

Part I

Item No.

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Executive Member: Cllr Max Holloway

All Wards

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT FOR CLIMATE BIODIVERSITY CABINET PANEL – 10 JULY 2024
REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (RESIDENT SERVICES AND CLIMATE
CHANGE)

WEWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL – CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE REPORT

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines progress being made regarding WHC’s corporate priority on ‘Action on Climate’.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members note the progress of specific projects/actions within the Climate Action Plan, which is the main tool used to monitor our pathway to net zero as an organisation (2030) and as a borough (2050) and note the wider co benefits of such actions.

3.0 Explanation

- 3.1 It is important to monitor progress as we transition to net zero. Key updates against the Councils’ action plan are as follows;

Action 92- Promote internal sustainable behaviour; such as green staff incentives, use of EV and e pool bikes and add sustainability chapter in teams’ charters, staff sustainability champion.

- New Team Charters have been written which include a section on Climate Change. It will remind staff of our climate targets and aspirations and suggest sustainable behavioural choices that will help us in achieving these goals.

Action 17 - Develop and implement on and offline mechanisms through which residents, businesses and stakeholders can be involved in the progress and delivery of the CAP

- For the first time, Welwyn Hatfield took part in the Great Big Green Week during 8th to 16th June. The theme this year focused on ‘Let’s swap together for good’. Events included two clothes swaps, a seed swaps, a rags to rug workshop, a mindful art class, a medicinal plant (weeds) workshop, a reusable nappy talk and two Dr Bike repair and service pop up shops.

Alongside the events we had stalls to promote work we are doing around the borough, in terms of climate action, waste and biodiversity.

We look forward to building upon this next year and getting more organisations involved.

Action 5 - Seek and promote schemes around the borough such as Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2), Solar together, ECO flex 4/BGIS, BHBH

- Home upgrade Grant (HUG2) has had 16 referrals and one completed installation to date. We are planning on doing some door knocking on specific homes after the elections, so please email me if you would like to join me.

The eligibility threshold has increased from £31k to £36k, so we have provided a press release, and a further mail out has been sent to approximately 650 targeted homes advising residents of this increase.

- Eco flex has had 2 installations to date and one in progress.
- Solar Together initiative is coming to an end; we had 398 residents sign up in this second cohort. In a few months' time we will see how many of those were installed and the carbon savings achieved as a result of the installations.

Action 22- WENTA programme. To assist up to 100 businesses receiving gold standard advice on carbon foot printing and carbon reduction advice.

- WENTA programme – 37 businesses signed up to date. The programme offers up to 100 SME's the opportunity to get bespoke carbon reduction advice, access to resources and skills training support for a 12-month period.

Action 37 - Explore opportunities for additional tree planting around the borough

- Your Tree Our Future has launched for the third consecutive year, so please promote the scheme to your constituents so they can sign up to receive up to 5 trees or a hedgerow pack to plant on private land.

Implications

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 There will be no legal implications associated with providing this climate update report.

5. Financial Implication(s)

- 5.1 There will be no immediate financial implications associated with providing this climate update report.

6. Risk Management Implications

6.1 There are no immediate risk management implications associated with providing this climate update report.

7. Communication implications

7.1 There are no communication implications associated with providing this climate update report.

8. Security & Terrorism Implication(s)

8.1 There are likely to be no security and terrorism implications associated with providing this climate update report.

9. Procurement Implication(s)

9.1 There are likely to be no procurement implications associated with providing this climate update report.

10 Climate Change Implication(s)

10.1 As per above in section 3.

11. Human Resources Implication(s)

11.1 There are likely to be no HR implications associated with providing this climate update report.

12. Health and Wellbeing Implication(s)

12.1 There are likely to be no health and wellbeing implications associated with providing this climate update report.

13. Link to Corporate Priorities

13.1 Outlining progress in relation to projects/action from the climate action plan relates to the corporate priorities in the following ways;

- Action on climate change
 - Renew our commitments to be a net zero Council by 2030 (and as a borough by 2050)
 - Step up climate change adaptation and mitigation measures
 - Lead by Example and encourage others to make positive change
 - Increase and promote biodiversity

Projects being delivered are in support of our net zero targets and address climate mitigation and/or adaptation.

A number of the projects mentioned relate to improving biodiversity and community engagement to encourage others to make positive behavioural change.

14. Equalities and Diversity

14.1 There are likely to be no equalities and diversity implications associated with providing this climate update report.

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