



Town Hall | 61 Newland Street | Witham | Essex | CM8 2FE

## CLIMATE AUDIT PANEL

### AGENDA

**MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 10:00AM, COUNCIL CHAMBER**

**MEMBERS:**

S. Ager  
S. Hicks  
C. Jay

**OFFICERS:**

J. Sheehy  
H. Andrews

**CO-OPTEEES:**

**1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive any apologies for absence.

**2) DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

To receive any declarations of interest.

**3) MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

To receive and confirm the minutes of the Climate Audit Panel held 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021, [\(attached\)](#)

**4) RECOMMENDATIONS MADE TO DATE**

To review recommendations made to date [\(attached\)](#) and consider the following referrals back to the panel:

- Acquisition of Town Park & War Memorial as priority climate items.

**5) SOLAR CAPABILITIES ON WITHAM INDUSTRIAL ESTATE**

To consider the way ahead on this project.

**6) PANEL BUSINESS**

To consider the business and projects of the panel.

**7) ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

An open debate to consider what other areas the panel may wish to engage in.

**ITEM 3**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CLIMATE AUDIT PANEL AT WITHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021 AT 10:00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.**

**PRESENT:** - Councillors C. Jay, S. Ager, S. Hicks.

**Staff:** J Sheehy - Town Clerk

**1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

Councillor C. Jay was appointed as Chairman of the Climate Audit Panel.

**2. TERMS OF REFERENCE & GROUP REMIT**

Members reviewed the relevant Scheme of Delegation section and subsequently

**RECOMMENDED** that the Climate Audit Panel meeting frequency be increased from 2 to 4 per year, to be inserted into the standing meeting schedule.

**3. EXAMINATION OF BUSINESS PLANS**

Members performed an overview of existing business plans and identified the following objectives, tasks and recommendations in respect of each item:

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

- **RECOMMENDED** the consideration of 20mph speed limits for all residential estates.
- **RECOMMENDED** that the signposting of all cycle networks be considered as part of the process.

**SCRUTINY OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- **RECOMMENDED** that the Planning Applications & Transport Sub-Committee engage in a local planning policy debate and training exercise at an appropriate upcoming meeting and that such an item be considered as an annual exercise.
- **RECOMMENDED** that the Environment Committee explores how to work with developers for the creation of wildflower meadows on new estates.

**HIGHWAYS AND PARKING MATTERS**

- **AGREED** for the group to maintain legislative and regulatory updates concerning the introduction of electric scooters in Braintree District.
- **AGREED** to explore electric car charging capabilities across Town Council sites.

**CCTV**

- **RECOMMENDED** that the upcoming CCTV review report includes research on solar capabilities for existing CCTV equipment.

## **YOUTH**

- **RECOMMENDED** the Youth Working Group correspond with local schools to explore climate priorities with children.

## **BUSINESS & GROUP ENGAGEMENT**

- **AGREED** the panel would engage in a research exercise as to the solar capabilities and feasibility of group solar projects across Witham's industrial estates.

## **ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT**

- **RECOMMENDED** the Community Committee review pesticides as part of setting its allotment management policies.
- **RECOMMENDED** the Community Committee explore the scope for installation of communal composting facilities at the recently repatriated Cut-Throat Lane Allotment site.

## **IMPROVING HEALTHCARE FACILITIES IN WITHAM**

- **AGREED** the panel would engage in a research exercise as to the solar capabilities and feasibility of group solar projects across Witham's industrial estates.

## **REVIEW OF FLORAL DISPLAYS**

- **AGREED** to include a researched section on the "National Gardening Scheme" in the upcoming "Witham In Bloom" report.
- **AGREED** to include a section on climate benefits and bee friendly plantings for any future Witham In Bloom scheme.

## **PATH & CYCLEWAY PROGRAMME**

- **RECOMMENDED** the Council engage a qualified consultant to advise on potential finishes and grades with an eco-friendly aspect, as part of the Path & Cycleway programme.

## **REVIEW OF STREET FURNITURE**

- **RECOMMENDED** the Environment Committee consider the inclusion and installation of segregated recycling bins as part of this review.

## **BLACKWATER RAIL TRAIL**

- **AGREED** an exercise could be commenced in engaging Essex County Council to improve biodiversity and wildflower growth along the Blackwater Rail Trail.

## **WITHAM CYCLEWAY STRATEGY**

- **RECOMMENDED** the Town Centre Regeneration Steering Group commences work in partnership with the Climate Audit Panel to produce a draft Witham

Cycleway Strategy in consideration of the District Cycling Strategy currently out to consultation.

#### **TOILETS**

- **AGREED** the C.A.P would commence an audit of toilet facilities managed by the Town Council.

#### **STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS AND ACQUISITIONS**

- **RECOMMENDED** to the Localism & Devolution Group that the acquisition of the Town Park, Maltings Lane sports pitches and War Memorial be elevated as priority climate items.

#### **REVIEW OF COMMUNICATIONS**

- **RECOMMENDED** to Policy & Resources Committee that the review includes a section on the Council's climate change priorities.

There being no further business, the panel concluded at 12:18pm.

.....  
Councillor C Jay  
Chairman

JS 01.07.2021

**ITEM 4**

REC DATE	COMMITTEE	RECOMMENDATION
25/06/2021	<b>FTC</b>	RECOMMENDED that the Climate Audit Panel meeting frequency be increased from 2 to 4 per year, to be inserted into the standing meeting schedule.
25/06/2021	<b>PLANNING</b>	RECOMMENDED the consideration of 20mph speed limits for all residential estates.
25/06/2021	<b>PLANNING</b>	RECOMMENDED that the signposting of all cycle networks be considered as part of the process.
25/06/2021	<b>PLANNING</b>	RECOMMENDED that the Planning Applications & Transport Sub-Committee engage in a local planning policy debate and training exercise at an appropriate upcoming meeting and t
25/06/2021	<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>	RECOMMENDED that the Environment Committee explores how to work with developers for the creation of wildflower meadows on new estates.
25/06/2021	<b>COMMUNITY</b>	RECOMMENDED that the upcoming CCTV review report includes research on solar capabilities for existing CCTV equipment.
25/06/2021	<b>COMMUNITY</b>	RECOMMENDED the Youth Working Group correspond with local schools to explore climate priorities with children.
25/06/2021	<b>COMMUNITY</b>	RECOMMENDED the Community Committee review pesticides as part of setting its allotment management policies.
25/06/2021	<b>COMMUNITY</b>	RECOMMENDED the Community Committee explore the scope for installation of communal composting facilities at the recently repatriated Cut-Throat Lane Allotment site.
25/06/2021	<b>FTC</b>	RECOMMENDED the Council engage a qualified consultant to advise on potential finishes and grades with an eco-friendly aspect, as part of the Path & Cycleway programme.
25/06/2021	<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>	RECOMMENDED the Environment Committee consider the inclusion and installation of segregated recycling bins as part of this review.
25/06/2021	<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>	RECOMMENDED the Town Centre Regeneration Steering Group commences work in partnership with the Climate Audit Panel to produce a draft Witham Cycleway Strategy in consid
25/06/2021	<b>POLICY &amp; RESOURCES</b>	RECOMMENDED to the Localism & Devolution Group that the acquisition of the Town Park, Maltings Lane sports pitches and War Memorial be elevated as priority climate items.
25/06/2021	<b>POLICY &amp; RESOURCES</b>	RECOMMENDED to Policy & Resources Committee that the communications review includes a section on the Council's climate change priorities.