

Appendix to the Minutes

Item 4 – Climate Action Plan

	Question	Answer
Aims and Objectives of the Action Plan		
1	What are the key areas identified by the Cabinet Liaison Panel – Climate Change and Environment?	<p>The Panel identified the following key priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To incorporate climate change policies into the emerging local Plan (Policy HB2i) • To reduce carbon emissions from transport and travel (Policy HB1i) • To increase the carbon literacy awareness of staff and Councilors when making decisions through training (Policy HA1iii) • To amend templates and provide guidance for business cases and decision papers to ensure that these papers include an evaluation of the impact of the proposal on the environment and climate (Policy HA1iv) • To amend the pension investment appraisal to mandate inclusion of criteria to mitigate the climate crisis (Policy HA2iii)
2	Could the provision of a kerbside glass collection be investigated?	Under the Government waste recycling initiative and legislation, a twin scheme approach would be introduced which would cover the collection of glass

	Question	Answer
3	Should we not be conscious of waste miles when looking at recycling services?	Yes
<p>Policy HA1iii: Amend the Constitution, procurement processes and investment appraisal tools to mandate inclusion of criteria to mitigate the climate crisis.</p>		
4	Will future committee reports include a comment from the Climate Change officer?	Yes
5	Could the Council not hold all Committee meetings virtually?	Where appropriate, the Council holds virtual meetings. However, Full Council, Cabinet and the Council's Committees and Sub-Committees cannot be virtual.
<p>Policy HB1i: Promote climate messages to raise awareness and stimulate public engagement to foster change, including active travel, reducing energy demand, and looking after the natural environment. Also to improve recycling rates of all types of waste. Comms to promote the new glass recycling bins initiative</p> <p>and</p> <p>Policy HB2i: Minimise the climate impact of new development through our Local Plan policies and development management decisions. Embrace and enforce polices to reduce energy demand in dwellings such as the Future Homes Standard, Living with Beauty, and others as appropriate. Leading by example, minimise the climate and environmental impacts of Havant Borough Council's own projects.</p>		
6	Could these policies be extrapolated into separate headings as there a number of distinct areas included in these policies?	Agreed

	Question	Answer
7	To what extent could the Council insist on energy efficient measures in the Local Plan?	<p>The Future Homes Standard aims to make homes more efficient through revisions to the Building Regulations. The Planning Act enables the Council to impose more stringent requirements than those set out in the Building Regulations, but the Council needs to be mindful of the need to balance this against other factors such as social standards, infrastructure, and bio diversity. The higher the standard, the greater the cost to the Council</p> <p>The Future Homes Standard will go to zero carbon. However, this does not mean that all sites will be zero carbon as the scheme may allow off site payments. Legislation does not set constraints upon Council on what it can require but it is recommended that the Council should look to improve the energy efficiency of buildings before technological solutions are explored (fabric first method) which would place no additional levels of complexity on the owner.</p>
8	Do we have any opportunities to set standards for fabric first?	Yes, through the new Local Plan
9	Can we prohibit gas boilers in future homes?	If heating is to be provided by electricity only in a future development, it makes sense for electricity capacity to be provided during construction. However, Government advice is that Councils should not dictate the energy to be used. Needs to be explored further.
Policy HA1v: Change the culture of the organisation with carbon literacy awareness at all levels		

	Question	Answer
10	When is this training due to commence and how will it be provided?	Online and face to face training has been prepared and will be delivered to all officers and councillors
<p>Policy HB1i Promote climate messages to raise awareness and stimulate public engagement to foster change, including active travel, reducing energy demand, and looking after the natural environment. Also to improve recycling rates of all types of waste. Comms to promote the new glass recycling bins initiative</p>		
11	Have we engaged with Hants and Wildlife Trust project on the mudbank project in Langstone Harbour?	Members are involved with the Harbour Boards and the information received from these Boards could help inform the Action Plan
12	Has the Council engaged with the national Plant Britain and Beach Watch programmes?	<p>A lot of trees are planted across the Borough and County and the Council work closely with Norse and the tree wardens on this matter. Happy to look at additional areas and ensuring those trees protected by TPOs are maintained.</p> <p>There was an established beach clearing programme in place. Happy to investigate both this further.</p>
13	Has the Council considered using the data on all community litter groups to organise a combined Borough litter picking event?	Cllr Bowerman Agreed to discuss at next Panel Meeting
14	Could the Council investigate allowing verges and roundabouts to grow wild?	Already undertake a “no mow” programme in May to allow wild plants to grow on verges where the site lines will not be interfered. There is also the opportunity for community groups to take over the responsibility for maintaining open space.

	Question	Answer
		The Council would be exploring the potential opportunities through the requirements of the Environment Act and the emerging Local Plan for bio diversity net gain to be provided on Council land together with third party mitigation schemes, which would be embedded in a bio diversity policy and the emerging Local Plan.

Item 5 - Report of the Overview And Scrutiny Task Force on Paperless

Questions

	Question	Answer
1	Meetings Devices - £24,474 Is this based on 38 councillors making £644 * per device?	Yes
2	Support FTE - £18,464 ** Is this one officer working full time on supporting members to use the new device?	It is proposed that an additional post be provided in the Democratic Services Team, who will lead on Digital Democracy, to provide IT support to Councillors
3	What is the current cost of providing IT support to Councillors using their own devices?	There is currently no provision for supporting the members' own devices. The aim is to get to a position where the Council can provide this service.

	Question	Answer
4	<p>Modernisation Allowance</p> <p>If the cost of a device for a four-year term as an elected councillor is £644 *, why is the so-called Modernisation Allowance of £461 per annum, per councillor, proposed to be withdrawn for each of the four years?</p>	<p>It is recommended to use the allowance to cover the ongoing costs of CAPITA support, inhouse support to Councillors and the improvement to the current committee system software</p>
5	<p>Why does the Council finance the costs of IT equipment provided to officers but not to Councillors?</p>	<p>The two roles are different; Officers are paid employees and Councillors are elected. The options set out in the report will get to a position whereby the Council can provide the necessary equipment to its members.</p>
6	<p>Was a survey of members undertaken to identify what information they needed and how best to supply this information?</p>	<p>In the absence of the author of the report, the officers and Cabinet Lead could not answer this question</p>
7	<p>Could the Council not give the members their modernisation allowance as a lump sum to enable them to purchase the necessary equipment?</p>	<p>If the members bought their own equipment, the Council could only provide a specification but beyond this no other support</p>
8	<p>Would it not be more secure, if the Council provided new Councillors?</p>	<p>Yes. A device supplied by the Council would be more secure and supported by CAPITA</p>

	Question	Answer
9	Could you explain the conflicting figures in the report for the savings that could be made?	The taskforce report uses a range of figures including non-cashable items.
10	Why can the Council not just stop issuing paper copies of agenda papers to members?	Legislation, as set out in the report, does not permit this

Item 6 - Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Force on the Council's Business Grants Support During the Covid 19 Lockdown

Questions

	Question	Answer
1	Does the Council have the processes in place should this kind of event happen again?	Yes