



Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Environment Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 14 September 2023

Corporate Catering – Role in Net Zero

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Carolyn Healy - Cabinet Member: Climate Action, Green Spaces, Heritage & Leisure
Lead Director:	Felicity Mercer - Director: Communities, Customer & Commercial Services
Service Area:	Communities, Customer & Commercial Services
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Wards Affected:	All Wards
Key Decision:	Not Key Decision
Forward Plan:	Not Applicable
Report considered by:	Environment Scrutiny Committee – 14 September 2023

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 assessed?
 - 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 vulnerable¹ 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

¹ [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