

# Environment and Sustainability Panel Meeting

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

**Tuesday, 19 July 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>.

Most meetings take place in public. This only changes when certain issues, for instance, commercially sensitive information or details concerning an individual are considered. At this point you will be told whether there are any issues to be discussed in private, if so, you will be asked to leave the meeting.

### Have Your Say!

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### Access

There is wheelchair access to the Town Hall from St Runwald Street. There is an induction loop in all the meeting rooms. If you need help with reading or understanding this document please take it to the Library and Community Hub, Colchester Central Library, using the contact details below and we will try to provide a reading service, translation or other formats you may need.

### Facilities

Toilets with lift access, if required, are on each floor of the Town Hall. A water dispenser is available on the first floor.

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e-mail: [democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk)

[www.colchester.gov.uk](http://www.colchester.gov.uk)

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

1. To acknowledge our “Climate Emergency” and translate aspirations into actions.
2. To explore methods of conservation of natural habitats and biodiversity, whether through adapting existing practices and places or creating new ecologically diverse environments with sustainable practices built in.
3. To engage, communicate and collaborate with strategic partners, external bodies, Parish Councils and local communities, to encourage biodiversity enhancement and sustainable practices through their work.
4. To encourage environmental stewardship focusing on carbon footprint reduction by improving air quality, water quality, plastic and waste reduction and renewable energy generation in both public and private spheres across the Borough
5. To be a leading voice for environmental sustainability, promoting innovative environmental practices, having influence across the borough and beyond, including public and private sector policy, at regional and national levels.
6. To promote, monitor and regularly report to Cabinet and Full Council upon progress and implementation of the Council’s Climate Emergency Action Plan and it’s goal to be net carbon neutral by 2030.

**COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL  
Environment and Sustainability Panel  
Tuesday, 19 July 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 Andrew Ellis	
Councillor Mark Goacher	
Councillor Sue Lissimore	
Councillor Kayleigh Rippingale	
Councillor Michael Spindler	
Councillor William Sunnucks	

**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.

#### **Live Broadcast**

Please follow this link to watch the meeting live on YouTube:

[\(107\) ColchesterCBC - YouTube](#)

#### **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, ask mobile phones switched to silent, and detail the livestreaming and 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**

There are no minutes submitted for approval at this meeting.

#### **6 Have Your Say!**

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 by emailing [democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk). 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 Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy**

A presentation and verbal update will given to the Panel on the progress of the Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy.

**8 Climate Emergency Action Plan Update**

7 - 12

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 June 2022.

**9 Work Programme 2022-2023**

13 - 16

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

**10 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)**

19<sup>th</sup> July 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>Climate Emergency Action Plan Update</b>		
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards		

**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> June 2022.

1.2 Progress/Updates include:

- Council supported lots of action on **Clean Air Day** on 16<sup>th</sup> June, with social media posts on the day reaching over 40,000 people and a demonstration about no idling alongside St Thomas More’s school. Currently there is also lots of advertising about the CAREless Pollution campaign at petrol pumps and billboards across the borough.
- Council supported the **Essex Schools Green Day**, visiting 10 schools throughout the week of the Green Day to drop off nature/gardening resources donated by Poplar Nurseries and to give talks at 3 of the schools about the Council’s work on the climate emergency and give some ideas about what the schools and pupils can do to become greener.
- An application has been made to the **Low Carbon Skills Fund** to fund the creation of heat decarbonisation plans at six Council assets to identify opportunities for decarbonising heat at these assets that fit with wider improvements to the building’s fabric too.
- **Presentation to town and parish councils** at Colchester Association of Local Councils Forum arranged for 14<sup>th</sup> July. The talk will explain the Council’s work on the climate emergency, outline where there are opportunities for parish councils to get involved, and also what parishes can do to reduce their environmental impact within their communities. A presentation for all borough councillors on the climate emergency, Council actions on this and how councillors can support this action will be provided on 19<sup>th</sup> September.
- Usage of **Park Active** car parks have been low since its launch mid-pandemic despite promotion. However, support had been given to SPIN to create an escooter hub at Butt Road car park which has been well used, and the intention is to support TIER with similar facilities at other car parks.
- **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's CAREless Pollution campaign has recently increased its campaign advertising. On Clean Air Day (16<sup>th</sup> June), the Council worked with St Thomas More's school to raise awareness of the problem of idling engines when stationary and how this impacts on air quality in Colchester. Many social media posts were shared on the day from lots of supporting organisations including Culver Square and Eco Colchester, along with events being run at GP surgeries and the NHS greener practices group.

Advertising of the campaign more widely is also taking place with petrol pump advertising at Tesco on Greenstead Road and Sainsbury's based at Tollgate. Radio adverts about the campaign are also going out, alongside billboard and digital advertisements. Find out more about the CAREless Pollution campaign [here](#).

- 5.2 The Essex Schools Green Day took place on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022, with the Council visiting 10 schools throughout the week to deliver nature and gardening resources donated by Poplar Nurseries and to observe activities that schools were doing/planning to do as part of the day. Talks on the Council's climate action and to give ideas to schools about ways to become greener were carried out at 3 schools. Other organisations in the borough also supported the day, including the Mercury Theatre who produced a [video](#) about how they have made their building environmentally friendly. Both the Mercury Theatre and the Co-op also visited schools to talk about how each of their organisations were taking steps to become greener and to engage with students.
- 5.3 The Council has made a bid to the Low Carbon Skills Fund to help fund a consultant to identify opportunities to decarbonise six Council buildings that will then be written up into implementable heat decarbonisation plans. The funding is being provided by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), and administered by Salix Finance. The creation of heat decarbonisation plans will extend on the previous carbon management plan work planned for Council assets, by doing a more comprehensive assessment of decarbonisation opportunities and outlining how actions can join together to make a whole project. This will help with planning out how actions may follow on from one another, supporting the pathway to net zero. It will also put the Council in a better place to bid for grant funding to implement these projects
- 5.4 The Council will be speaking with Town and Parish Councils about the climate emergency action plan, and how these councils can take action to reduce their environmental impact. It is hoped the event will be informative and inspire town and parish councils with ideas for how to become greener, and to support community initiatives which also align with this. Borough councillors will also receive a presentation about the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan and how councillors can be involved in the Council's climate action work. This presentation will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm.
- 5.5 Usage of Park Active car parks have been low since its launch mid-pandemic despite promotion. A full review of usage is to be carried out between over Summer and Autumn 2022, with the intention to relaunch the scheme in Spring 2023. However, support had been given to SPIN to create an scooter hub at Butt Road car park which has been well used, and the intention is to support TIER with similar facilities at other car parks. Although not strictly 'active travel', this measure does help to remove cars from the town centre, contributing to improving air quality and reducing congestion.
- 5.6 Essex County Council have launched a [Climate Action Challenge Fund](#) pot for communities to bid into to carry our 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.

- 5.7 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. The projects mentioned positively contribute, in differing ways, towards ensuring that equality, diversity and human rights are protected and enhanced.

## **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. Projects mentioned in the report have individual publicity considerations.

## **10. Financial implications**

- 10.1 There are no specific financial implications from this paper. The projects mentioned have agreed budgets and financial planning as applicable.

## **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. Generally projects in this workstream aim to improve health and wellbeing.

## **13. Risk Management Implications**

- 13.1 There are no risk management implications from this update. Individual risk is managed within the projects identified.

## **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. They make a significant and lasting improvement to environmental sustainability.





## Environment and Sustainability Panel

Item  
**9**

19 July 2022

<b>Report of</b>	<b>Assistant Director Corporate and Improvement Services</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Matthew Evans</b> ☎ ext. 8006
<b>Title</b>	<b>Work Programme 2022-2023</b>		
<b>Wards affected</b>	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>
<b>Environment and Sustainability Panel - 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>
<b>Environment and Sustainability Panel – 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>
<b>Environment and Sustainability Panel – 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

