



## Borough of Telford and Wrekin

### Environment Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 14 September 2023

6.00 pm

Walker Room, Meeting Point House, Southwater Square, Telford,  
TF3 4HS

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|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Democratic Services:</b> | <b>Sam Yarnall</b>              | <b>01952 382193</b> |
| <b>Media Enquiries:</b>     | <b>Corporate Communications</b> | <b>01952 382406</b> |

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|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Committee Members:</b> | <b>Councillors M Boylan (Chair), P Davis (Vice-Chair),<br/>T L B Janke, I Preece, H Morgan, T J Nelson and H Rhodes</b> |
|---------------------------|---|

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| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Apologies for Absence</b>  |                |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Declarations of Interest</b>   |                |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b>  | <b>3 - 8</b>   |
|            | To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 28 February 2023 and 21 June 2023. |                |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Work Programme Review</b>  | <b>9 - 12</b>  |
|            | To review the updated Work Programme for the Environment Scrutiny Committee.      |                |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Corporate Catering – Role in Net Zero</b>                                      | <b>13 - 34</b> |
|            | To receive an introductory report on Corporate Catering and its role in Net Zero. |                |

## **6.0 Climate Change Adaptation**

**35 - 54**

To receive the Climate Change Adaptation report.

## **7.0 Chair's Update**

If you are reading these papers on an electronic device you have saved the Council £15.22 and saved 6.1kg of CO<sub>2</sub>, based on average agenda printing costs for the 2022/23 municipal year.

## **ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee held on  
Tuesday 28 February 2023 at 6.00 pm in The Telford Room,  
Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3 4NT**

**Present:** Councillors G C W Latham-Reynolds (Chair), M Boylan  
and T L B Janke.

**Also Present:** Councillor C Healy

**In Attendance:** E Cantillion (Shropshire Good Food Partnership)  
F Mercer (Director: Communities, Customer and  
Commercial Services)  
R Phillips (Service Delivery Manager: Legal &  
Democracy)  
K Robinson (Democracy Officer (Scrutiny))  
J Roquette (Shropshire Good Food Partnership)  
I Wykes (Team Leader: Climate Change & Sustainability)

**Apologies:** Councillors G H Cook, T J Nelson and G L Offland

### **ENVSC61 Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **ENVSC62 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2022  
be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

### **ENVSC63 Shropshire Good Food Partnership Briefing**

Members received a presentation from Jenny Roquette of the Shropshire Good Food Partnership.

The presentation set out the work of the Partnership, discussed Food Systems Thinking and actions taken locally, and next steps for the Partnership and Council.

The Partnership's mission was to bring together people, groups, and organisation to create a food system that was good for people, place, and planet, improving access to affordable nutritious food, creating lively communities, and aiding the shift to net-zero.

Established at the end of 2021, the Partnership had started out scoping the existing situation and considering how it could add value to discussions and policy around food. It was comprised of a small team but was growing thanks

to project specific funding; an example given was that resources from the Telford and Wrekin Climate Fund had allowed the organisation to grow.

There were a number of working groups led by the Partnership, these engaged people on various specific areas within food systems such as growing local, sustainable food economies, wise land stewardship, and reducing food waste. As a whole, the working groups were made up of over 60 organisations and in excess of 120 individuals.

Shropshire Good Food Partnership took a systems- and place- based approach to its work to encourage farm to fork eating. The Partnership viewed issues through a food system lens, considering how food was enmeshed with society and culture and seeking to find how best to engage people and for what impact. With around 30% of greenhouse gas emissions coming from the food system, this was one of the key areas for adaptation and mitigation of climate change in.

The Partnership outlined a number of pieces of their project areas. These included local actions such as a Good Food Charter; work on the local food economy and land stewardship, reducing food waste, and healthy food for all including growing local and boosting peoples' connection to nature.

In addition, the organisation undertook partnership work with a variety of partners including Telford & Wrekin Council.

Future actions included, the Good Food Trail, Good to Grow Day, and the Marches Real Food & Farming Conference with Harper Adams University.

A discussion followed the presentation.

Members noted the importance of education in driving positive change in terms of the climate agenda, both for children and adults. Discussion focussed on teaching, enabling, and supporting people to grow their own food. The Committee also spoke of the need to show the cycle of food through to their plates.

Following on from this, Members discussed access to growing spaces across the Borough and how these can be improved and formalised – from allotments to small patches on public land.

It was suggested that Members could be appointed to the Shropshire Good Food Partnerships advisory group. This was to be investigated.

Members requested an update from the Partnership in twelve months' time. The Committee also wished to receive an item focussing on the Council's catering team and their procurement practices.

#### **ENVSC64 Chair's Update**

None.



The meeting ended at 7.09 pm

**Chairman:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** Wednesday 21 June 2023

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## **ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday 21 June 2023 at 6.00 pm in The Telford Room, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3 4NT**

**Present:** Councillors M Boylan (Chair), P Davis (Vice-Chair), H Morgan, T J Nelson and H Rhodes.

**In Attendance:** F Mercer (Director: Communities, Customer and Commercial Services), R Phillips (Service Delivery Manager: Legal & Democracy), and S Yarnall (Democracy Officer (Scrutiny))

**Apologies:** Councillors T L B Janke and I Preece

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

None.

#### **ENVSC2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Following the recent local elections, there were fewer Members who had previously sat on the Environment Scrutiny Committee who continued to sit on Environment Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2023/2024. The minutes were deferred to the next meeting of the Committee to allow for greater attendance from previous Members for confirmation.

#### **ENVSC3 Terms of Reference 2023 / 2024**

Members received the Terms of Reference for the Committee, there had been no changes from previous years.

**RESOLVED** – that the Terms of Reference, as set out in Appendix A of the report, be approved.

#### **ENVSC4 Environment Scrutiny Committee Work Programme**

The Service Delivery Manager: Legal & Democracy presented the work programme for 2023/24. The work programme included standing items and new suggestions which had been received during the consultation.

The Director: Communities, Customer & Commercial Services provided a brief summary on Corporate Catering and noted that the suggestion was that Scrutiny consider the role of the Council's corporate catering policies and procedures towards net zero.

A further item was suggested for inclusion in relation to Adaptation, which was agreed by Members.

**RESOLVED-** that the Environment Scrutiny Work Programme, as set out in Appendix A of the report, be approved.

**ENVSC5 Review of the Annual Scrutiny Report - Environment Scrutiny Committee**

The Service Delivery Manager: Legal & Democracy presented the Environment section of the Annual Scrutiny Report 2022-23.

Members appreciated the overview of the work previously completed by the Committee and a brief overview of upcoming work.

**ENVSC6 Chair's Update**

An additional meeting had been scheduled in September 2023 to provide an initial scene setting report on Corporate Catering.

Members were asked to contact Democratic Services by 29 November 2023 if they had any specific questions or topics in relation to river sewage.

The meeting ended at 6.27 pm

**Chairman:** .....

**Date:** Thursday 14 September 2023

## Environment Scrutiny Work Programme

| Issue / Topic                                | Brief Description  | Directorate         | Council Values/Priorities  | Format                | Meeting Comments  |
|--|--|---------------------|--|-----------------------|---|
| 21 June 2023 – Committee Meeting             |  |                     |  |                       |   |
| Terms Of Reference                           | For the Committee to agree the Terms of Reference for 2023/24                                  | Policy & Governance | A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services | Committee Agenda Item | Constitutional Function   |
|  | Outcomes:  |                     |  |                       |   |
|  | That the Terms of Reference be agreed for the 2023/24 municipal year.                          |                     |  |                       |   |
| Work Programme                               | For the Committee to agree the proposed work programme for 2023/24                             | Policy & Governance | A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services | Committee Agenda Item | Draft work programme delegated to each scrutiny committee by SMB on 6 June 2023     |
|  | Outcomes:<br><br>The draft work programme be agreed.   |                     |  |                       |   |
| Annual Scrutiny Report-Environment Committee | To review the Environment Scrutiny Committee portion of the Annual Scrutiny Report for 2022/23 | Policy & Governance | A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services | Committee Agenda Item | To provide new committee Members with context of the previous work of the committee |
|  | Outcomes:  |                     |  |                       |   |

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|                                       |  |  |  |   |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|---|--|
|                                       |  | The report be noted and discussion over the years upcoming work. |  |   |  |
| 14 September 2023 – Committee Meeting |  |  |  |   |  |
| Corporate Catering                    | To review the role in net zero of the Council's Corporate Catering function, particularly in relation to procurement | Communities, Customer & Commercial Services                      | Our natural environment is protected – we take a leading role in addressing the climate emergency. | Committee Agenda Item with the Committee asked to consider establishing a Task and Finish Group | Committee Meeting, consideration to be given to formation of a working group to scrutinise further |
|                                       | Outcomes:  |  |  |   |  |
| Climate Change Adaptation             | To provide feedback and comments on the upcoming adaptation work.  | Communities, Customer & Commercial Services                      | Our natural environment is protected – we take a leading role in addressing the climate emergency. | Committee Agenda Item   | Committee Meeting item   |
|                                       | Outcomes:  |  |  |   |  |
| 29 November 2023 – Committee Meeting  |  |  |  |   |  |
| Biodiversity Net Gain                 | Review of the biodiversity net gain strategy following changes in legislation  | Prosperity & Investment  | Everyone benefits from a thriving economy  | Committee Agenda Item with the Committee asked to consider establishing a Task and Finish Group | Initial scene setting meeting  |
|                                       | Outcomes:  |  |  |   |  |

|  |   |   |   |                       |   |
|--|---|---|---|-----------------------|---|
| River Sewage   | Review of the current river sewage position   | Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services        | Our natural environment is protected – we take a leading role in addressing the climate emergency | Committee Agenda Item | Severn Trent and The Environment Agency representatives will be attendance for this meeting |
|  | Outcome:  |   |   |                       |   |
| 6 February 2024 – Committee Meeting                                  |   |   |   |                       |   |
| To be confirmed but likely to include an update from a working group |   |   |   |                       |   |
|  | Outcomes:   |   |   |                       |   |
| 20 March 2024 – Committee Meeting                                    |   |   |   |                       |   |
| Climate Change and Plastic Free Telford & Wrekin                     | Annual Update on the Council’s Climate Change agenda  | Communities, Customer & Commercial Services | Our natural environment is protected – we take a leading role in addressing the climate emergency | Committee Agenda Item | Committee Agenda Item March 2024  |
|  | Outcomes:   |   |   |                       |   |
| Shropshire Good Food – 12 month review                               | Update on the Shropshire Good Food Project following the presentation to Members in the precious year | Communities, Customer & Commercial Services | A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services      | Committee Agenda Item | Committee Agenda Item March 2024  |
|  | Outcomes:   |   |   |                       |   |

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## Borough of Telford and Wrekin

### Environment Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 14 September 2023

### Corporate Catering – Role in Net Zero

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|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Cabinet Member:</b>          | Cllr Carolyn Healy - Cabinet Member: Climate Action, Green Spaces, Heritage & Leisure |
| <b>Lead Director:</b>           | Felicity Mercer - Director: Communities, Customer & Commercial Services               |
| <b>Service Area:</b>            | Communities, Customer & Commercial Services   |
| <b>Report Author:</b>           | Ian Wykes - Team Leader - Climate Change & Sustainability                             |
| <b>Officer Contact Details:</b> | <b>Tel:</b> 01953 384960 <b>Email:</b> Ian.Wykes@telford.gov.uk                       |
| <b>Wards Affected:</b>          | All Wards   |
| <b>Key Decision:</b>            | Not Key Decision  |
| <b>Forward Plan:</b>            | Not Applicable  |
| <b>Report considered by:</b>    | Environment Scrutiny Committee – 14 September 2023                                    |

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#### 1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

Environment Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Note the contents of this report and the planned review into Corporate Catering and how it supports the Council's net zero ambitions.

#### 2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To set out the role of the Council's corporate catering function as an introduction to a review of how the Corporate Catering are supporting the Council's net zero aims.

### **3.0 Background**

- 3.1 In 2019 Telford & Wrekin Council declared a Climate Change Emergency with the ambition of becoming net zero by 2030.
- 3.2 At a previous meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee, Members requested a review be undertaken to consider the Council's corporate catering function and how the service supported the Council's net zero aim.
- 3.3 It was suggested that the review could look at what the Corporate Catering team are currently doing to support the Council's net zero aim, what are the areas that could be improved and what are the best practices from other authorities.

### **4.0 Summary of main proposals**

- 4.1 Appendix A provides an introduction to the function of the Corporate Catering Service and action taken to reduce the Council's progress to becoming carbon neutral.
- 4.2 The Corporate Catering service has 254 employees providing 12,000 meals a day to 55 schools and 7 nurseries across the borough.
- 4.3 The service already promotes environmental best practice through initiatives such as Energy Smart: Kitchens. Much of the food purchased is locally sourced such as potatoes from Shropshire and free-range eggs from Clun. Recycled plastic is already used in items such as refuse sacks, plates, bowls, trays, and beakers.
- 4.4 The service is working closely with schools on eco initiatives such as at Hollinswood Primary School and Nursery which has achieved a Plastic Free Award.
- 4.5 Looking forward the review will consider:
- How is the current environmental impact of the current corporate catering service accessed?
  - What is currently being done within corporate catering to reduce the service's carbon footprint?
  - What are the future plans within the service to reduce the carbon footprint?
  - What is best practice in relation to reducing carbon and how can this be incorporated locally.

## **5.0 Alternative Options**

- 5.1 This report relates to a preliminary review being undertaken by the Environment Scrutiny Committee and no alternative options have been identified at this time. As part of the review, however, it might be that new ways of meeting net zero are identified.

## **6.0 Key Risks**

- 6.1 The report does not raise any specific risk at this point.

## **7.0 Council Priorities**

- 7.1 The councils' work on climate change and sustainability is a direct response to the council's priority "Our natural environment is protected, and the Council has a leading role in addressing the climate emergency". However, as a cross cutting agenda it also has a significant contribution to make towards all other council priorities including:

- Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community.
- Everyone benefits from a thriving economy.
- All neighbourhoods are a great place to live.
- A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.

## **8.0 Financial Implications**

- 8.1 Costs of the review of the Catering Service will be met from existing resources. Any actions arising from the review to further reduce the carbon footprint of the catering service will need to be met from existing budgets.

## **9.0 Legal and HR Implications**

- 9.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 (as amended) establishes a legally binding target to reduce the UK's greenhouse gas emissions by 100% by 2050 when compared with the 1990 baseline. At a local level, Section 19(1A) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local planning authorities to include in their local plans, policies designed to secure that the development and use of land in the local planning authority's area contribute to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. In the management of its activities, provision of its services and performance of its functions, local councils are in a position to play a vital role in meeting the challenges posed by climate change. The Council has wide scope to decide how best to address these challenges.
- 9.2 The School Food Standards. Section 114A School Standards and Framework Act 1998 requires that food and drink provided to pupils at schools in England complies with certain nutritional standards.

## **10.0 Ward Implications**

- 10.1 This report has a borough wide impact.

## **11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications**

- 11.1 Climate change will continue to have a significant impact on the health of Telford and Wrekin's residents as well as on their social and economic wellbeing. 2023 has seen the highest global temperatures ever recorded. Heatwaves can lead to very serious health implications particularly for the most vulnerable<sup>1</sup> Many of the actions set out in the climate change plan have considerable co-benefits. The Climate Change Fund supports businesses and community groups with energy efficiency measures which should help address recent rises in fuel prices.
- 11.2 The provision of healthy food is at the core of the Corporate Catering Service who also provide provides 3000 Universal infant free school meals and 4000 free school meals a day.

## **12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications**

- 12.1 The Council's Climate Change Action Plan takes account of the legal requirement to pay due regard to the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty. Key to this is consideration of people's specific needs based on their protected characteristics.

People who share protected characteristics of age, race, ethnicity and disability are often disproportionately affected by climate change and its consequences. This is true locally and internationally. Extreme weather events, for example heat waves most detrimentally affect older residents and those with pre-existing respiratory and cardiovascular conditions.

The success of our climate change activity relies on active participation by the whole community. Steps are taken to make sure that events are inclusive and the differing needs of individuals are considered so that they can access activities and contribute effectively.

## **13.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

- 13.1 This report sets out the one of the areas as to how Telford and Wrekin Council is helping address climate change and environmental implications.

## **14.0 Appendices**

- A Lets Dine and Eat Well - PowerPoint Presentation

## **15.0 Report Sign Off**

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(18\)30434-3/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(18)30434-3/fulltext)

Corporate Catering Role in Net Zero

| Signed off by | Date sent  | Date signed off | Initials |
|---------------|------------|-----------------|----------|
| Legal         | 04/09/2023 | 06/09/2023      | RP       |
| Finance       | 04/09/2023 | 04/09/2023      | MLB      |

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# Let's Dine & Eat Well

Healthy and Sustainable School Meals within the Borough  
Lorna Hicks



# Let's Dine & Eat Well

- 1 Who we are and what we deliver
- 2 How we are supporting climate change and sustainability
- 3 Our journey so far...
- 4 Looking ahead...
- 5 Q&A

## Session Objectives



# Let's Dine

55 schools and 7 nurseries

12,000 meals served daily

3,000 UIFSM and 4,000 FSM

254 employees

50 schools - 5-star rating

5 schools - 4-star rating

Accredited training centre

Our roast dinners are popular amongst children, staff, and parents!





# Eat Well

Healthy eating sessions  
delivered within our schools

Educating parents/carers on  
how to eat healthily on a budget

Sugar awareness

Nutrition and healthy balance

Cooking sessions with children

The children love to learn new cooking skills...





# Our journey so far

## Sustainability in Schools

Supporting our schools with their eco-initiatives helping them to win awards for sustainability and climate change.

Hollinswood Primary School & Nursery is one of our eco-champion schools. We previously helped them achieve a 'Plastic Free School' Award and have since supported the grand opening of their new community fruit and vegetable garden - The King's Patch, whereby the produce is used within the food we serve, by donating tools, seeds, and time - our cook Kathy Dennis is part of the schools gardening club - she is a great ambassador for our service!

Introducing Kathy...



Can you see me?



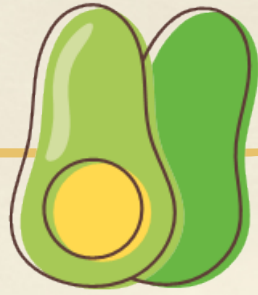
Opening of the garden



The tools we donated



# Our journey so far



## APSE Green Innovation Award

Awarded in 2021 for supporting the environment by recycling/using environmentally friendly cleaning materials and energy efficient equipment - Green Achiever Status

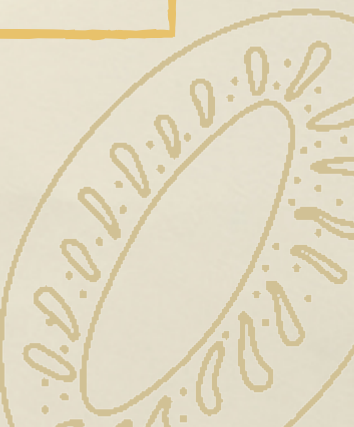
A proud moment for us both



We are taking a proactive stance to meet the governments agenda in support of climate change initiatives within our local area, in particular the council's commitment to reduce its carbon footprint by 2030!

In a bid to support the 'Plastic Free Telford' initiative, we are now revising all our plastic products to see if there are more environmentally sustainable products that we could switch to, to support our environmental aims.

We will continue the journey - working together.





# Our journey so far



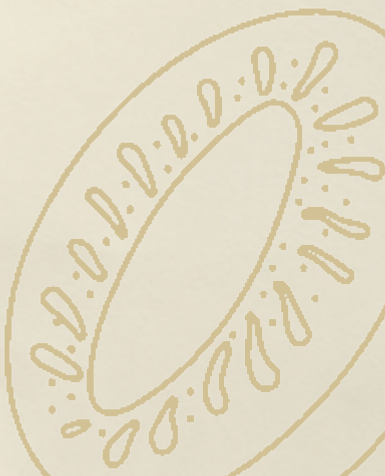
## Food for Life

### BRONZE AWARD

This has been a challenge this year due to rising food costs... but we did it!

### BRONZE schools:

- Have committed to improve their school food culture by developing a school food policy.
- Meet Bronze Food for Life Served Here Award standards which shows that school food is healthy and uses seasonal ingredients that are at least 75% freshly prepared
- Involve pupils and parents in planning improvements to school menus and the lunchtime experience, boosting school meal take-up
- Give every pupil the opportunity to visit a local farm and take part in cooking and food growing activity.





# Our journey so far

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## Energy Efficient Kitchens

We are working towards more energy efficient kitchens, helping to educate, train, and remind our staff of our commitment to tackling climate change.

These posters serve as a good reminder to ensure we remain energy conscious!



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Let's Dine

## Energy Smart: Kitchens

We're helping our school to save money by saving energy in the school kitchen.

### TOP TIPS!

- Switch off the lights when not in use.
- Keep the fridge shut as much as possible.
- Don't switch the oven on before it's needed.
- Don't leave the tap running, this wastes water.
- If it's cold, keeping the doors and windows shut will help keep the heat in.

Our kitchen is energy smart!



# Our Suppliers



Where possible, we are committed to partnering with local suppliers who share our standards for high quality foods, as well as sustainability efforts towards climate change.



# Working together



- Our meat is **UK** sourced
- Our potatoes are grown in Shropshire
- Our cheese is sourced locally
- Our eggs are **FREE RANGE** from Clun
- Our water is from Wenlock Springs

## Why it matters...

- Educating children for a healthier and more sustainable future
- Helping to reduce obesity amongst young children
- Supporting vulnerable families
- Supporting local suppliers to give back to businesses within the area
- Work together to help reduce our impact on the environment now



# Sustainability

What we have achieved so far...

- 1 Reduced the use of single-use plastic
- 2 Disposables are fully compostable
- 3 Refuse sacks are made from 100% recycled plastic
- 4 Environmentally-friendly chemicals - clean better and are safer for staff
- 5 Our oil is collected and turned into fuel
- 6 Reduced meat in recipes and replacing with alternative sources of protein



Making eco-friendly changes since before the pandemic



# Sustainability

What we have achieved so far... (Continued)

- 7 Our plates, bowls, trays, and beakers are made from recycled plastic
- 8 Recycled use of cling film
- 9 Decanting foods from larger containers to reduce packaging
- 10 All our suppliers have a sustainability policy and actively look to reduce their carbon footprint in support of our sustainability commitment
- 11 Work with schools supporting their sustainability programs - helped Hollinswood Primary School & Nursery to achieve a 'Plastic Free School' Award
- 12 'Meat-ing' halfway by using Quorn products as low carbon alternatives within our recipes that are tasty, healthy, save money, and the planet!







- 1** Not all schools have full recycling including food waste disposal on site
- 2** Cost of food rising
- 3** Perception of meat alternatives
- 4** Cost of eco-friendly alternatives
- 5** Other associated costs rising

# Challenges





# Looking Ahead...

**We remain committed to...**

**Providing healthy and nutritionally balanced meals to children within the borough**

**Educating children and vulnerable families about the benefits of eating healthily using low-cost recipes**

**Working with our schools to support each other's commitment to sustainability and initiatives to tackle climate change**

**Partnering with eco-conscious suppliers, helping to support local businesses and make a difference**

**Educating, training, and supporting our employees in all areas recognising they are the faces of our operation and ambassadors for our service within schools and local communities**



# Thank you for listening...

Do You Have Any Questions?

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## Borough of Telford and Wrekin

### Environment Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 14 September 2023

### Climate Change Adaptation

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|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Cabinet Member:</b>          | Cllr Carolyn Healy - Cabinet Member: Climate Action, Green Spaces, Heritage & Leisure |
| <b>Lead Director:</b>           | Felicity Mercer - Director: Communities, Customer & Commercial Services               |
| <b>Service Area:</b>            | Communities, Customer & Commercial Services   |
| <b>Report Author:</b>           | Ian Wykes - Team Leader - Climate Change & Sustainability                             |
| <b>Officer Contact Details:</b> | <b>Tel:</b> 01952 384960 <b>Email:</b> Ian.Wykes@telford.gov.uk                       |
| <b>Wards Affected:</b>          | All Wards   |
| <b>Key Decision:</b>            | Not Key Decision  |
| <b>Forward Plan:</b>            | Not Applicable  |
| <b>Report considered by:</b>    | Environment Scrutiny Committee – 14 September 2023                                    |

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#### 1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

Environment Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Review the proposed approach to developing a Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan and make recommendations as appropriate.

#### 2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To provide a summary of what is meant by climate change adaptation and the importance of considering the issue of adaptation for the council and the communities and businesses of Telford and Wrekin.

- 2.2 To set out an approach towards developing a Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan and seek the Environment Scrutiny Committee's guidance on taking this forward.

### **3.0 Background**

- 3.1 In 2019 Telford & Wrekin Council declared a Climate Change Emergency. Climate is different to weather. Weather is what conditions are like over a short period of time, climate is how the atmosphere 'behaves' over relatively long periods of time.
- 3.2 Climate change is the large-scale, long-term shift that we are seeing in the planet's weather patterns and average temperatures, and it has been driven by human activity that has released CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide) and other greenhouse gases into the air which causes an increase in global temperatures.
- 3.3 The key focus of work to date has been on reducing the council's carbon emissions to meet its target of being net zero by 2030. This is referred to as climate change mitigation.
- 3.4 This report is focused on climate change adaptation which refers to the process of building resilience against the impacts of climate change. These impacts could include the frequency of flooding, heatwaves and other extreme weather events and their resultant effects. As a local authority, Telford & Wrekin Council must ensure that its services are able to react to the current and predicted impacts of climate change.

### **4.0 Summary of main proposals**

- 4.1 A more detailed summary is set out in Appendix A of the report.
- 4.2 The Telford and Wrekin Corporate Climate Adaptation Plan will identify the key climate risks to the council's estate, services, and as a result, the wider community. A climate change risk register will be used to identify these risks.
- 4.3 Measures which will then be developed and implemented by the council to lessen the impact of these risks will be identified. Through working with key services across the council.
- 4.4 It is acknowledged that not all the measures identified can be delivered solely by the council using existing resources. Where this is the case, the council will adopt partnership working.
- 4.5 Adopting partnership working will not only strengthen the resilience of the borough through the sharing of resources but build upon an existing community network.



## Climate Change Adaptation

- 4.6 It is in the interest of the council to provide climate adaptation measures to council services and across the wider borough area. This will increase the resilience of the councils' services to future impacts of climate change.
- 4.7 The climate adaptation plan will sit as part of a wider suite of documents which collectively address the council's commitment to decarbonise its services and build resilience, such as the 'Corporate Climate Action Plan' and support existing Business Continuity Plans.
- 4.8 Climate adaptation takes account of both risks and opportunities arising from the impact of climate change. If measures are implemented successfully, climate adaptation co-benefits (such as biodiversity net gain) will arise.
- 4.9 Adaptation is an ongoing, iterative process. It is of note that there will be no final 'adapted state'; the plan must always acknowledge changes in local climate impacts and accommodate the continued process of building adaptive capacity and resilience.
- 4.10 The council is already promoting adaptation measures within the newly adopted Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Developing this adaptation plan will align with national policy for adaptation.

### **5.0 Alternative Options**

- 5.1 The alternative would be not to consider the impact that the effects of climate change will have on the council and the delivery of services and the wider impacts on the residents and businesses of Telford and Wrekin.

### **6.0 Key Risks**

- 6.1 Climate Change is seen as one the greatest risks globally. The Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan will include a risk register to identify risks related to the impacts of climate change and how this will support existing control mechanisms such as Business Continuity Planning.

### **7.0 Council Priorities**

- 7.1 The councils' work on climate change and sustainability is a direct response to the council's priority "Our natural environment is protected, and the Council has a leading role in addressing the climate emergency". However, as a cross cutting agenda it also has a significant contribution to make towards all other council priorities including:

- Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community.

- Everyone benefits from a thriving economy.
- All neighbourhoods are a great place to live
- A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.

### **8.0 Financial Implications**

- 8.1 Financial implications will need to be identified as part of the development of the Adaptation Plan. Funding streams will need to be explored once additional costs have been quantified, and considered as part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy

### **9.0 Legal and HR Implications**

- 9.1 Section 19(1A) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local planning authorities to include in their local plans, policies designed to secure that the development and use of land in the local planning authority's area contribute to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. In the management of its activities, provision of its services and performance of its functions, local councils are in a position to play a vital role in meeting the challenges posed by climate change. The Council has wide scope to decide how best to address these challenges.

### **10.0 Ward Implications**

- 10.1 Climate change adaptation is applicable across all wards however it is fully understood that some of the impacts of climate change will also vary between wards. For example, wards in low lying areas adjacent to the River Severn will continue to be impacted by flooding events more than others. Also wards with specific demographic or socio-economic makeup may also be differentially impacted by climate change.

### **11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications**

- 11.1 The impact of climate change on the health, social and economic wellbeing of the communities of Telford and Wrekin will be a fundamental consideration of the Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan. The plan will involve input from across the council and from relevant partners such as those within the Integrated Care System.

### **12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications**

- 12.1 The Council's Climate Change Adaptation Plan will take into account the legal requirement to pay due regard to the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty. Key to this is consideration of people's specific needs based on their protected characteristics.
- 12.2 People who share protected characteristics of age, race, ethnicity and disability are often disproportionately affected by climate change and its consequences.

## Climate Change Adaptation

This is true locally and internationally. Extreme weather events, for example heat waves most detrimentally affect older residents and those with pre-existing respiratory and cardiovascular conditions.

- 12.3 The success of our climate change activity relies on active participation by the whole community. Steps are taken to make sure that events are inclusive, and the differing needs of individuals are considered so that they can access activities and contribute effectively.

### 13.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications

- 13.1 Climate Change Adaptation is an integral part of the Council's climate change and environmental work.

### 14.0 Appendices

- A Corporate Adaptation Plan – PowerPoint slides

### 15.0 Report Sign Off

| Signed off by | Date sent  | Date signed off | Initials |
|---------------|------------|-----------------|----------|
| Finance       | 04/09/2023 | 04/09/2023      | MLB      |
| Legal         | 04/09/2023 | 06/09/2023      | RP       |

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# Telford and Wrekin Corporate Climate Adaptation Plan

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Amy Allen

# Climate change

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### Climate change: World's hottest day since records began

4 July

### Climate crisis up close: a week of wildfires in Rhodes



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### Cerberus heatwave: Hot weather sweeps across southern Europe

13 July

### Storm Eunice: at least four dead as worst storm in decades roars in

Record-breaking gusts hit UK and Ireland, leaving trail of devastation and chaos

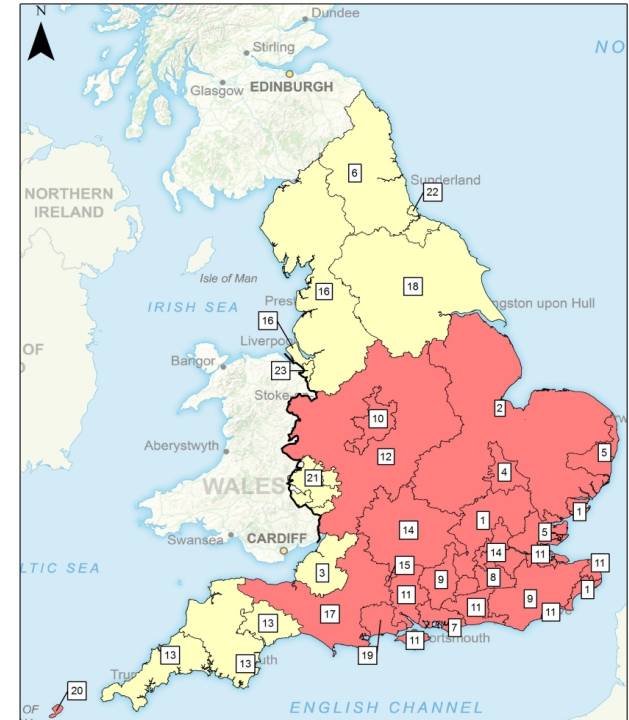
# Climate projections

## UK Climate Projections (UKCP): August 2022

- Increase in extreme weather events
- Warmer, wetter winters
- Hotter, drier summers

## Impacts

- Environmental, social, economical
  - Environmental damage
  - Significant damage to infrastructure
  - Impacts to health and wellbeing



Water stressed areas, 2021  
(GOV.UK)

# Progress so far

*The council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and set a commitment to become carbon neutral by 2030.*

## Page 44 **Climate mitigation (decarbonisation) strategies**

Corporate: 'Becoming Carbon Neutral' (2020)

- Decarbonising the corporate estate and services

Borough-wide: Climate Change Borough Partnership Action Plan (2021)

- Working with partners to decarbonise Telford and Wrekin



# Climate Adaptation

## Climate Adaptation vs Mitigation

- *Climate Mitigation: efforts to reduce or prevent emissions of greenhouse gases*
- *Climate Adaptation: the process of building resilience against the risks posed by actual or expected climate change*

Actions that build climate resilient communities (adaptation) **are as important as** actions that mitigate the production of emissions.

# T&W: Adaptation so far

## Example adaptation measures:

- Promoting climate resilience through the new Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).
  - Promote design best practice – buildings designed to reduce overheating (installing green walls/natural ventilation for example)
- Tree policy – planting a mixture of native and non-native species
- Sustainable Urban Drainage systems (SUDs) handbook
  - Reduce the risk of flooding – manages surface water runoff
  - Opportunities to increase biodiversity – nature-based solution



# Why should we create an adaptation plan?

*Developing A Climate Adaptation strategy is a clear next-step for the council.*

## **Better preparedness and resilience**

- Demonstrates a proactive approach to addressing climate risks
- Strengthens existing emergency response plans
- Community resilience is strengthened

## **Maintaining service provision**

- Councils provide essential community services
- These services, and the standard in which they are delivered, must be maintained
- It will ensure business continuity

# Policy context

*How is the UK Government supporting climate adaptation?*

## **National Adaptation Programme (NAP)**

- NAP3 (third national adaptation programme), sets out the actions that government and others will take to adapt to the impacts of climate change in the UK (2023-2028). This report forms part of the 5-yearly cycle of requirements laid down in the Climate Change Act 2008

## **UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022 (UKCCRA)**

- UK Government works closely with the Climate Change Committee (CCC) to identify climate risks impacting the UK

# Telford and Wrekin Climate Adaptation Plan

## Aims

- To address the role that the council plays in climate adaptation across the borough
- It will be owned by the council, but will adopt partnership working
  - *I.e., Work alongside the Fire and Rescue service to assess areas most prone to wildfires*

## Developing the plan

- Two-pronged approach:
  1. Identify the risks (Climate Change Risk Register)
  2. Develop actions to mitigate those risks (Adaptation Action Plan)

# Climate Risks to Telford and Wrekin council

*What are the climate risks to the council and its stakeholders?*

## Example risks

- Impacts from extreme weather events (flash flooding, droughts, wildfires)
  - Damage to natural environment
  - Council services unable to cope

## Climate Change Risk Register

- A climate change risks register will be conducted.
- Organisations that adopt risk assessments will be more flexible and better prepared to cope with climate risks

# Example: Blaby District Council

## Climate Change Risk Register

| Type                                    | Risk? (Effect)   | Result   | Impact  | Probability   | Score | Influence   | Overall Risk |
|---|--|--|---|---|-------|---|--------------|
| Heat Wave/<br>Hotter<br>summer<br>temps | Damage to highways and transport infrastructure by prolonged high temperatures (melting surfaces and bridge expansion) | 1. Transport disruption and road closures as road surfaces need to be repaired after melting | Damage to highway infrastructure likely to be significant | It is very probable that this will become an increasing problem over time | 6     | 1<br>LCC is responsible for road network maintenance                                    | 6            |
|   |  | 2. Residents and employees unable to travel to work or deliver essential services            |   |   |       |   |              |
|   | Overheating in the council vehicles  | Need to ensure that the council fleet is maintained  | The impact is low   | It is very probable that this problem will increase over time             | 2     | 3<br>The council is responsible for the safety and comfort of those using it's vehicles | 6            |

# Example Adaptation plans

## Stafford Borough Council: Climate Adaptation Plan (2023)

- Identifies measures which should be delivered by the council (on their own or in partnership) to build climate resilience across the borough
- Incorporates actions identified by the West Midlands Climate Change Risk Assessment and Action plan 2021-2026
- Telford and Wrekin *could* adopt this style of adaptation plan

## West Midlands Climate Change Risk Assessment and Action Plan (2021-2026)

- Identifies climate risks and creates adaptive measures for the west midland's demographic



# Developing the plan

## Project plan/development

- Final draft created by March 2024
- An internal 'Adaptation Working Group' will be formed to develop and monitor the action plan
- Work alongside scrutiny working group (subject to discussion)

## Where will this plan sit?

*Business Continuity Plan, Corporate Climate Action Plan, Corporate Climate Adaptation Plan*

## Possible partners

- Environment Agency
- Public Health bodies
- Wildlife Trusts
- Emergency services
- Climate Change Borough Partnership

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