

# Environment and Sustainability Panel Meeting

**Grand Jury Room, Town Hall, High Street,  
Colchester, CO1 1PJ**

**Wednesday, 22 June 2022 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.

## Access to information and meetings

You have the right to attend all meetings of the Council, its Committees and Cabinet. You also have the right to see the agenda (the list of items to be discussed at a meeting), which is usually published 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>.

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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**  
**Wednesday, 22 June 2022 at 18:00**

**The Environment and Sustainability Panel Members are:**

Councillor Lee Scordis	Chairman
Councillor Tracey Arnold	Deputy Chairman
Councillor Lewis Barber	
Councillor Molly Bloomfield	
Councillor Michelle Burrows	
Councillor Nigel Chapman	
Councillor Andrew Ellis	
Councillor Mark Goacher	
Councillor Sue Lissimore	
Councillor Kayleigh Rippingale	
Councillor Michael Spindler	

**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**

The Chairman will welcome members of the public and Councillors and remind everyone to use microphones at all times when they are speaking. The Chairman will also explain action in the event of an emergency, mobile phones switched to silent, audio-recording of the meeting. Councillors who are members of the committee will introduce themselves.

**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 22 March 2022 and 25 May 2022 are a correct record.

**Environment and Sustainability Panel draft minutes 22-03-2022** 7 - 16

**Environment and Sustainability Panel draft minutes 25-05-2022** 17 - 18

**6 Have Your Say! (Hybrid meetings)**

Members of the public may make representations to the meeting. This can be made either in person at the meeting or by joining the meeting remotely and addressing the Council via Zoom. Each representation may be no longer than three minutes. Members of the public wishing to address the Council remotely may register their wish to address the meeting by e-mailing [democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk) 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.



There is no requirement to pre register for those attending the meeting in person.

**7 Overview of progress on Environment and Sustainability** 19 - 28

The Panel will consider a report reminding members of the Council's work on tackling the climate emergency and outlining some upcoming priorities for the year.

**8 Climate Emergency Action Plan Update** 29 - 34

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 22 March 2022.

**9 Work Programme 2022-2023**

35 - 38

The Panel will consider a report setting out the proposed work programme for the forthcoming municipal year.

**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)**

## Environment and Sustainability Panel

22 March 2022

**Present:** Councillor Lewis Barber  
Councillor Peter Chillingworth  
Councillor Mark Cory  
Councillor David King  
Councillor Scordis  
Councillor Julie Young (Chair)

**Substitutes:**

### 61. Minutes of the previous meeting

*RESOLVED* that: the amended minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

### 62. Have Your Say!

Alex Stevenson attended the meeting and addressed the Panel in accordance with Colchester Borough Council (the Council)'s Have Your Say! provisions, and informed the Panel that she was particularly interested in the agenda items concerning the Recycling and Waste Strategy proposal, and community engagement. As someone who had campaigned against the Rivenhall incinerator, she was concerned at the emissions that would be generated by this site, which would be approximately 500,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year, which did not include the additional emissions which would be generated through the transportation of the waste to the site, and therefore considered that it was essential that the production of waste was tackled at its source. She considered that the Council should do all in its power to encourage producers to do all that they could to reduce the packaging that was produced in conjunction with their products. In addition to this, the provision of an education programme should be considered to help people make informed choices about the packaging they consumed, thereby reducing the need for recycling.

In respect of community engagement, the Panel was advised that the Council's efforts should be directed towards contacting residents who did not currently take an interest in environmental issues, as opposed to reaching those who were already engaged in the issues. It was considered that the Council should take advantage of research which had been carried out which demonstrated the economic value of the environment, as a method of achieving this engagement. Local authorities had a vital role to play in ensuring that future generations were able to enjoy the same lifestyle that residents were currently able to lead.

Councillor Young noted the request that Colchester Borough Council lead the way in terms of waste strategy, and pointed out that in the past the Council had been the

only local authority in Essex which had refused to sign up to an inter-authority waste agreement which included incineration. Although the Council had been penalised financially for this decision at the time, it had since been shown to have been the right thing to do.

Mandy Jones, Assistant Director - Place and Client Services, confirmed that with regard to communication, consideration had been given recently to behavioural insights and how the Council needed to take into account research to try to encourage people to behave differently. This was on the Council's agenda for the future to ensure that it communicated effectively with all groups and types of people.

### **63. Recycling and Waste Strategy development proposal**

Councillor Crow, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability, attended the meeting and addressed the Panel. The Panel heard that the Waste and Recycling Service was a fundamental function of Colchester Borough Council (the Council), and it was vital that this was carried out correctly. In the seven years since the launch of the Council's current Waste Vision and Strategy, the population of Colchester had grown and the effects of lockdowns had changed the way that residents lived, worked and shopped. The changes which would be imposed by the Environment Act meant that it was now appropriate to review the Strategy to ensure that it reflected the Council's stated goals in supporting residents to reduce, reuse and recycle. The Strategy would be developed over the coming eighteen months with public engagement, and The Environment and Sustainability Panel would be invited to work closely with Officers during this time.

Rosa Tanfield, Group Manager – Neighbourhood Services, attended the meeting to present the report and assist the Panel with its enquiries. Since the last Strategy had been implemented, the Council had performed very well and was ranked highly in the eastern region when compared to other councils in areas such as the amount of residual waste which was produced, and the volume of recycling undertaken by residents. The Panel heard that the Environment Act would impact the way in which the Council operated, and could impact collections and income from as early as 2023/2024. Additionally, Essex County Council were reviewing the Essex Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (EJMWMS), and it was therefore timely that the Council consider a new Strategy.

It was proposed that the Council develop a vision containing a number of strategic objectives, leading towards 2030, which would align with the Climate Emergency Action Plan, and the transition of the Council's fleet to electric vehicles. The Strategy would be developed over three phases, and would be based on three key principles; the use of evidence and data as part of the decision making process, evaluation and the use of prototypes and pilots to give insights and aid in the development of the Strategy.

The project would take account of both strategic and operational drivers, which would include areas such as waste separation, increasing recycling rates, operational resilience and the simplification of service delivery. To ensure that the



Strategy was robust, it would be tested against key areas of the service including environment, the public and operations.

It was proposed that the Strategy be developed in accordance with five main objectives:

1. Value for money
2. Providing a safe, simple, compliant and resilient service
3. Have a community asset based approach
4. Minimise the impact on the environment
5. Be transformative

There would be three main phases of the development of the Strategy, taking place over an eighteen month programme which would be developed in more detail with the Panel as the project was launched. The Panel was being asked to agree the proposed approach's objectives, principles and testing.

Jason Searles, Head of Waste Policy and Circular Economy for Essex County Council, attended the meeting to address the Panel. The Panel heard that the Essex Waste Partnership was represented by all twelve local authorities in Essex and was currently working on the development of a new Joint Waste Strategy. This Strategy was necessary as waste collection in the county was an extremely complicated process, with actions taken by a single authority having a knock-on effect across the county. It was therefore important for authorities to work together to improve efficiency and reducing system conflict.

The EJMWS had been in effect since 2008, and although it had been successful in a number of key areas such as minimising waste, achieving high levels of recycling and composting and the expansion of kerbside collection services, it was no longer aligned with national policy and emerging legislation and regulations. Some of the key factors behind the need to review the EJMWS were the Environment Act, the increased need to tackle climate change, a greater desire on the part of businesses and the public to do more towards reducing waste, and an overall change in the nature of consumerism which needed to be reflected. Although initial early gains had been made in terms of the reduction in residual waste and an increase in recycling after the EJMWS had been introduced, these levels had now stabilised and a review was necessary to continue to produce improvements in these areas.

The process which was to be followed in reviewing the EJMWS was similar to that which has been adopted by the Council, and consideration was being given to the improvement of collections systems across the county, together with disposal solutions. Following initial modelling of the options which were available, there would be a public consultation phase of approximately three to four months towards the end of the year and the results of this would inform the project development. There was already a strong focus on reducing the volume of waste produced, together with driving up recycling rates, however, it was recognised that there would be a continued need for some waste disposal in the future.

It was intended that the EJMWS would be ready for adoption in approximately twelve to eighteen months time, and it would be up to individual local authorities whether or not they chose to adopt it, either in full or in part.

Councillor Chillingworth noted the importance of the waste and recycling service offered by the Council to all residents, and considered that the service which was currently offered was one of the best in the country. The most important driver for reviewing the Council's activities in this regard was the Environment Act 2021, which would have far reaching implications for all local authorities, and he offered his full support for the review of the Strategy and the manner in which this was proposed to be carried out.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor King, Jason Searles confirmed that the practical challenges which would be faced would potentially be difficult to overcome. In the past there had been different views across authorities in Essex, however, it was now hoped that there was now a shared vision in local authorities who were seeking to provide services with high levels of recycling, and the commitment which had been shown to this aim by Officers and Members was a big positive in overcoming any difficulty. From a strategic point of view, Rosa Tanfield reminded the Panel that the Environment Act 2021 was concerned with driving up consistency in waste collections, and afforded the Council an opportunity to align its strategies and policies. It was anticipated that central government would help to drive communication and engagement with the general public in relation to these issues, however, due to the work which had already been carried out, the Council was in a strong position to communicate with its residents directly. Although there was a gap between the current position and the Council's ambition, it was considered that the Council was in a good position to make the necessary changes in the future to deliver its Strategy.

The Panel heard that one of the largest obstacles facing local authorities was how to engage with residents who were not currently involved in recycling that was offered. A recent study by Essex County Council revealed that 25% of black bag waste was still made up of food recycling, despite the fact that food recycling services were offered across the County. Encouraging much broader participation in recycling schemes required complex issues to be tackled both locally and nationally.

Councillor Cory offered his support for the Have Your Say! speaker, and considered that the Council had a leadership role in putting pressure on the producers of packaging to reduce the waste they created, even if it could not directly control this. It was his opinion that the waste and recycling service offered by the Council was fantastic, and had operated extremely efficiently throughout the recent pandemic, balancing the cost of providing the service against the necessary performance. Councillor Cory was pleased to welcome a representative from Essex County Council to the meeting, and considered that close working between the two organisations in the future was the key to the success of the project. Jason Searles noted that despite difficulties with the Council receiving funding from Essex County Council in the past, over the past few years the Council had received funding to

assist with food recycling services which was above that which was required by legislation.

Councillor Scordis considered that it should be made as easy as possible for residents to recycle their waste, and wondered whether Essex County Council had the capacity to deal with increased levels of recycling in the future. He considered it would be helpful to show the various transitions which waste went through as a means of educating the public, and in particular young people, and believed that the Council should have as firm an enforcement policy as was possible to allow it to target problem areas. Rosa confirmed that as part of the development of the Strategy, it was proposed to run workshop sessions which would allow details such as these to be incorporated into the Council's work in the future. The Panel heard that the processing of recycling waste was to come extent reliant on the market for recycled goods, and it was an aim of the Environment Act 2021 to improve the quality of recycled waste, as well as reducing this waste at its source.

Councillor Barber supported the comments that had been made in the meeting in relation to reducing the amount of waste that was generated and to ensure that recycling was made as easy as possible for residents. He wondered how the desired increase in the consistency of recycling waste would be achieved, and Rosa advised that a number of elements of the Environment Act 2021 were specifically concerned with this, such as the Deposit Return Scheme, and the Extended Producer Responsibility elements of the legislation.

Councillor Young reminded the Panel that it was being asked to approve the proposed approach, objectives, principles and testing which had been set out in the report provided to it. She considered that the proposed objective of minimising the impact of waste on the environment should assigned a higher priority that it currently appeared to have, based on the list of objectives provided. She considered the challenges which had been faced by the waste and recycling service in the past, and believed that staff welfare should also form part of the objectives of the proposed Strategy. Councillor Cory considered it necessary to pursue funding streams to enable an innovative approach to be taken to increasing levels of recycling, both in terms of funding from Essex County Council and from central government in partnership with Essex County Council.

Rosa confirmed to the Panel that workshops would be arranged in the future to discuss the future objectives of the Strategy in greater detail, and the Panel would consider regular updates on progress of the Strategy.

*RESOLVED* that: the proposed approach, objectives, principles and testing as set out in the report in relation to the development of Colchester Borough Council's Recycling and Waste Strategy be agreed.

#### **64. Community Engagement and Climate Emergency - Update**

Jill Bruce, Lead Climate Ambassador for the Essex Federation of Women's Institutes, attended the meeting and addressed the Panel in accordance with

Colchester Borough Council (the Council)'s Have Your Say! provisions. The Panel was urged to increase communication with the community on climate action to promote the impressive work which had been undertaken in this regard. The Panel were advised that Colchester Borough Council (the Council) was a trusted organisation which could use its influence to ensure that advantage was taken of as many government grants as possible by advising the local community of what was available to them. It was noted that when council tax invoices were sent to residents, they often included inserts with the invoice, and this would be an opportunity to raise awareness of available grant funding and provide additional relevant information. Although the Council was doing good work in this area, and making use of its social media accounts and other channels, Jill urged for more action to be taken, believing that there was still not enough public awareness.

Mandy Jones, Assistant Director - Place and Client Services, welcomed the points which had been made, and considered that there was scope for considering how the Council made use of its contacts with individuals and groups such as the Women's Institute, in the future. There was an opportunity to carry out some of this work with the Council's own social housing tenants, and it was key to the Council's communication strategy that a process of continuous evaluation of the effectiveness of various methods of communication was undertaken.

Ben Plummer, Climate Emergency Project Officer, attended the meeting to present the report and assist the Panel with its enquiries. The report gave an outline of the different methods by which the Council carried out community engagement, which sought to both inform residents about the work being undertaken by the Council, as well as a method for consultation to seek the views of interested parties and encourage collaborative working with communities.

Councillor Chillingworth addressed the Panel and explained that his personal view, which was in no way a criticism of Officers, was that the Council was missing the opportunity to effectively demonstrate to residents what action was being taken to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss. The Council had declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019, and resolved to publicise this to the people of Colchester to raise awareness and support the public to take effective action. The Council had undertaken great works in its quest for carbon neutrality by 2030, but was failing to publicise this effectively. To meet the national target for carbon neutrality was a huge task, and local authorities who were close to their communities had a key role to play in achieving this – enabling people to understand the problem and showing them what needed to be done. Although he considered that the Council was doing a good job with engaging with communities, more communication was needed, particularly targeted at people who were less aware of the issues that were faced.

Councillor Chillingworth had attempted to use the Council's website to find information, but his search for 'climate change' had only returned three relevant results, some of which were outdated. He considered that the Council should set up a dedicated website which covered environmental issues, and which would be accessed via a clear link from the Council's website homepage. The dedicated webpage might include information such as a clear scientific story explaining climate

change, links to the latest news and to authoritative websites, and information about the latest government policies. It could also set out the work that the Council had undertaken, including working with the Carbon Trust and the fleet transition. Advice could also be given on action which residents could take themselves and what financial support was available to them to assist. It was also suggested that the website should offer the facility for posing questions, feedback and discussion, and it should be kept up to date with interesting articles and links to social media to maximise its accessibility. It was accepted that maintaining such a website would have cost implications, however, Councillor Chillingworth proposed that a recommendation be made to Cabinet that his suggestion be implemented, if the Panel supported this.

Councillor Barber supported the points that had been made, but further considered that local Councillors should also be challenged to share information themselves among their constituents, and he would welcome challenge from Officers as to whether he had done this effectively.

Councillor Cory considered that between 2018 and 2021 the Council had carried out some excellent work, but despite the obvious Officer commitment he remained frustrated by the lack of success in communicating this to the public. He offered his support for the suggestions which had been made by Councillor Chillingworth as a recommendation to Cabinet, and further considered that a communications officers dedicated to promoting the environmental work of the Council would be useful.

Ben Plummer advised the Panel that there was significant information on the Council's website in relation to environmental issues, although he could not comment on the function of the search facility. The current information was collected under the heading "sustainability and climate action", and included some information on the Council's work to date and action that local residents could take. The Panel were advised that a partner organisation, Eco-Colchester, maintained a comprehensive website with guides for residents and other information, and there was signposting on the Council's website to this site.

It had been noted that in the past Councillors had stated that they wished to do more to promote the Council's projects and wider assistance that was available to residents, and a monthly update had been circulated to all Councillors to facilitate this sharing of information about key projects and grant opportunities. Regular updates were also provided to Town and Parish Councils about opportunities which were available for them, and which could also be disseminated to their residents.

Mandy Jones advised the Panel that in her experience, most websites were used for completing transactions as opposed to seeking information, and information was more commonly sought via social media. More could be done to make additional content available via the Council's current website, but the Panel were advised that creating an additional platform would be difficult to achieve as it would require significant additional resources to keep this up to date. She considered that working with partners such as the Essex Climate Action Commission would be useful to maximise the reach of the Council's communications, before going ahead and creating a brand new platform. The Panel heard that use of the Council's website

was low apart from transactional engagements, and people wishing to find information would use a search facility such as google to find it, rather than visiting a specific website. It was suggested that the Council's communications were examined on a wider scale, with consideration being given to encouraging visits to the webpages which the Council currently had.

Councillor King supported the suggestions which had been made, and wondered whether external funding could be secured to support such a project. He noted that the Council had a large workforce, and wondered whether it would be possible to use this as a means of communicating the Council's message to a wider audience. Mandy Jones confirmed to the Panel that webinars had been carried out with staff in relation to the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan, with the aim of empowering them to become ambassadors for the Council in this regard, and Officers were also involved in awareness raising events across the borough.

Ben Plummer acknowledged the importance of digital communication, and advised the Panel that much of what had been discussed was already being carried out by the Council. He did, however, urge the Panel not to lose sight of the importance of in-person events for engaging the public and raising awareness of the Council's work among residents who may not be reached by digital means. Additional question and answer sessions were being considered to allow residents to pose questions to Officers, which had been successful elsewhere in Essex in engaging people.

It was suggested that green communication channels could be an item included in the work programme of future Panels.

*RESOLVED* that:

A recommendation be made to Cabinet that Colchester Borough Council establishes a website dedicated to environmental issues, accessed via an easy, simple link from Colchester Borough Council's home page, to cover subjects such as:

1. A clear scientific story of what the climate problem is and why it has happened. This would include pollution and biodiversity loss, latest news and links where possible to authoritative websites.
2. Government targets and policies.
3. What the Council is doing, its work with The Carbon Trust, its Climate Emergency Action Plan, its fleet transition, etc.
4. What people can do themselves; householder advice, tips, financial aid schemes.
5. What partner organisations and commercial companies are doing in Colchester.
6. What Town and Parish Councils are doing.
7. Volunteer news and programmes.

8. What can be done around Listed property, Conservation areas and the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
9. Feedback, questions, and interactive discussion.

**65. Climate Emergency Action Plan – Summary of Progress 2021/2022**

Ben Plummer, Climate Emergency Project Officer, attended the meeting to present the report and assist the Panel with its enquiries. The Panel heard that the report that had been presented to it contained some highlights of the work which had been carried out throughout the preceding year, which had already been considered by the Panel in previous meetings.

The Panel had no questions in relation to the report which had been presented, and offered its fulsome thanks to Ben and other Officers for their work over the preceding year, and the numerous achievements which had been recorded.

*RESOLVED* that: the contents of the report be noted.

**66. Work Programme 2021-2022**

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

*RESOLVED* that: the contents of the work programme be noted.





## Environment and Sustainability Panel

25 May 2022

**Present:**

Councillor Tracey Arnold  
Councillor Lewis Barber  
Councillor Molly Bloomfield  
Councillor Michelle Burrows  
Councillor Nigel Chapman  
Councillor Andrew Ellis  
Councillor Mark Goacher  
Councillor Sue Lissimore  
Councillor Kayleigh Rippingale  
Councillor Lee Scordis  
Councillor Michael Spindler

**Substitutes:**

**67. Appointment of Chair**

*RESOLVED* that: Councillor Lee Scordis be appointed as Chair for the forthcoming municipal year.

**68. Appointment of Deputy Chair**

*RESOLVED* that: Councillor Tracey Arnold be appointed as Deputy Chair for the forthcoming municipal year.



22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022

<b>Report of</b>	<b>Assistant Director of Place and Client Services</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Ben Plummer</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Overview of progress on Environment and Sustainability</b>		
<b>Wards affected</b>	All		

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report reminds members of the Council's work on tackling the climate emergency and outlines some upcoming priorities for the year. Another report published alongside with this Agenda covers short term progress made between April-June 2022 on key projects in the Climate Emergency Action Plan.
- 1.2 In its declaration of a climate emergency, the Council has set a target to reach net zero operational carbon emissions by 2030. The Council's emissions are monitored annually, with the most recent calculations completed for financial year 20/21 showing the Council's emissions were 5,406 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e, a 17.4% reduction since 2018/19 (the baseline year set when the climate emergency was declared).
- 1.3 All of the Council's main projects and actions contributing to tackling the climate emergency are reported on through the Climate Emergency Action Plan. This is made up of 8 themes and contains over 50 actions. Significant progress has been made with the actions in 2021/22 as shown with some examples below:
  - Involvement of 400 volunteers in the planting of 20,000 trees on Council green spaces as part of the Woodland and Biodiversity Project
  - Continuing vehicle fleet transition with the purchase of 5 fully electric vehicles for the North Essex Parking Partnership (and the introduction of hybrids for other services including Helpline)
  - Over 100,000 miles travelled on eCargo bikes as part of Colchester eCargo bike library project
  - Installation of 3 electric vehicle charge points in Priory Street Car Park
  - Extensive marketing and awareness raising of the Council's CAREless Pollution Campaign and signage installed in town centre to improve air quality in Colchester.
  - Investment in 4 smart waste bins as part of a trial to test the effectiveness of these bins for collection efficiencies
- 1.4 There are several key priorities for financial year 2022/23, to progress the work in the Climate Emergency Action Plan. These are shown below:
  - Creation of a new Carbon Management Plan to identify opportunities for reducing carbon emissions at high emitting assets such as Leisure World, and our heritage buildings such as Colchester Castle and the Town Hall.
  - Work to support active travel in Colchester, including the creation of the secure cycle park, shared travel hubs and electric car club.

- Developments on several key strategies that link strongly to the climate emergency including the Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy and Waste and Recycling Strategy
- Working in partnership with Essex County Council on sustainable travel and understanding an approach to supporting the electric vehicle transition in Colchester.

## **2. Recommended Decision**

- 2.1 The Panel is asked to note the contents of the report summarising progress on environment and sustainability, and review and comment on the Council's related priorities for the coming year.

## **3. Reason for Recommended Decision**

- 3.1 To note the progress made to date relating and to provide any feedback on work carried out so far.

## **4. Alternative Options**

- 4.1 Not Applicable

## 5. Background information

- 5.1 The Council declared a climate emergency on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019, setting a target to reach net zero operational emissions by 2030. Since then, significant work has been done to move this work forward and progress towards the target.

### Council Emissions

- 5.2 The Council calculated its baseline operational emissions in financial year 2018/19 which totalled 6,549.3 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e. The emission sources from the Council considered within this are:

- Gas and electricity consumption in Council buildings
- Fuel consumption from Council buildings
- Staff commuting and business travel
- Waste production in Council buildings (emissions associated with transporting waste)
- Water consumption in Council buildings (emissions associated with treatment of water)

- 5.3 The most recent emissions calculation for financial year 2020/21, showed emissions in that year were 5,406.4 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e, which is a 17.4% reduction (since 2018/19). A breakdown of these emissions is shown below.

Table 1: Colchester Borough Council emissions breakdown for financial year 2020/21

Emission source	Emissions in FY 2020/21 (tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> e)
Gas consumption in buildings (including WFH)	2620.4
Electricity consumption in buildings (including WFH)	1,093.1
Fuel consumption from CBC fleet	1,456.6
Staff commuting	30.8
Staff business travel	68.9
Water consumption in Council buildings	23.1
Waste production in Council buildings (transportation of waste)	113.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,406.4</b>

- 5.4 Additionally, there are several emission sources indirectly associated with the Council's operations that are estimated using the best available data. This includes emissions from the Council's procured goods and services, the Council's housing stock, leased buildings. More information about the Council's emissions can be found [here](#).

### Climate Emergency Action Plan

- 5.5 The Council's [Climate Emergency Action Plan](#) provides the structure and outlines the action areas for tackling the climate emergency. The plan is made up of 8 themes and over 50 actions. The 8 themes are:

1. Reducing emissions from our buildings and fleet to help achieve a net zero carbon footprint by 2030
2. Produce renewable energy
3. Enhance biodiversity and protect our environment
4. Facilitate walking, cycling and sustainable transport around Colchester
5. Provide sustainable waste management and support residents to reduce, reuse and recycle
6. Enable partnerships and community action for sustainability and low carbon development
7. Ensure sustainable planning and development
8. Change the way we work to achieve our climate commitment

5.6. Progress with actions in the action plan is monitored across the Council and reported to the Environment and Sustainability Panel. Significant progress was made with actions the plan in 2021/22, outlined below:

### **Reduce carbon emissions from our buildings and fleet**

5.7 Key highlights from this theme include:

- Reported emissions reduction of **12.8% between financial year 2019/20 and financial year 2020/21**. Covid-19 impacted these emissions, but it did help us to understand the difference home working and a reduction in commuting can make to our emissions.
- Updating our **emissions pathway to 2030**, identifying the difference planned actions will make to our emissions and understanding where gaps exist for further emissions reductions to occur.
- Beginning the **transition to electric vehicles (EVs)**, with the purchase of 4 hybrid vehicles that arrived in January 2022, with 6 electric vehicles arriving in June 2022, and a further 13 small vehicles to after that when infrastructure is available. 10 EV charge points have also been installed in St John's Car park for charging council vehicles, along with a further 12 charge points in Rowan House car park when fully completed by the end of June 2022.
- Development of a **Housing Asset Management Strategy**, which outlined the target for all Council owned homes to reach a minimum EPC rating of C by 2030.
- Start of the process to **rebuild Elfreda House to Future Homes Standard**, due for completion in May 2023.

### **Produce renewable energy**

5.8 Key highlights from this theme include:

- Furthering the development of the **Northern Gateway Heat Network** to the stage where post contract negotiations are underway for the contract award to build the central energy centre and network infrastructure to link the network to buildings that will be part of the Northern Gateway development.
- Budgeted £5.76m for the creation of a **solar park and microgrid** subject to a detailed business case being developed, which will contribute to powering the Northern Gateway development with renewable energy.

### **Enhance biodiversity and protect our environment**

5.9 Key highlights from this theme include:

- Planting of 20,000 trees on 11 different Council green spaces as part of the **Woodland and Biodiversity Project** during the Winter 21/22 planting season. Over 400 people have volunteered to help plant the trees. A further 23,000 have been delivered to parish councils, local schools and landowners. The project has managed to engage with a variety of stakeholders including town and parish councils, local schools, community organisations such as Together We Grow CIC and Refugee Action Colchester, and residents some of which have become highly involved in the project as tree guardians.
- Successful trials of **changes to mowing regimes and phasing out of glyphosate** on some Council green spaces. Wivenhoe Town Council also took part in this trial, identifying 150 different wildflower species and 3-29 more flowers in the unmown areas compared to mown. The trials are being reviewed and will continue to be delivered in 2022.

## Facilitate walking, cycling and sustainable transport around Colchester

### 5.10 Key highlights from this theme include:

- Delivering the **Colchester eCargo bike library project** to promote eCargo bikes as a viable option for organisations and businesses to use for their deliveries and options instead of cars or vans. Over 100,000 miles have been travelled by project champions, Council officers and other organisations and individuals who have been using the bikes on short term loans. The launch of the eCargo bike delivery project has been significant for engaging with local businesses and charities in Colchester to arrange to make deliveries by eCargo bike for them.
- Increasing the awareness of air quality and the impact of no idling across Colchester through the **CAREless Pollution campaign** and signage trials to promote no idling. The CAREless Pollution campaign has engaged with businesses, schools, religious groups and has been shown at a variety of community events, earning it a 'Highly Commended' award in the 'Consumer Engagement/Marketing Campaign of the Year' category at the Edie Sustainability Leaders Awards. Evaluation of the first 8 months of the signage trial show behavioural changes occurring, with a 9% increase in engine switch-offs in some locations.
- Progressing the creation of a **secure cycle park** in the town centre to provide a highly safe place for residents to store their bikes while visiting the town. Within the secure cycle park, will also be a shared bike hub for residents to access electric bikes and eCargo bikes on a pay as you go basis. Both projects are hoped to be finished by Summer 2022.
- Improvements and updates to the route from North Station to the Town Centre as part of **Fixing the Link** project. Plans are in progress to refurbish the Middleborough fountain, plant trees in planters, as well as replace the yellow flags that line the route.
- Supporting the development of the **Colchester Orbital**, with the creation of online maps showing the 14-15 mile walking and cycling route being produced.
- Facilitating the operation of the **e-scooter trials** in Colchester which have seen over 300,000 journeys completed in the urban area since February 2021.
- Installation of 3 EV charge points at **Priory Street Car Park** as the start of a programme to support the use of electric vehicles in Colchester, with more charge points going in other Council car parks in 2022.

## **Provide sustainable waste management and support residents to reduce, reuse and recycle**

### **5.11 Key highlights from this theme include:**

- Introduced programme to **reduce recycling contamination** and save time on waste collection routes by collecting cans and glass in separate containers
- Creation of a **community engagement team** to engage with residents and schools about waste reduction and recycling. The team have helped school children be involved in naming one of the Council's food waste vehicles, and are helping to restart the Council's Litter Warriors programme, with expansion to allow residents to carry out other tasks such as weeding of paths.
- Beginning the **investment in smart waste technology**, with the introduction of 4 smart waste bins in Dedham to help improve collection efficiencies and store more waste in bins. This will begin as a trial and the effectiveness assessed to inform future deployment.

## **Enable partnerships and community action for sustainability and low carbon development**

### **5.7 Key highlights from this theme include:**

- Supporting Eco Colchester with the delivery of the **Eco Festival** in 2021. This event attracted over 3500 of attendees, and gave the Council a great opportunity to showcase its projects that are contributing to sustainability in the borough.
- Building **collaboration with University of Essex** to help inform the development of our Council projects. Collaborations include on the Clean Air for Colchester project and Go Green Schools project, as well as through other one-off engagement projects such as through the University Challenge Lab.
- **Increase engagement with primary schools** to understand the challenges face in becoming greener, and carry out environmental engagement activities with one school in Colchester to enable staff and students to understand the benefits of outdoor environmental activity. Through this work, the Council has managed to link up the school with further ongoing support through Together We Grow CIC.
- Work with Community 360 and other **community-based organisations** such as Age Concern, Warm and Toasty Club and Citizen's Advice Bureau to promote some of the Council's projects and activities such as the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme funding to a wider audience.
- Deliver a presentation and Q and A session with the **Colchester Association of Local Councils** about the Council's work on the climate emergency, and how town and parish councils can be linked into this and take their own action to reduce their environmental impact. Regular communication now happens between the town and parish councils and CBC to ensure they are kept up to date with CBC projects and activities that they can publicise to residents.

## **Ensure sustainable planning and development**

### **5.8 Key highlights from this theme include:**

- Creation of the **Planning Sustainability Checklist** to help planning staff assess the sustainability of planning applications going forward. This is useful guidance for ensuring



planning applications are taking due consideration to the impact they can have on the environment.

- Working alongside the sustainable travel team, to ensure **s106 funding** has been allocated to accommodate and support sustainable travel as part of new developments. This has included the allocated of spaces for electric car clubs and electric vehicle charge points amongst others.
- Commitment to work on creating a sustainability and climate change supplementary planning document to provide further guidance on the interpretation of the local plan that emphasises how developments can be built more sustainably and with due consideration of future climate change impacts.

## **Change the way we work to achieve our climate commitment**

### **5.9 Key highlights from this theme include:**

- Creation of the **Sustainability and Carbon Reduction Assessment** (and guidance) that has helped staff to provide further information on how their projects are reducing their negative environmental impacts and producing positive environmental impacts.
- Provided input into the development of **several key strategies** at the Council including the Housing Asset Management Strategy, Cultural Strategy and Communities Can Strategy.
- Developing the **Council's travel plan** through engaging with staff working across Colchester including Rowan House and Shrub End Depot, to understand how staff anticipate travelling to work in the future and to continue to work to provide support for staff to travel sustainably to work. Significant engagement has been carried out at Shrub End Depot, providing Dr Bike maintenance sessions and recently helping to purchase a new covered bike shed to store bikes.

5.10 The Council is currently in the process of reviewing the action plan, updating existing actions and adding in new actions for 2022/23. It is expected a draft of this document will be available to share in September 2022.

## **Priorities for 2022/23**

5.11 There are several key actions that the Council intends to progress this year as priorities which are outlined below:

- Creation of a new Carbon Management Plan to identify opportunities for reducing emissions at key high emitting assets including Leisure World, Colchester Castle and the Town Hall. This work is starting in June 2022, with the plan expected to be produced by November 2022. This will be an important step in furthering the Council's understanding of how it can reach net zero operational emissions by 2030.
- Continue to work with partners on the borough on solutions to respond climate change. For example, the Council will be working with the University of Essex on two projects on oyster conservation and the circular economy, plus one on reducing business use of single use plastics in the town centre. The Council will also continue work with the Essex Climate Commission to explore developments being made with work identified in their report, including participating in discussions about the climate focus area and initiatives that can take place within it to reduce environmental impacts.

- Exploring further opportunities to enable communities to take environmental action at the local level, through sharing knowledge and contacts to increase the communities capacity to take on environmental projects, supporting an asset-based development approach. For example, the Council will be exploring with local communities the potential for them to set up local bike hubs/bike kitchens to support active travel.
- Development of several strategies that will contribute significantly to reducing environmental impacts across the borough. These include the Waste and Recycling Strategy, Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy and working alongside Essex County Council to consider the Council's approach to supporting the electric vehicle transition.
- Continue to support residents to use active travel options to move around Colchester, with the creation of the secure cycle park, shared bike hubs and pay as you go electric car club.
- Build on knowledge gained from park and charge pilot at Priory Street Car Park, to think about a strategy for the allocation of electric vehicle charge points throughout the borough.
- Explore ideas identified in the Positive Parking Strategy, thinking how these could link to environmental benefits (e.g. promoting out of town centre parking using variable tariffs to improve air quality). This would be a holistic piece alongside the work on town centre master planning, electric vehicle charging and the work on active travel being considered above.
- Development of a climate change and sustainability supplementary planning document (SPD) to provide more guidance to the interpretation of the local plan and be used as a material consideration in the consideration of planning applications.
- Increase understanding of opportunities to reduce our emissions through offsetting. The Council is beginning to work with Anthesis Group who have been developing a concept called '[Authority Based Insetting](#)' which could provide the opportunity for the Council to collaborate with other organisations in the borough to invest in carbon reduction projects that help to meet multiple organisation's carbon reduction targets at a local scale.
- Gain more knowledge about how the Council can embed adapting to climate change as part of actions within the action plan. This includes thinking about the climate change risks (e.g. drought, flooding, extreme weather) and establishing actions that can help mitigate against these (such as exploring the potential of oyster conservation to help mitigate coastal erosion, a project being worked on with the University of Essex).

## **6. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications**

- 6.1 This report has no equality, diversity and human rights implications.

## **7. Strategic Plan References**

- 7.1 All of the updates provided in this report contribute to the Strategic Plan 2020-2023 theme of 'Tackling the Climate Challenge and Sustainability'.

## **8. Consultation**

- 8.1 There are no consultation considerations.

## **9. Publicity Considerations**

- 9.1 There are no specific publicity considerations.

**10. Financial implications**

10.1 There are no specific financial implications from this paper.

**11. Community Safety Implications**

11.1 There are no specific community safety implications from this paper.

**12. Health and Safety Implications**

12.1 There are no health and safety implications.

**13. Risk Management Implications**

13.1 There are no risk management implications from this update.

**14. Environmental and Sustainability Implications**

14.1 All of the Council's activities highlighted in the report contribute to reducing the environmental impact of the Council and/or the borough.



22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022

Report of	Assistant Director of Place and Client Services	Author	Ben Plummer
Title	Climate Emergency Action Plan Update		☎ 508965
Wards affected	Not applicable		

## 1. Executive Summary

1.1 This report details key progress made with the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP), and other relevant updates since the previous meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022. This sits alongside the other report going to the Environment and Sustainability Panel which provides an overview of progress made on action related to environment and sustainability, and sets out key priorities for the coming year.

1.2 Progress/Updates include:

- CBC worked with University of Essex on '**challenge lab**' to secure funding to work on two projects to tackle climate related challenges CBC identified in the borough. These projects are to be implemented between June 2022 – December 2022 and focus on; reducing single use plastics with town centre businesses and exploring the potential to reuse waste oyster shell to protect coastal environments from coastal erosion and sea level rise.
- Work has begun on the **refurbishment of Rowan House** that will help to significantly decarbonise the building. The works will include the installation of an air source heat pump, roof insulation, LED lighting and mechanical ventilation and a heat recovery system. Additionally, 12 charging points have been installed at Rowan House to support the electric vehicle transition
- **Nature recovery site signage** installed across several of the Council's green spaces where areas are being left to wild with no mowing between March – September to support the growth of wildflowers and grasses which can support pollinators and other insects. The signage was designed by local school children and explains the reasoning behind the nature recovery sites.
- Work is being undertaken to increase the Council's understanding of reducing emissions through **offsetting and insetting**. Two separate projects with Kent Wildlife Trust and Anthesis Group, aim to understand the carbon reduction and biodiversity potential of nature based offsetting solutions and how local authority and private investment may be combined to create local projects that can reduce emissions in the borough respectively.
- **A new bike shelter** has recently been installed at Shrub End Depot to support staff to cycle to work. The covered shelter will provide more capacity for bikes, and helps to both reduce emissions from staff commuting as well as benefitting staff wellbeing. This runs alongside other workshops carried out at the depot such as Dr Bike sessions.
- **Essex Schools Green Day** has been planned in for 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022. The day will be about raising environmental awareness in schools and getting schools to demonstrate what they are doing to protect the environment and tackle climate

change. The Council and other organisations are supporting the day by attending several of the 15 primary schools that are participating on the day or during that week.

- **Climate Action Challenge Fund** made available by Essex County Council for communities to apply to carry out projects that tackle climate related challenges. Community groups, parish councils, charities and schools can bid for funding of up to £20,000. More information about the fund is available at [www.essex.gov.uk/leisure-culture-local-heritage/culture-and-communities](http://www.essex.gov.uk/leisure-culture-local-heritage/culture-and-communities).
- The **Eco Festival** has been agreed to take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2022. The Sustainability, Transport and Climate Change Team are leading in ensuring our sustainable modes of travel work is showcased, along with resident input into existing and future schemes. The festival had a great turn out with over 3500 people attending.

## **2. Recommended Decision**

- 2.1 The Panel is asked to note the contents of the report and to provide any guidance on the progress being made with areas of the action plan, or ongoing work in these areas.

## **3. Reason for Recommended Decision**

- 3.1 To ensure that the Panel is content with the progress made to date and has the chance to feedback on ongoing work.

## **4. Alternative Options**

- 4.1 Not Applicable

## 5. Key updates

- 5.1 The Council is participating in a challenge lab organised by the University of Essex. The challenge lab process brings together university researchers/staff and staff from an external organisation to brainstorm ideas to tackle a challenge faced by the organisation. During this lab, two project briefs were worked up in collaboration with the Council and have had funding approved to undertake them. These are on reducing single use plastics in town centre businesses and exploring the potential of recycling waste oyster shell as a way to adapt to a changing climate, and the risks emerging such as sea level rise and coastal erosion. Further details can be found in the University's [press release](#).
- 5.2 Work has begun on site at Rowan House to start the refurbishment of it into a low carbon building. An air source heat pump, roof insulation, LED lighting, mechanical ventilation and heat recovery and a building management system will all contribute to making the building more energy efficient and lower carbon. This work was funded by a £527,250 grant secured from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. Complementing this, 12 electric vehicle charging points have recently been installed at Rowan House, which can be used for staff or fleet vehicles.
- 5.3 The Council has recently installed signage on several green spaces across Colchester where they are not being mown between March – September in order to create wilder environments to support pollinators and insects. The 'nature recovery sites' have had signs installed by them to explain the reasons why the areas are not being mown and were designed by local school children.
- 5.4 A new bike shelter was recently installed at shrub end depot to support staff to cycle to work. This links in with the Council's travel plan work which provides support and incentives for staff to travel to and for work using sustainable transport modes where possible. The team have also been running Dr Bike sessions to help repair bikes that staff own, helping to complement the installation of the bike shelter. This project will also help to boost staff wellbeing by enabling them to keep healthy and active for work.
- 5.5 The Council has been working on two projects to improve its understanding of potential solutions that could contribute to reducing emissions for the Council and in the borough through offsetting and inseting. Reducing emissions directly (e.g. by electrifying fleet vehicles or installing low carbon heating) will always be the priority but there will be residual Council emissions, as well as emissions in the borough to reduce. Working with Kent Wildlife Trust the Council is trying to understand the potential of nature-based solutions like tree planting and wetland restoration for reducing emissions. The project is identifying multiple green spaces in the borough that may be suitable for a nature based project and using a tool produced by Kent Wildlife Trust to estimate the carbon emissions benefit from implementing a specific project. The project has been funded by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP).

The second project has involved the Council working with Anthesis Group, a sustainability consultancy, who have developed a concept called [Authority Based Insetting \(ABI\)](#) which could provide an opportunity to reduce emissions locally rather than offsetting which is traditionally done in a faraway country. Anthesis will be doing several talks with Council officers, local organisations and businesses to promote the concept and get the views of these groups on the potential of this concept and how it could harness and combine local authority and private investment to accelerate the implementation of local carbon reduction projects. Anthesis have produced a short video

explaining ABI which is displayed on their [website](#) and a [questionnaire](#) that is being circulated with organisations related to the concept and the carbon reduction plans of those organisations.

- 5.6 The Essex Schools 'Green Day' will be taking place on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022. The day ran for the first time on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021, organised by the lead of the [Multi Schools Council](#). 15 primary schools across the borough have signed up to take part, with CBC and other organisations offering support on the day and throughout the week for those taking part. 2 of the 3 primary schools awarded grant funding from East of England Co-Op to support them to undertake environmental projects were based in Colchester borough. Councillors are very welcome to contact schools if they would like to attend and see what each school is doing as part of the day.
- 5.7 Essex County Council have launched a [Climate Action Challenge Fund](#) pot for communities to bid into to carry out projects that tackle a climate related challenge. Community groups, parish councils, charities and schools amongst others can bid for funding of up to £20,000 and is open until March 31, 2023 or until funds last. Further information about the fund and its guidelines can be found [here](#). This information has been circulated with Community 360, Town and Parish Clerks and all councillors.
- 5.8 The date for the upcoming Eco Festival 2022 has been agreed for 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2022. Last year, the event attracted over 3500 people, and we hope this number will increase this year. The Council will be supporting the event by providing sustainable transport options on the day using eCargo bikes, and will be having several stalls on the day to promote its projects involving sustainable travel, air quality, waste and biodiversity. The Council also awarded a Cultural and Creative event grant to support the festival.

## **6. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications**

- 6.1 This report has no equality, diversity and human rights implications.

## **7. Strategic Plan References**

- 7.1 All of the updates provided in this report contribute to the Strategic Plan 2020-2023 theme of 'Tackling the Climate Challenge and Sustainability'.

## **8. Consultation**

- 8.1 There are no consultation considerations for this paper, although several of the projects referenced have consultation elements within them and success in tackling climate change will involve engagement and education of others to influence behaviour change more widely.

## **9. Publicity Considerations**

- 9.1 There are no specific publicity considerations.

## **10. Financial implications**

- 10.1 There are no specific financial implications from this paper.

## **11. Community Safety Implications**



11.1 There are no specific community safety implications from this paper.

## **12. Health and Safety Implications**

12.1 There are no health and safety implications.

## **13. Risk Management Implications**

13.1 There are no risk management implications from this update.

## **14. Environmental and Sustainability Implications**

14.1 The updates mentioned in this report are all relevant to tackling climate change and/or improving the environment. Actions and projects highlighted in the report all have co-benefits outside of environmental improvements for residents.

14.2 Provision of supporting infrastructure for electric vehicles, alongside promoting uptake of sustainable modes of travel is a key way to provide residents with options for travelling across the borough sustainably. Many of these methods provide residents with health benefits, alongside cost savings and reductions in emissions.



## Environment and Sustainability Panel

Item  
**9**

22 June 2022

Report of	Assistant Director Corporate and Improvement Services	Author	Matthew Evans ☎ ext. 8006
Title	Work Programme 2022-2023		
Wards affected	Not applicable		

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the current Work Programme 2022-2023 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 2022-2023.

### 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 2022-23

<b>Environment and Sustainability Panel</b>
<b>Meeting date / Agenda items -</b>
Environment and Sustainability Panel - <b>22 June 2022</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Overview of progress on climate emergency</li><li>2. Climate Emergency Action Plan – progress update.</li></ol>
Environment and Sustainability Panel – <b>19 July 2022</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy</li><li>2. Climate Emergency Action Plan – Progress Update</li></ol>
Environment and Sustainability Panel – <b>20 September 2022</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Draft Climate Emergency Action Plan reiteration</li><li>2. Woodland and Biodiversity Project update</li></ol>

Environment and Sustainability Panel – **29 November 2022**

1. Carbon Management Plan and the Council's Emissions
2. Clean Air for Colchester
3. Climate Emergency Action Plan – Progress Update

Environment and Sustainability Panel – **31 January 2023**

1. Active Travel and Electric Vehicles Update
2. Climate Emergency Action Plan – Progress Update

Environment and Sustainability Panel – **21 March 2023**

1. Waste and Recycling Strategy Update
2. Climate Emergency Action Plan update/Summary of the year

