



Telford & Wrekin  
C O U N C I L

Addenbrooke House Ironmasters Way Telford TF3 4NT

## ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date	Wednesday, 22 July 2020	Time	6.00 pm
Venue	Remote Meeting		

### Enquiries Regarding this Agenda

Democratic Services	Kieran Robinson	01952 382061
Media Enquiries	Corporate Communications	01952 382406

<b><u>Committee Membership:</u></b>	Councillors M Boylan, C Cassar, V J Holt, T L B Janke, T J Nelson, G L Offland and G C W Reynolds (Chair)
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## AGENDA

- |  | <u>Page</u> |
|--|-------------|
| 1. <b>Apologies For Absence</b>  |             |
| 2. <b>Declarations Of Interest</b>   |             |
| 3. <b>Minutes Of The Previous Meeting</b>  | 3 - 6       |
| 4. <b>Climate Change</b>   | 7 - 20      |
| To receive and discuss the presentation of Felicity Mercer (Director: Communities, Customer and Commercial Services) and Harjot Rayet (Climate Change & Sustainability Coordinator).   |             |
| Councillor Carolyn Healy (Cabinet Member for Visitor Economy, Historic & Natural Environment and Climate Change) will also attend for this item.   |             |
| The associated Cabinet report can be viewed at:<br><a href="https://democracy.telford.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1134&amp;MId=1184&amp;Ver=4">https://democracy.telford.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1134&amp;MId=1184&amp;Ver=4</a> |             |
| 5. <b>Chair's Update</b>   |             |

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## ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday, 6 February 2020 at 6.00 pm in Meeting Room G3/4, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3 4NT

**Present:** Councillors M Boylan, G H Cook, V J Holt, T L B Janke, T J Nelson, G L Offland and G C W Reynolds (Chair).

**Also Present:** Councillor E M Callear

**In Attendance:** J Eatough (Director for Governance), F Mercer (Director for Policy, Customer and Commercial Services), D Moseley (Democratic & Scrutiny Services Team Leader), K Robinson (Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer), R Singh (ICT Projects, Development and Quality Manager)

#### **ENVSC1 Declarations of Interest**

None.

#### **ENVSC2 Scrutiny Review of Single Use Plastics**

Officers gave a presentation outlining the Council's single-use strategy. The presentation set out the Council's commitments before moving onto an assessment of the Year One action plan, with key points from the single-use policy and its successes. Members were also informed of the Council's next steps for single-use strategies in Year Two – focus areas included products in care settings, microplastics, and supporting the wider community in reducing their single-use plastic use.

The Officers highlighted some initiatives that had been implemented for the first year. Members were informed of an upcoming community 'litter pick relay' that they would be able to take part in. Key developments noted for the Committee included the introduction of a milk vending machine, a reusable cup scheme in Café Go within the Council building, and 10 Water Refill stations in council buildings.

The Director expressed the Council's desire to become a Plastic Free Community in accordance with the Surfers Against Sewage certification for plastic free initiatives. Developments such as Newport's plastic-free status and Hollinswood Primary School becoming the first plastic-free school in Shropshire, were noted as positive steps towards this goal.

Members asked a number of questions as follows:-

*At the moment we give out dog waste bags that are made of plastic, is there any work being done on making them biodegradable?*

Discussions about this had taken place and, noting the underlying objectives for providing bags, Officers were looking for cost effective alternatives. So far,

the alternatives were quite significantly more expensive. This was an issue on the Council's radar, the dog waste bag programme has been successful as it was but there was a desire to look at greening it.

*To raise awareness of the issue of single-use plastics and dog waste, would it be possible to look into installing a dog waste powered streetlamp in the town?*

This was something that Officers would look into.

*Had the Council considered a deposit return scheme as operated successfully in Germany and many other European countries?*

This had been considered.

*Could the Council look at Terracycle as a remedy for crisp packet pollution?*

Crisp packet pollution was a massive issue and the Council already had a relationship with Terracycle through the pen recycling scheme being run in schools. This was something that could be looked at further.

*It was noted that very little recycling took place in the healthcare sector, were there any representatives from the sector on the Taskforce?*

There were not any people from the health sector yet so the Officers involved would look into it.

*How successful had the Council been in building environmental protections into its contracts?*

Packaging was still a major issue, it was not just about single-use products but how they were delivered. This was a challenging issue to resolve as the use of single-use plastics was endemic with goods supplied at scale. It was something that the Council wanted to focus on going forward but it was difficult to replace absolutely everything. This was not something that could be changed overnight but could be looked at as contracts came up for tender.

#### Members also discussed:-

- Members discussed the pros and cons of replacing plastic bottles with glass and the possible alternatives to glass as an environmentally friendly receptacle.
- The need for greater education on microplastics as many members of the public were now aware of the issue with regard to cosmetics but not the more general problem they pose.
- The lack of split municipal bins in the Borough and the need for them as a means to encourage recycling. Members agreed that they would like to see high street recycling rolled out across the Borough.
- The Council's Green Guide initiative was praised by Members as a useful tool to drive engagement and encourage skill-sharing in environmental matters. Members saw the initiative as a positive way for

people that were not professionally engaged in environmental issues to show their passion and bring a different perspective to the problems.

- Concerns regarding the proliferation of takeaways in the Borough and their reliance on single-use packaging. Possible strategies were discussed, including working with franchises to raise awareness of corporate social responsibility. Members acknowledged that progress was being made, however, noting Greggs' support of the national Refill campaign and McDonald's' move to paper straws.

Members concluded that they would consider the related topic of Climate Change at their next meeting and then begin scoping.

### **ENVSC3 Work Programme 2019/20 to 2020/21**

The Committee received and considered suggestions for the Work Programme and commented as follows:-

- An additional suggestion regarding the Borough's transport network and infrastructure was put forward to examine the Council's transport scheme, especially regarding electrical charging points.
- Members noted that this could be an area of collaboration with other committees.
- An additional suggestion regarding the environmental friendliness of the Council's building regulations and housing planning policy, particularly in regard to *Passivhaus* standards.
- That suggestions for Single Use Plastic and Climate Change be expanded to include Community Engagement.
- That flood water management be scheduled for a future meeting.
- That the item "Waste Receptacles" be merged with Single-Use Plastic and include high street recycling.

### **ENVSC4 Chair's Update**

The issue of co-option had been raised during the meeting and Members held a discussion on the merits of co-option as a means of expanding the Committee's expertise and range of views. While one Member expressed a definite preference for co-option, the Committee delayed any decision on whether to begin the process of co-option until a later date citing the net benefits of expert witnesses and time-limited experts. Members also reflected on the need to involve both lay-people and experts to gather a range of views.

The Chair reminded Members that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on 18 March 2020 and would be looking at climate change.

The meeting ended at 7.46 pm

**Chairman:** .....

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**Date:** Wednesday, 18 March 2020

# Telford & Wrekin Council Becoming Carbon Neutral

## Environment Scrutiny Committee

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Agenda Item 4

# Introduction

## Climate Change

- What is Climate Change?
- Why is it such a issue?
- What does Climate Change mean for Telford and Wrekin?
- National /Local picture on Climate Change

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## Telford & Wrekin Council Becoming Carbon Neutral

- What we have achieved so far
- Action Plan

## Telford and Wrekin Borough

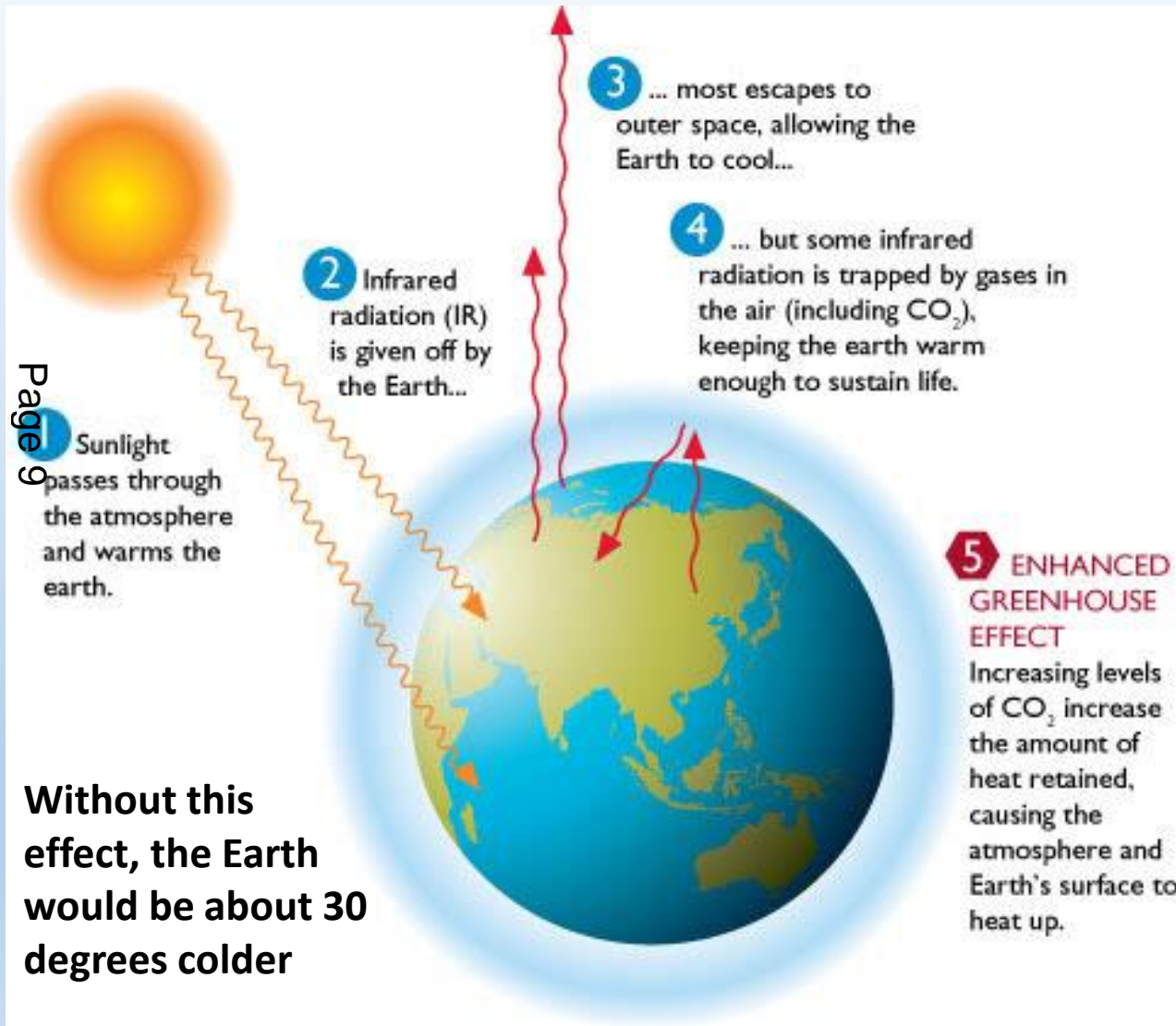
- Climate Change Partnership

## Scrutiny - Scoping areas of work



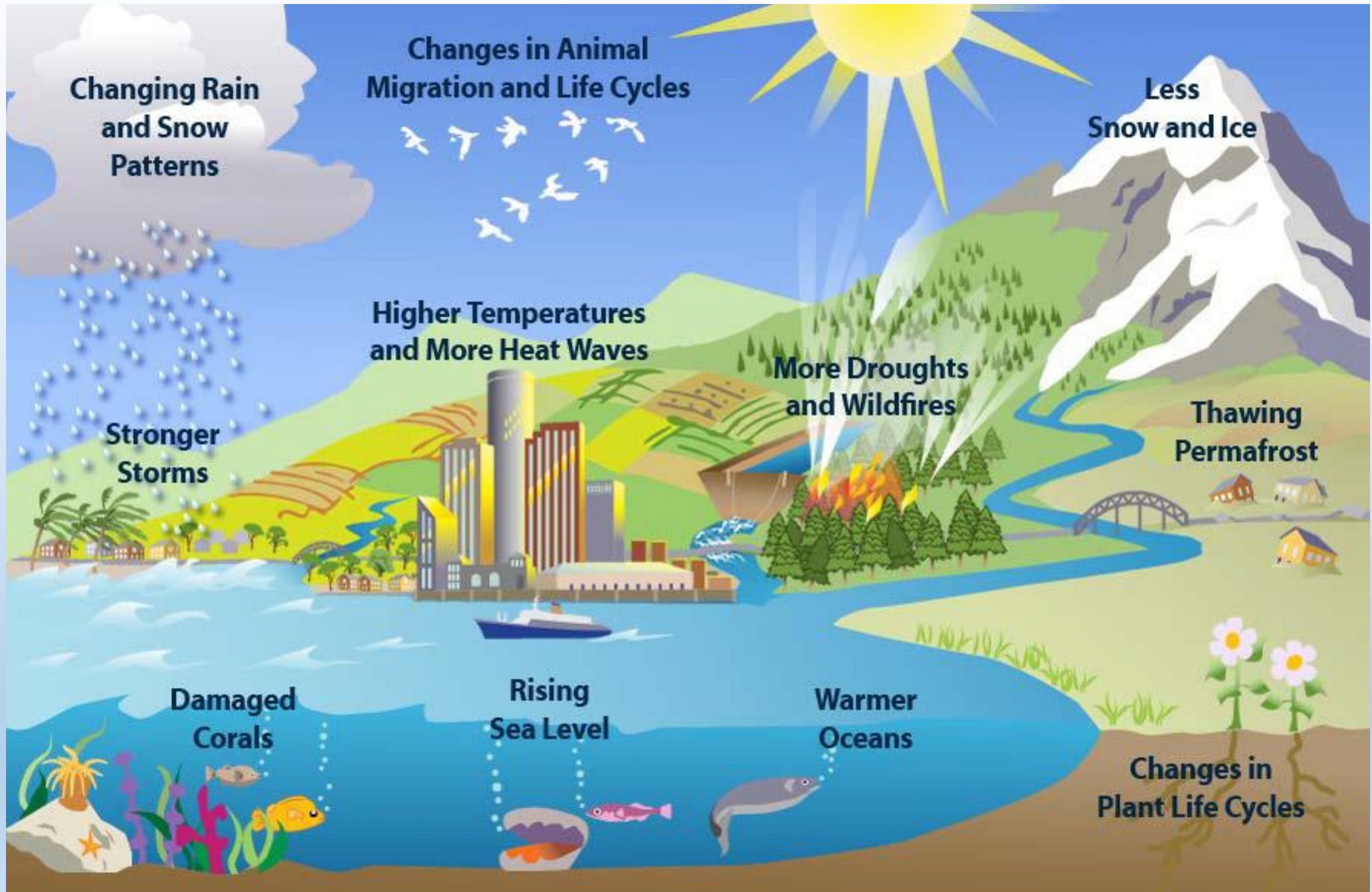


# What is Climate Change?



However, we are adding to the **greenhouse effect**, trapping more heat and increasing the temperature.

Leading to a **growing number and intensity of extreme weather events.**



# What does Climate Change mean for Telford and Wrekin?

We are seeing a trend towards **warmer, wetter winters** and **hotter, drier summers** and there is emerging evidence of **changing rainfall patterns**.

The top six areas of climate change related risks are:

- **Flooding** risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure
- Risks to **health, well-being** and **productivity** from high temperatures
- Risk of **shortages in the public water supply**, and for agriculture, energy generation and industry
- Risks to **natural capital**, including terrestrial, soils and biodiversity
- Risks to **domestic food production and trade**
- New and emerging **pests and diseases, and invasive and non-native species, affecting people, plants and animals**

# National/Local Picture

**National** The Government has legislated for net-zero emissions by 2050

## Telford & Wrekin Council

- 25th July 2019 Climate **Emergency Declaration** made with strong cross party political support for action
- **Commitment** for the Council to be Carbon Neutral by 2030
- And a **Aspiration** for the Borough to be the same
- February 2020 **Telford & Wrekin Council Becoming Carbon Neutral Action Plan** launched setting out the Council's journey to Carbon Neutral by 2030
- June 2020 **Telford and Wrekin Borough Climate Change Partnership** inaugural meeting

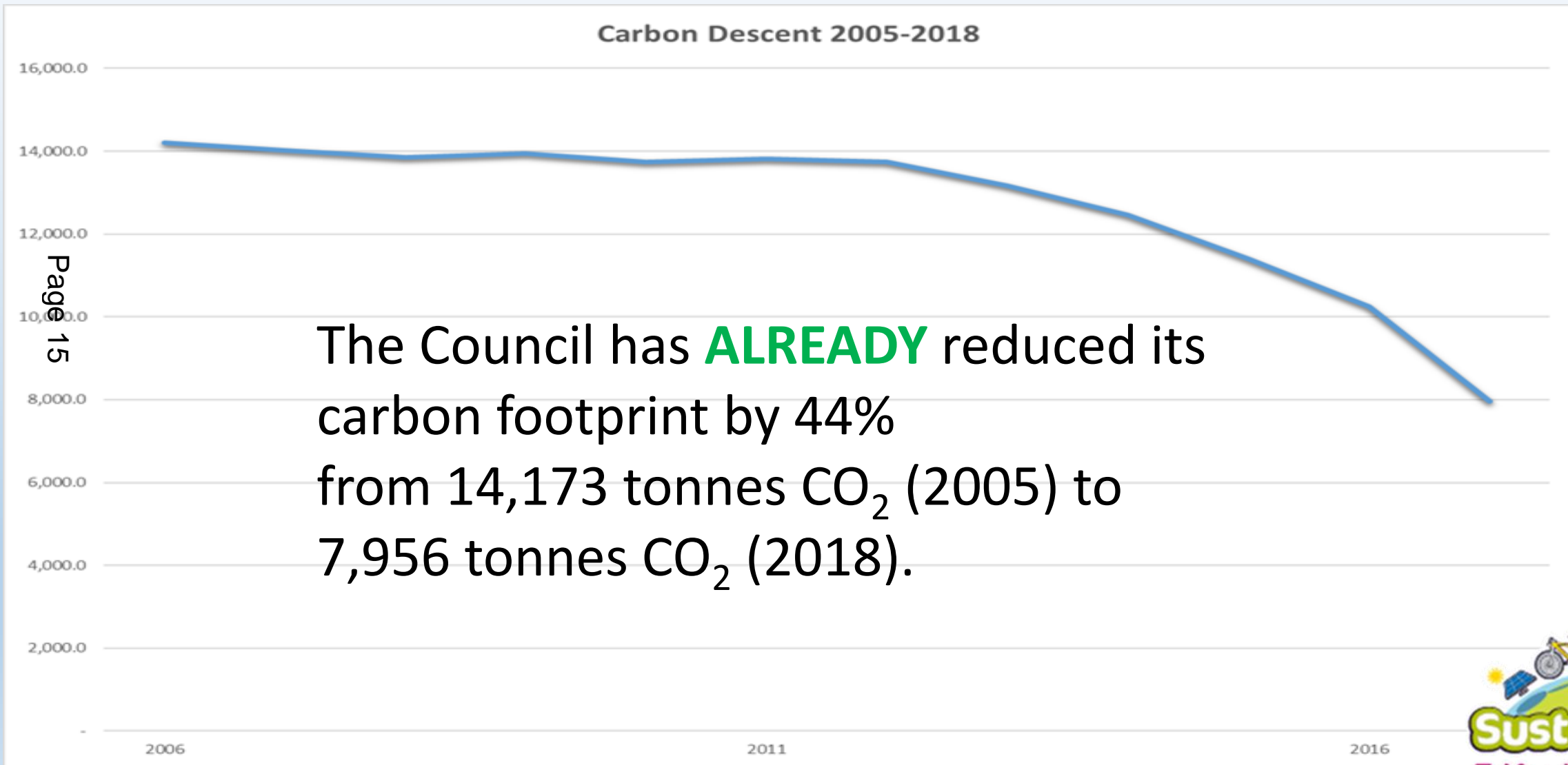
# The Motion

- Make a **commitment** for the Council's operations and activities to be carbon neutral by 2030;
- Work with partners to identify and implement **adaptation and mitigation measures** to deal with the effects of the ongoing changes in climate;
- Collaborate and engage with residents, partners and businesses in Telford & Wrekin and at a regional and national level to achieve our aspiration for the borough to be carbon neutral by 2030 – **making sure we take communities with us, protect employment and without impoverishing our most deprived communities;**
- Measure our current carbon footprint as a **baseline** to enable us to report on progress;
- Set up a **partnership** to develop an action plan to move this declaration to delivery.

# Climate Change action is not new!

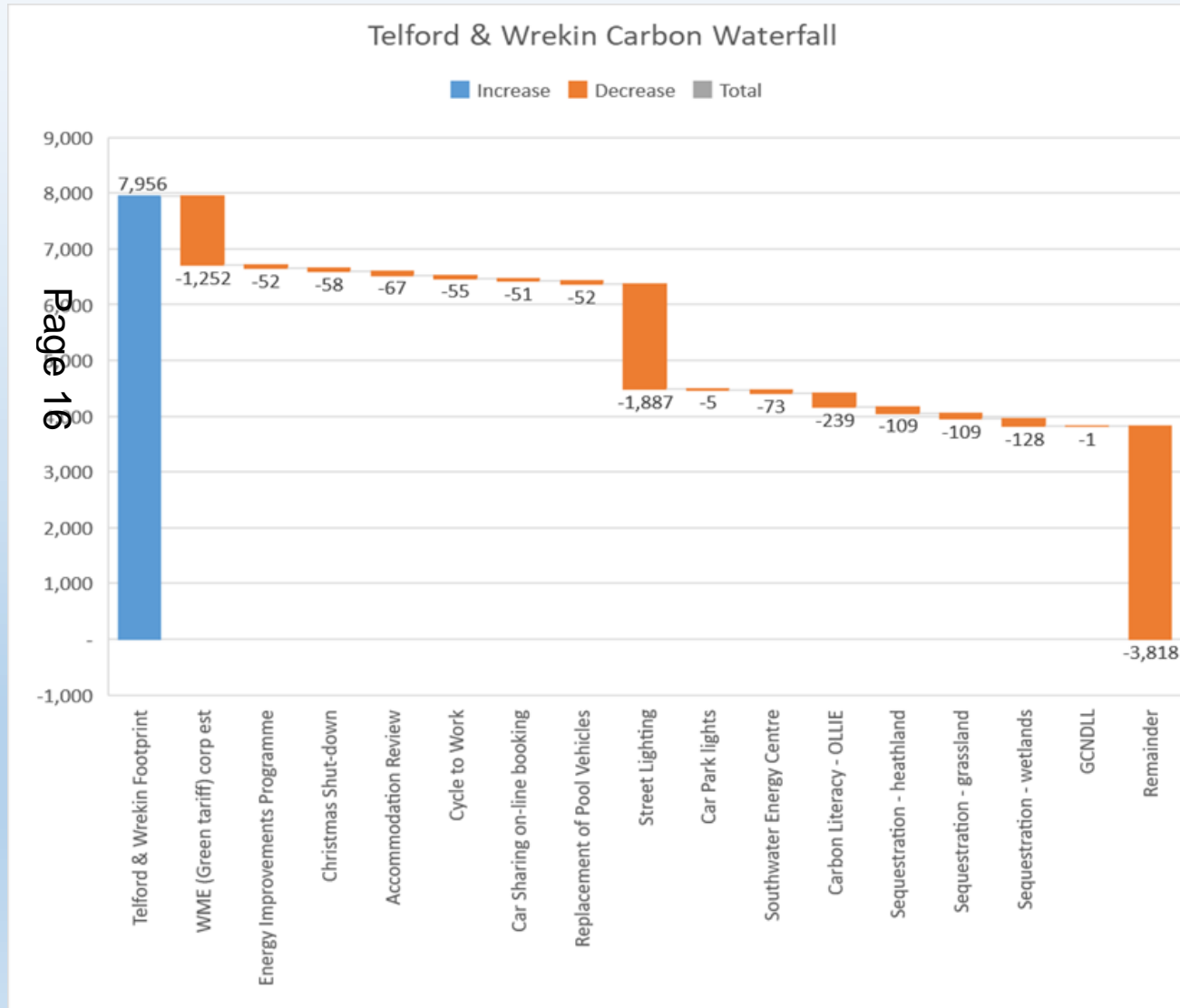
- Protection to 200 **Green Guarantee** sites – Council owned sites that provide valued local assets which also contribute to flood alleviation and act as ‘green lungs’ providing carbon sequestration
- Conversion of over 20,000 street lighting to **LED lighting**. 98% of the conversion has been completed. The scheme has delivered savings of £420,000 per year since 2018/19 from the initial investment of £5.2 million.
- Installing only the second publically owned **Solar Farm**, the 4MW solar farm at Wheat Leasows generates enough electricity to power 800 homes generating 18.63 GWh of green electricity, a total carbon avoidance of over 9,000 tonnes, which has generated an income of £1.83m
- **Sustainable Buildings Initiative** – Delivering LED lighting schemes across four corporate buildings (Darby House, Wellington Civic Centre, Telford Ice Rink and Telford Tennis Centre), as well as solar PV at Telford Ice Rink and the Telford Tennis Centre – delivering energy savings of 548558 kWh (equivalent to cost savings of £71,312.54) and CO2 reductions of 194.78 tonnes.

# Telford & Wrekin Council Carbon Emissions from 2005 – 2018 Trajectory



The Council has **ALREADY** reduced its carbon footprint by 44% from 14,173 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> (2005) to 7,956 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> (2018).

# Telford & Wrekin Council Waterfall



Need to reduce carbon emissions by further **7,956 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>** to achieve carbon neutral by 2030

## Initial Action Plan:

Identified actions where carbon reductions can be identified will lead to a saving of **4,138 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>**.

Leaving residual tonnes of **3,818 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>** to be found





# Telford & Wrekin Council in Action

Amongst the actions in the Plan we are setting out to:

- Implement a programme of **low carbon retrofit schemes** across our corporate buildings
- Implement a **cycle to work scheme** for employees
- Procurement of multi partner **electric vehicle framework** and deployment across car parks in Telford & Wrekin
- **Review Council's Fleet Services to ensure optimum efficiency**
- Conversion of the remaining non **LED** highway and footway street lighting assets
- Rolling out **food waste collections** across Council buildings
- Becoming one of the first **Carbon Literate Councils** in England
- Enhance/restore over 70 ha of heathland, grassland, wetland across Council owned land
- Scoping the creation of a connected series of **community forests** – a key part of our 'forest community' commitment
- Working with our major contractors to produce **Carbon Reduction Action Plans** covering their operations.

# Borough Partnership

A call to citizens, services, businesses, universities and other partners in the borough to help develop the Borough response – because we know this isn't a simple challenge the Council alone can 'fix', collective endeavour is vital.

Therefore:

- We have launched a webpage - Sustainable Telford and Wrekin:  
<http://sustainabletelfordandwrekin.co.uk/>
- And
- Established a Borough Partnership to drive climate change action Borough-wide



# How you have decided to help

The committee has indicated its wish to review every aspect of the current action plan. As the plan is organised in themes it may be helpful to review each theme in turn. The themes are:

- **Council Buildings**
- **Transport**
- **Housing**
- **Street Lighting**
- **Procurement**
- **Governance**
- **Energy**
- **Community**
- **Planning Policy**
- **Corporate**
- **Communications & training**
- **Land-use, biodiversity & carbon sequestration**

Thank you for  
Listening

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Any questions?

