if this could be included.

Cllr Goacher expressed his support for the anti-idling project, which he considered an excellent first step towards reducing vehicle emissions, and enquired about the status of the proposed marshals, and what powers of enforcement they would have. He highlighted the need for change in this area with regard to busses idling, which he considered to be a problem that was probably beyond the scope of the marshals and would need the intervention of the bus companies themselves. Councillor Goacher echoed the comments of other Panel Members with regard to the need for the planning regime to take a more ecological approach, and he enquired what steps would be taken to reduce emissions from Leisure World.

In response, Councillor Cory explained that two years ago some funding had been obtained from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to enable the retrofitting of approximately ten busses to make them much more ecologically friendly, and the continued greening of bus stock was something that he would support very strongly. He confirmed that Leisure World had been targeted having been identified as a key polluter and had received a new boiler and insulation to reduce emissions, but much work was still required at the site, including the possible re-building of some of it. Ben Plummer advised the Panel that part of the upcoming work that was being undertaken with the Carbon Trust was centred on Leisure World improvements as part of the development of the Carbon Management Plan. Emily Harrop explained that the anti-idling marshals were all volunteers from the local community who were passionate about reducing idling in vehicles, and who would just be raising awareness and encouraging people to change their behaviour – they would not have any powers or enforcement role in this regard. The approach that was being adopted was concerned with behaviour change and education rather than penalizing people. She confirmed that prior to the current pandemic, there had been a lot of dialogue with the bus companies, some of whom already had anti-idling policies in place, and this would be picked up again prior to the launch of the project.

Cllr Whitehead requested more information on the retrofitting of housing stock and work that had been carried out with regard to sustainable procurement, and he enquired whether the Woodland Project was on track to deliver the promised number of trees. He voiced his support for the continuing of remote Council meetings as this greatly reduced the number of journeys that needed to be undertaken to meetings and consequently the pollution associated with this travel.

Councillor Cory confirmed that extra funding had been provided to the One Hundred Homes Project to enable retrofitting of these properties, and that retrofitting and refurbishment was planned for all of Colchester Borough Council's sheltered accommodation in the borough. Rory Doyle commented that one of the key areas that the Panel would look at in the future was the Carbon Management Plan, and key elements of this would be looking at the feasibility of improvements that needed to be made to Council property, together with the approach taken to procurement. The energy efficiency of Council stock was already being considered as part of the Asset Management Plan and funds would be made available to support this goal. It was confirmed that the Woodland Plan was on track, and larger areas were now being examined, for planting, together with consideration being given to the broader biodiversity impact of the project.

Councillor Chapman asked whether the procurement hub that Colchester Borough Council was a member of with other Local Authorities was also following the same standards in terms of seeking ecologically friendly deals, and he further mentioned that although people in rural communities may be fewer in number, he was aware of a number of his constituents who wished to cycle into town but were wary about the roads. He wondered whether this was something that Essex County Council should be working towards, as well as more secure cycle parking in the town itself. He pointed out that engine idling was also a key issue in rural areas where parents took their children from the towns to village schools and idling of vehicles was a big problem that also needed to be addressed.

Councillor Cory shared the concerns expressed around rural access to town via fully connected routes, and suggested that a recommendation should be made that informed both the Transport policy and Essex County Council Highways.

Rory Doyle addressed the issue of idling around schools and made the Panel aware of a project that was being delivered via the Northeast Essex Parking Partnership which was concerned with working with school communities and promoting safety outside schools in terms of keeping vehicles away and safer parking, and the no idling work would feed into this.

Ben Plummer confirmed that in terms of procurement, Colchester Borough Council was working with a company called the Social Value Portal which allowed for the measurement of how much social value each contractor would bring to a project. Some of the measurable values would be environmental in their nature, for example how many electric vehicles were used by that contractor, allowing greener choices to be made.

Councillor Cory suggested that a number of recommendations could be made by the panel to Portfolio Holders via Officers that when the Council was seeking procurement beyond the Borough, that these same standards would be applied.

Councillor McCarthy expressed his thanks to Officers, and enquired whether the 10,000 trees given out each year under the Trees for Years Project counted towards the total for the Woodland Project, and it was confirmed that they did count towards this total.

Councillor Cory noted that the Panel had suggested a number of recommendations to Portfolio Holders, including Councillor Julie Young around planning and the Local Plan, Councillor King in relation to procurement, and Essex County Council and the bus companies.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

5. Greening Colchester Policy glyphosate

Rosa Tanfield, Group Manager – Neighbourhood Services, attended to present the report and assist the Panel with their enquiries. The Panel heard that in November 2019, Colchester Borough Council had committed to ending the use of glyphosate weed killer following a recommendation from the Conservation and Environmental Sustainability Task and Finish Group. This would be via a phased reduction of the use of glyphosate on the Council's own land and working with external partners to set out a clear example of best practice and demonstrate how the use of glyphosate weed killer could be reduced. The Panel heard that the use of glyphosate had already been reduced and that by March 2021, the use of glyphosate in general use would have been completely phased out. The removal of glyphosate was not straightforward as there was no direct replacement, but Officers had been looking at all the different options available and were considering a variety of different replacements. As part of the Greening Colchester Policy methods of continuing to support biodiversity had been considered alongside working towards the removal of glyphosate, which included considering areas around the Borough where grass cutting could be stopped, and areas which could be naturalised by allowing them to re-wild.

Councillor Chillingworth voiced his support of the policy and although he felt that it was extremely important to take advantage of the reduction in the use of glyphosates to support biodiversity and allow some areas to grow wild, he emphasised the need to keep communities up to date with what was happening so that they understood the reasons behind the decision. Rosa Tanfield confirmed that the new approach of allowing plants, weeds and trees to grow in a natural way did go against the traditional approach of green area management, and she reassured the Panel that communities would be kept updated through engagement, communications and campaigns. She said that a number of approaches would be adopted to set out clearly what the objectives were, including engaging with schools, community advocates, Parish Councils, Ward Councillors and social media outlets.

Councillor Scordis expressed his pleasant surprise that the reduction of glyphosate had already started, as he had noticed no increase in the number of weeds in the parks, and Officers were commended for their work. He asked Ward Councillors be consulted and advised when it was intended to allow areas to re-wild in their wards, so that they could engage with their community representatives to ensure that residents were aware what was happening. Rosa confirmed that the areas that had been proposed for re-wilding were identified in the draft policy, and that Officers would be speaking with Councillors affected.

In response to a question from Councillor Goacher, David Carter, Parks Contracts and Volunteering Specialist, confirmed that Colchester Borough Council did have regular dialogue with other Authorities over the reduction of the use of glyphosates, some of whom had already started this programme of work, and some of whom were considering doing this. Colchester Borough Council was a member of the Parks East group which is the regional parks forum and information and learning was being shared across this forum with the intention to help others. He commented that the planned phased reduction in the use of glyphosate allowed the Council to identify the best different ways to control unwanted vegetation and encourage community engagement in areas where it was planned to stop weed spraying and re-wild areas.

Councillor Whitehead expressed his opinion that the Council should be as ambitious as possible when considering the re-wilding of areas, and should leave as much biodiversity as possible. He considered it was key to this project that publicity would be required, and communities educated as to what future green spaces would look like, how the ground would be maintained, and what was acceptable in the future. He also enquired whether staff were aware of the potential health impacts of the use of glyphosates. Rosa explained that the work administering the glyphosates was undertaken by contractors who had a lot of input into the proposed policy, and who undertook all work in line with appropriate risk assessments, training and health assessments. David Carter confirmed that glyphosate was still licensed for use and was safe to use as long as there had been the correct training and the correct protective equipment was used as well.

Councillor Chapman enquired whether there had been any contact with Essex County Council to request that they not mow their verges in the rural areas?

Councillor Cory confirmed that he had raised this issue with colleagues at County Council as Colchester Borough Council was contracted to mow a number of verges in the Borough. There was an agreement in principle with Essex County Council to look at some of the verges that they owned to reconsider the mowing regime to see if there was scope to reduce mowing of these to support the re-wilding of areas if this could be done in a safe manner to maintain visibility.

RESOLVED that the following recommendations be made to Cabinet:

- (a) RECOMMENDED to Cabinet that it approve the phasing out of the use of glyphosate based chemicals (herbicides) in grounds maintenance operations on CBC owned land and trial alternative methods of weed control as set out in this report and appendices.
- (b) RECOMMENDED to Cabinet that it approve a change in grass cutting frequency on selected grass verges and areas of open space to be managed as areas to encouraged wildflower or naturalisation as set out in this report and appendices.
- (c) RECOMMENDED to Cabinet that it delegate authority to the Assistant Director for Environment to make minor changes to the Greening Colchester Policy should it be necessary. Any changes considered by the Assistant Director for Environment to be significant will be reported back to the Environment and Sustainability Panel

6. Work Programme

Matthew Evans, Democratic Officer, attended to present the report and assist the Panel with their enquiries.

Councillor Scordis reminded the Panel that North Station Road was a conservation area and that Essex County Council were already working on this area as part of their safer, greener work and he wondered whether there was any work that could be undertaken in relation to this area? Councillor Cory confirmed that this was something that was already being examined, and discussions had already taken place as part of the 'Fixing the Link' project. A future update on the progression of this project was requested.

Cllr Chillingworth commented that the pre-existing Task and Finish Group had worked with outside organisations, and suggested that some time may be set aside at future meetings to invite outside groups to attend the Panel to engage with them.

Councillor Whitehead agreed that it was useful to have this engagement and wondered whether it would be possible to use the voice of the Council to lobby other organisations on issues the Panel had discussed. Councillor Cory suggested that he would meet with the Group Spokespersons to discuss agenda items and when the Panel considered reports, recommendations on agenda items could then be made to Cabinet.

Rory Doyle confirmed that community engagement was one of the earliest things that it was proposed that the Panel would consider in the work programme, and he confirmed that the preceding Task and Finish Group had been concerned with ensuring that engagement with different groups and the general population was as effective as possible. Rory commented that it may be possible to meet with key groups outside the meetings, but that access to the public meetings of the Panel was available to all, when there would be the opportunity to feed into the business that was being discussed.

RESOLVED that the contents of the work programme be noted, and that consideration be given to setting up a sub-group of the Committee to consider agenda items and potential meetings with external groups.

29 October 2020

Report of	Place and Client Services	Author	Ben Plummer
Title	Climate Emergency and Community Engagement		☎ 508965
Wards affected	Not applicable		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Engaging with the community around the Council's Climate Emergency declaration will be critical to the success of increasing the sustainability and economic prosperity of the Council, and the wider borough as well as achieving the recent remit of zero net carbon by 2030. This paper sets out several methods for community engagement, including case study examples from other local authorities. The findings from the engagements will inform the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan.
- 1.2 A brief description of each method is provided below:
 - Resident Consultation – Several approaches are discussed including a large scale survey, heatmapping resident views and other online approaches to gauge resident opinions on the climate emergency. A mixture of approaches can reach many participants, and conducting these online will enable participation to occur despite the covid-19 crisis. Considerations to be made will be on cost of procurement of technologies to conduct surveys and ensuring all residents can engage through online survey.
 - Citizen's Assemblies – Method allows for both learning and engagement with residents and 'experts' about the climate emergency. Normally done in-person so would have to consider how to conduct online, researching how Brighton and Hove Council are facilitating this.
 - Organisational Climate Change Network – Forming a network of influential organisations in Colchester to take action on climate change borough wide, possibly as a break-off group to the established One Colchester group. Work completed through this network could then be fed back to the One Colchester Strategic Board.
 - Sub-group(s) to the Environment and Sustainability Panel – Similar to an organisational network, but with engagement from other interested stakeholders and groups established to guide work on the climate emergency under the Council's themes of the Climate Emergency Action Plan.
- 1.3 All of these approaches will consider how to embed the principles of Asset Based Community Development within how they are carried out.

2. Recommended Decision

- 2.1 That the panel note the contents of the report and decide on an agreed method(s) to engage with the community in a Covid-19 context to gather feedback from a variety of stakeholders to inform the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan.

3. Reason for Recommended Decision

- 3.1 This report is to inform members of the engagement options available in order to guide a decision on the Council's resident engagement plan for sustainability and carbon reduction in order to address the climate emergency.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 Not applicable

5. Background Information

- 5.1 Although the Council has engaged previously with some community groups such as Eco Colchester and Extinction Rebellion Colchester, a meaningful dialogue at scale has not been conducted on the climate emergency and that is now the next step for the Council to do. Several methods of community engagement, with examples from other Councils are set out below for consideration.

Asset Based Community Development (ABCD)

- 5.2 ABCD approaches have been gaining traction in local government, particularly in relation to health and wellbeing. The main premise of ABCD is recognising that communities are full of people with a variety of skills, knowledge and motivation. It champions the idea that if communities are listened to and put front and centre of problems that matter to them, then projects and subsequent actions that are produced are more likely to be successful and sustainable in the long term.
- 5.3 ABCD approaches however are also relevant to tackling problems related to the climate emergency and the Council is already utilising ABCD in its projects. For example, the Clean Air for Colchester project has been using this approach to ensure the project has been co-designed with the community. Extensive community engagement was carried out at the start of this project to understand resident's awareness of air quality, but also to understand the issues that matter to them and how the project can look to tackle these. In the most recent stages of the project, an advisory group and stakeholder group have been set up, recruiting people from the community to help steer action that is carried out through the project, with the Council providing necessary support to 'facilitate'.
- 5.4 ABCD is the overarching framework with which many of the below community engagement approaches can be linked to.

Resident Consultation

- 5.5 As part of an ABCD approach, the Council needs to understand the attitudes, ideas and opinions of the community, and what matters to them. In relation to the climate emergency this could be identifying what environmental 'themes' (e.g. biodiversity, waste and recycling, energy) residents currently engage with most or that they would like to engage with more.
- 5.6 Consulting residents through a large-scale survey process can establish a better understanding of resident's opinions and behaviours related to climate change. This could be facilitated through a mix of online and in-person/postal questionnaires, with a good example of this done on a large scale by Leeds City Council's ['Big Leeds Climate Conversation'](#).
- 5.7 Other examples include Cheshire West Council which created an [online platform](#) for residents to share their ideas publicly with others. They hosted a survey to gauge resident opinions about the climate emergency, and also created a 'forum' where residents could share ideas about how the Council could tackle the Climate Emergency, and how themselves as residents could contribute. Residents could then 'upvote' ideas they agreed with, meaning similarities in opinions could be gauged.

- 5.8 Similar forms of engagement have been used by [London Borough of Waltham Forest](#) and [Bristol City Council](#) who have used the software [CommonPlace](#), which allows residents to pinpoint problems or ideas of interest on a map. Others can then agree with the suggested ideas, and it has demonstrated wide engagement and an ability to identify key matters that are important to residents. These forms of ‘crowdsourcing’ engagement can be effective for reaching a wide variety of people, as they can be conducted more informally and will be more accessible for some. Tools that allow ‘heatmapping’ are good for understanding collective opinion, and may receive greater engagement than a survey as it will be less time-consuming for people to complete and is more ‘novel’.
- 5.9 Another form of consultation that is more ‘interactive’ for the community is participatory budgeting approaches. Traditionally these approaches are focussed around asking people how they would decide to allocate a monetary budget to spend on local issues, therefore understanding the issues that matter most to them. Similar tools have been developed around this approach to decide priorities on particular issues. For example, [Redbridge Council](#), [Glasgow City Council](#) and [Bristol City Council](#) have all used this kind of method to assess resident priorities for issues around climate change and transport. Within these tools, there is the opportunity for residents to both learn about each of the actions they could take, but to also understand the trade-offs within decision making (by being set to a ‘budget’). Disadvantages of this method are that they tend to be conducted online (which can be exclusive to some members of the community), they can be expensive to procure and you may struggle to reach residents beyond those that are concerned about the environment as they may perceive the tool to be too ‘specialist’ for them.
- 5.10 For all of the above approaches, a balance between online and in-person engagement would have to be sought, considering the restraints covid-19 puts on in-person interaction. However, the Council will seek to ensure that residents will be given support to access services digitally through the alliance team and other partners.

Citizen’s Assemblies/People’s Juries

- 5.11 A specific form of community engagement are Citizen’s Assemblies and People’s Juries. They have become increasingly common in recent years, especially in relation to climate change. The general format is that a group of around 30-50 people are selected from a larger invite pool as ‘representative’ of the population in an area, and are invited to attend a series of workshops to debate a broad question. Related to this question, ‘expert’ or ‘professional’ speakers are typically brought in to provide the assembly with some background information and questions to discuss key topics related to the broad question. The group then debate between themselves about what they have heard and come up with recommendations to answer the original question.
- 5.12 The most prominent example of this method, related to climate change, is ‘[Climate Assembly UK](#)’, the citizen assembly created by the UK government to answer the question ‘How should the UK meet its target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050?’. 108 representative members of the UK population were brought together to debate this question, hearing from several speakers on topics such as ‘how we travel’, ‘what we buy’ and ‘in the home’.
- 5.13 Citizen’s assemblies have also been conducted at local authority level in relation to the climate emergency, with examples from [Lancaster](#), [Oxford](#), [Leeds](#), [Newham](#) and many more. Previously, Extinction Rebellion Colchester ran a People’s Assembly in August 2019, which generated ideas that were then brought to the Council.

- 5.14 Citizen's assemblies are effective at both increasing resident understanding of issues that face them and enabling them to voice their thoughts and concerns. This form of engagement can provide lots of qualitative feedback so that Council's can understand in detail what matters to residents the most. It also enables you to hear from a wide variety of people, not just those who are extremely concerned about the issue being debated.
- 5.15 A potential downside of citizen assemblies is that they can be time consuming to run, and costly compared to other engagement approaches. This approach also normally requires face to face engagement for brainstorming sessions. However, these are not impossible to facilitate online, as shown by Climate Assembly UK, and the citizens assembly [Brighton and Hove City Council](#) are currently running during Covid-19. The Council could learn from these examples on how well each event gained community views and compare to other approaches available.

Organisational Climate Change Network

- 5.16 One form of engagement that could be used to reach many stakeholders and influential organisations is by setting up a sub-group(s) of organisations that discuss tackling climate change in Colchester borough-wide. It is known that many organisations in the borough are already taking action on climate change, but it could be effective to bring them altogether to tackle climate change and come up with joint solutions that create synergies and mutually beneficial outcomes.
- 5.17 Examples of this kind of model from UK councils include [Leeds Climate Commission](#), [Croydon Climate Commission](#) and [Lincoln Climate Commission](#) amongst others. Leeds Climate Commission has been going the longest, and the member organisations have been able to share learning and best practice effectively to tackle climate change. Innovations may arise through joining up of different sectors and disciplines across the Borough.
- 5.18 Similar networks or groups already exist in Colchester, for example the One Colchester group, that is made up of several large organisations within Colchester, such as the University of Essex, Colchester Garrison, Community 360 and many more, to help empower the community to tackle issues affecting them. The group has been effective at doing this, and is playing a vital role in helping to deliver work that is part of the 'Communities cell' of the Council's recovery programme, such as ensuring residents are safe and have access to food, medicines etc. Eco Colchester also co-ordinate an informal social media network of key local environmental organisations to share and debate different actions related to tackling climate change.
- 5.19 Therefore, a proposed model for engagement here is that a sub-group to the existing One Colchester is set up to debate and create joint solutions to tackle climate change across the borough called the One Colchester Climate Change Network. The group already provides a platform for this engagement to occur, and contains a diverse range of organisations, meaning engagement and collaboration can be productive. The group would not be accountable to the Environment and Sustainability Panel, but instead to the One Colchester Strategic Board of which the Council is a member. This offers the CBC real value in that agreed actions will have buy in, be sustainable and little cost will be associated to administering any surveys or other methods listed above.

Sub-group to the Environment and Sustainability Panel

- 5.20 An alternative, but similar idea to the One Colchester Climate Change Network is creating a sub-group to the Environment and Sustainability Panel. The group could be set up to discuss the Council's work on the climate emergency, and relevant partners, experts and individuals could be invited to contribute to discussion.
- 5.21 A key difference between this approach and the One Colchester Climate Change Network would be that the Environment and Sustainability Panel would lead the sub-group, and work done by the group would feed into the Panel. The cost implication here is that CBC would be required to organise, host (online) and facilitate the sessions. There is a risk also of sending the message that the Council would like to lead instead of help to facilitate community driven responses. To combat this, the Council could bring organisations and stakeholders together around themed workshops, and play an 'observer' role in the discussions.

6. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

- 6.1 Although community engagement attempts to give a voice to the community and naturally aims to be 'inclusive', some methods can unintentionally exclude others from the discussion. Different approaches will impact who and how people can participate and input into Council decision making around climate change.
- 6.2 Any approach(es) that the Council takes to engage with the community should consider the best ways that residents can be involved in contributing their thoughts around the Council's Climate Emergency declaration. As such, targeting invitation into sub-groups offers a means to balance out issues of representation from online platforms. A combination of online and sub-group/expert engagement can ensure that different segments of society are included, considering different groups (i.e. age, gender, ethnic, religious and economic status).

7. Strategic Plan References

- 7.1 This piece of work relates strongly to two themes of the Strategic Plan, Tackling the climate challenge and leading sustainability, and Creating safe, healthy and active communities.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 There are no consultation implications.

9. Publicity Considerations

- 9.1 There are no publicity implications.

10. Financial implications

- 10.1 Each of the different forms of community engagement will have various costs associated with them. The costs of these approaches will have to be considered and a budget decided for them appropriately.

11. Community Safety Implications

11.1 There are no Community Safety implications at this stage.

12. Health and Safety Implications

12.1 Any face to face engagement approaches that are taken will have to follow Government guidelines to ensure the health of participants is protected.

13. Risk Management Implications

13.1 There are no Risk Management implications.

14. Environmental and Sustainability Implications

14.1 This piece will help drive forward work on the climate emergency, within the Council and the borough. Ultimately, the hope will be that through different forms of community engagement we will be able to engage, bring together and hear from a range of individuals around the topic of climate change. Through engagement and collective action, we can get more people acting in an environmentally responsible manner in the Council and the borough, contributing to tackling climate change and reducing carbon emissions.

29 October 2020

Report of	Air Quality Engagement Officer	Author	Rosie Welch
Title	Air Quality Project Update		☎ 507157
Wards affected	Not Applicable		

1. Executive Summary

1.1 In 2019 Colchester Borough Council received £249,100 in funding from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for a two-year behaviour change project aimed at reducing air pollution in Colchester. The project's primary objectives are to:

- Raise awareness of poor air quality and its impacts
- Encourage the widespread uptake of 'no idling', switching engines off when parked, waiting and stationary at traffic lights and level crossings.
- Reduce the number of vehicles on the road by increasing the amount of people walking and cycling for short journeys.

The purpose of this report is to provide the Environment and Sustainability Panel with an update on the progress of the DEFRA funded air quality project.

- The presentation to the Panel on 29 October will focus on the CAREless Pollution and Signage elements of the air quality project, highlighting progress to date and next steps.

2. Recommended Decision

2.1 We invite the Environment and Sustainability Panel to note the content of this briefing and to provide feedback.

3. Reason for Recommended Decision

3.1 This report is for information only.

4. Alternative Options

4.1 Not applicable

5. Background Information

5.1 In Colchester there are three [Air Quality Management Areas \(PDF, 334KB\)](#) (AQMA'S) where the pollution levels exceed national guidelines.

5.2 The AQMA's cover the town centre, but also residential areas such as the lower end of Mersea Road, Magdalen Street and Brook Street - a narrow residential street used by over 100,000 vehicles each week as well as being the main walking route for children attending nearby primary schools.

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- Encourage the widespread uptake of 'no idling', switching engines off when parked, waiting and stationary at traffic lights and level crossings.
- Reduce the number of vehicles on the road by increasing the amount of people walking and cycling for short journeys.

5.3 We know from research by Kings College London that small easy changes to driving habits, such as switching the engine off whilst stationary, can [cut pollution by up to 30%](#) and the effects are immediate.

5.4 Phase one of the project included a period of community engagement which ran from October 2019 – January 2020. During this time we spoke to over 3,000 residents, schools, businesses and community group representatives to get a better understanding of what is currently known about air quality and the impact it has on health, whilst also exploring driving habits and how people could be encouraged to take action to lower pollution levels.

5.5 As part of the engagement, production company Lark Rise Pictures was commissioned to produce a short air quality film. The film, along with a summary report and infographic highlighting the key engagement findings and how they are being used to shape the project going forward, are now available on our webpage: www.colchester.gov.uk/cleanair.

5.6 At the start of 2020 Colchester Borough Council received a further £59,785 from DEFRA for the signage and traffic light feasibility work, outlined below, which were developed as a result of findings from our community engagement in which 49% of people said roadside reminders would encourage them to regularly switch off their engines and 56% of people said knowing how long they would be waiting at red lights would encourage them to switch off.

Progress to date on meeting the project objectives:

No Idling Campaign

In June '20, following a competitive procurement process, Meadows Communication was commissioned to plan, deliver and evaluate a No-Idling Campaign. The campaign 'CAREless Pollution' launched on 8 October 2020 to coincide with national Clean Air Day and will run until April 2021.

The campaign has been informed by the findings from the community engagement and developed in collaboration with a group of local residents, businesses and community group representatives, this co-creation with the community is what sets the campaign apart from others. CAREless Pollution billboard, petrol pump and radio advertising went live on 20

October. A no-idling toolkit, marketing resources, schools pack, events and workshops all form part of the campaign which is being supported by a network of 30 stakeholders who are sharing the information to help widen its reach. We have already had a positive response to the materials and a good take up by the local community.

The campaign launched with a stunt in Culver Square with assistance from the special effects team at the Mercury Theatre. A car filled with coloured smoke was used to demonstrate one of the campaign's key messages that pollution levels are up to 7 times higher inside your car than they are outside and can affect your health. We expect the car to visit other local locations including schools, offices and supermarkets, COVID-19 regulations permitting, during the autumn to continue raising awareness. A presentation on the CAReless Pollution campaign including launch highlights and next steps will be given at the Environment and Sustainability Panel on 29 October.

Signage Project

The signage project aims to test the effectiveness and long-term impact road-side signage, based on psychological messaging, has on behaviour change around no idling. The signage will be fixed to existing streetlights, the locations of which have been checked for suitability and agreed by Essex County Council and include Brook Street, East Street and the East Gates Rail Crossing. All locations sit within an Air Quality Management Area. A planning application was submitted to CBC and approval was granted on 20 October 2020, the signage is expected to go up in November 2020.

Officers are in liaison with the University of Essex, Anglia Ruskin and the University of Kent to find a delivery partner to provide ongoing evaluation of the signage. A bank of casual staff are in the process of being recruited as research assistants to collect traffic data which will enable us to monitor the effectiveness of the signs. Training of the research assistants will commence in coming weeks.

Mobile Pollution Sensors

As part of the signage project, mentioned above, CBC received funding from DEFRA to buy portable pollution monitors. The aim is for the monitors to be worn by the research assistants when they are at the signage locations. This will provide us with real-time roadside pollution levels to supplement readings from the diffusion tubes and the traffic count data. This means we can start to build up an accurate picture of how effective the signs are and what impact they are having on pollution levels within the AQMA. A review is currently underway into monitors available on the market. Two portable monitors have been purchased to trial and are currently being tested by residents within the AQMA to assess ease of use before any further financial commitment is made.

Feasibility Study into Driver Facing Countdown Timers

CBC was awarded a second round of funding in March 2020 for a feasibility study into driver facing countdown timers on red traffic lights. It was following findings from the community engagement in which 56% of people said they would regularly switch their engine off if they knew how long they would be waiting for at traffic lights.

The feasibility study has been carried out in-house in liaison with Essex County Council and the Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) who are the developers of the SCOOT technology which runs on traffic lights across Essex. The feasibility work has concluded that it will not be possible to integrate a timer onto traffic lights in Colchester. A timer will only work on 'fixed sequence' traffic lights and not SCOOT operated lights.

TRL have advised that there is an alternative option we could consider that would both integrate with the SCOOT system and give drivers a visual prompt (although not a timer) to switch their engine off whilst waiting at a red light. We are currently exploring the detail,

costs and technicalities of this option and will provide a written update once we are clearer on how and if we can take this element of the project forward.

Bikeability Study with Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) & Essex County Council (ECC)

We have been working with ARU and ECC to develop a study which explores how the current Bikeability provision could be enhanced to get more children cycling and cycling more often. We have finalised pre and post Bikeability questionnaires for participants and their parents/ carers. There are currently five schools with confirmed Bikeability sessions in October – Home Farm, Lexden, Roach Vale, Kendall and St James Primary. We are hoping more schools will sign up once they have settled into the new term. A follow up focus group will be arranged later in the year before the findings are analysed and recommendations for enhancements made. We hope to share the findings with other local authorities.

Monkwick Residents Area

A key objective within the air quality project is to carry out focused behaviour change work with a target resident area to increase walking and cycling. Based on insight from our earlier engagement, mapping work and a review of forth-coming projects/ initiatives we have chosen Monkwick as our resident area. From our research we know that going into town is one of the most common short journeys people make in their cars. Monkwick has an accessible walking/ cycling route into town and if more people were to use it, it would mean less cars driving through the AMQA. We are in the very early planning stages of this element of the project but will be taking an ABCD approach and are soon to start conversations with stakeholders in the area.

6. Standard References

- 6.1 There are no particular references to the Strategic Plan; consultation or publicity considerations or financial; community safety; health and safety or risk management implications.

29 October 2020

Report of	Assistant Director Environment	Author	Richard Walker
Title	Positive Parking Review		☎ 507855
Wards affected	All		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Panel will receive an update on the Positive Parking Review that has been undertaken to inform Colchester's Parking Strategy for the next five years. The strategy is in the process of being finalised to reflect feedback from public consultation before being taken to Cabinet for endorsement.
- 1.2 Implementation of the recommendations in the strategy will ensure the continued prosperity of the town and its shopping and business centres whilst mitigating the manageable factors that contribute towards environmental damage.
- 1.3 The strategy will set out the future of Colchester's carparks. This includes some adjustments to tariffs to manage demand and combines this with positive innovations that could offset increases for motorists who can subsequently adjust travel patterns and behaviour.

2. Action Required

- 2.1 To consider an update/presentation on progress with the strategy, and have the opportunity to ask questions before a final draft of the strategy is presented to Cabinet.

3. Reason for Action

- 3.1 Environmental impact is a key element of the Council's Parking Strategy

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 Not applicable

5. Background Information

- 5.1 Having adequate car parking facilities is particularly important in helping to deliver the Council's programme that supports regeneration of the town centre, helps manage air quality and reduce congestion, whilst seeking to improve the commercial vitality of the town, encourage greater footfall and to improve the public realm and streetscape enhancements. The supply and provision of adequate, accessible and good quality car parking is important to visitors and residents alike.
- 5.2 Following its Climate Emergency declaration, Colchester Borough Council must look at ways to influence motorist behaviour. A change on just one day a week could take a fifth of the traffic out of the peak, with consequent improvements in air quality, reductions in congestion and CO2 emissions. Small changes can reap rewards in terms of congestion

management.

- 5.3 The Council is also installing its first Electric Vehicle (EV) charging point in a shoppers and residential car park to encourage alternatives to internal combustion engine car travel, reducing air pollution at the point of use.
- 5.4 The quality and availability of off-street car parking, including realistic charges compared with other travel modes has an impact on the number of people visiting our towns and using the facilities they have to offer.
- 5.5 The Strategy sets out several recommendations which, if implemented, will assist in managing the issues above whilst continuing to support the economic vitality of the town centre in very challenging times.

6. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

- 6.1 In revising any strategy there is a need to consider the impacts. The current EIA is in the process of being reviewed.

7. Strategic Plan References

- 7.1 An effective Parking Strategy underpins the entire Strategic Plan in that it should seek to support economic prosperity, influence car usage to reduce the impact on the environment, promote healthy behaviours, active travel and alternatives etc and make our communities an attractive place to live, work and visit.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 Public consultation has been undertaken.

9. Publicity Considerations

- 9.1 A communications plan is in development to ensure the strategy is effectively communicated.

10. Financial implications

- 10.1 Off street car parks generate £3.6 million income per annum which is used to support other services provided by the Council. The impact of Covid will see this reduce by approximately £1.8m in 20/21. Future pricing strategy, alongside motorist behaviour, will influence income levels.

11. Community Safety Implications

- 11.1 An effective car parking strategy needs to take account of the potential crime and antisocial behaviour issues that can arise in car parks.

12. Health and Safety Implications

- 12.1 Not applicable

13. Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 13.1 The proposed strategy recognises the environmental and climate change implications of car usage. However, there is a sensitive balance between unduly influencing car usage to impact negatively on the prosperity and vibrancy of the Town Centre.
- 13.2 Considering petrol/diesel car usage is necessary for the period covered by this strategy, it proposes to use tariffs to influence behaviour to limit the environmental impact such as higher charges during peak times. Where tariffs are adjusted, they could also be used to generate a revenue stream that could then be used for activity to offset the environmental impact of car usage.

29 October 2020

Report of	Assistant Director of Environment	Author	Jane Thompson ☎ 508642
Title	Safer Greener Healthier – Active Travel In Colchester		
Wards affected	All		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines the work Essex County Council are carrying out to encourage more walking and cycling in Colchester, including the funding bid to Government to improve the routes and access to the town centre. This is part of the Government's initiative to promote active travel to help people access the town centres, jobs and services in a sustainable way, as part of the Covid19 recovery plan.

2. Recommended Decision

- 2.1 The Panel are asked to consider the report and give feedback to support the measures being proposed.

3. Reason for Recommended Decision

- 3.1 Support from the Panel will help ECC in their bid for funding and assist with the implementation of the proposed measures. A positive response will mean investment in active travel in Colchester

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 To not give ECC support for the measures could make it difficult to promote active travel in Colchester

5. Background Information

5.1 Essex County Council (ECC) have developed a programme to help deliver and enabling Safer, Greener and Healthier travel for current and future users of the transport network in Essex. Government invited Highway Authorities to submit a programme of measures to help deliver –

- More people walking and cycling for travel
- Improving physical and mental health
- Safer, quieter streets and Improved public realm
- Thriving local communities with better local economies and revitalised High Streets
- Increasing local jobs and benefit to local businesses
- Reduced congestion
- Improved air quality
- Combat climate change
- Be a blueprint for the future of sustainable transport

5.2 ECC are working with the Borough Council, stakeholders and the business community to develop measures to help deliver the objectives. These include –

- Continuous cycle tracks with priority over motor vehicles at junctions
- Contraflow cycling in one way/no entry streets considered where this will give a continuous route
- Cycle tracks and crossings segregated from pedestrians to improve the walking and browsing environment
- 20mph zones, Safer School Streets and Liveable (Low Traffic) Neighbourhoods to improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians, and make the neighbourhood a more pleasant place to be.

5.3 Plans are being drawn up to introduce a north - south and east-west route which allow better access into the town centre, as well as a secure cycle hub for commuters, shoppers and visitors to securely park their bikes. Safer school streets and within the vicinity of the routes are being considered

5.4 The work with the business community is important to ensure servicing and parking are considered in the designs.

5.5 ECC expect to hear if their bid for funding has been successful by early November. If it is successful then design work and community engagement will follow very soon after.

6. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

6.1 This is an ECC project, therefore ECC will carry out equality, diversity and human rights considerations as part of their design process.

7. Standard References

7.1 There are no particular references to the Strategic Plan; consultation or publicity considerations or financial; community safety; health and safety or risk management implications.

29 October 2020

Report of	Assistant Director Corporate and Improvement Services	Author	Matthew Evans ☎ ext. 8006
Title	Work Programme 2020-2021		
Wards affected	Not applicable		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the current Work Programme 2020-2021 for the Environment and Sustainability Panel. This provides details of the reports that are scheduled for each meeting during the municipal year.

2. Recommended Decision

- 2.1 The Panel is asked to note the contents of the Work Programme for 2020-2021.

3. Reason for Recommended Decision

- 3.1 The Work Programme of this Panel is kept under review throughout the municipal year to ensure that business is progressed and Members have the opportunity to review upcoming agenda items.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 This function forms part of the Panel's Terms of Reference and, as such, no alternative options are presented.

5. Background Information

- 5.1 The Environment and Sustainability Panel deals with existing and emerging environmental issues, and will focus on carbon footprint reduction and monitoring and supporting the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan.
- 5.2 The Panel's Work Programme will evolve as the Municipal Year progresses and items of business are commenced and concluded. At each meeting the opportunity is taken for the Work Programme to be reviewed and, if necessary, amended according to current circumstances.

6. Standard References

- 6.1 There are no particular references to publicity or consultation considerations; or financial; equality, diversity and human rights; community safety; health and safety, environmental and sustainability implications or risk management implications.

7. Strategic Plan References

- 7.1 Environmental Sustainability is integral to the delivery of the Strategic Plan's priorities and direction for the Borough as set out under the four themes of growth, responsibility, opportunity and wellbeing.

WORK PROGRAMME 2020-21

Environment and Sustainability Panel
Meeting date / Agenda items -
Environment and Sustainability Panel - 17 September 2020
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Climate Emergency - One Year On2. Greening Colchester
Environment and Sustainability Panel – 29 October 2020
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sustainability & Community Engagement2. Air Quality Project Update3. Positive Parking Strategy4. Safer, Greener, Healthier update
Environment and Sustainability Panel - 17 December 2020
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Developing a Carbon Management for Colchester (Carbon Trust)2. Discussion of an Interim Action Plan (for 2021)3. Decarbonising our Fleet (EST)

Environment and Sustainability Panel - 28 January 2021
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sustainability in Planning2. Ecargo bike update3. Developing an Environmental Sustainability Strategy
Environment and Sustainability Panel – 11 March 2021
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Woodland Project Update2. Town Deal

