

Full Council Meeting – 15 December 2020

Report of Councillor Peter Pilkington – Climate Change

- **Countywide Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy**

The strategy was adopted by Council on 26th October 2020. Since then it has been through each of the other Councils and adopted. Conversations are ongoing with regards to the governance arrangements for the delivery phase of the Strategy, which will be reported to Members in due course.

- **CNCR Action Plan**

The SWT CNCR Action Plan was approved by Council on 26th October 2020. This provides us with a more detailed plan of aspirational actions which our Climate Change Programme will look to deliver against.

- **Somerset EV Charging Strategy**

A pan-Somerset EV Charging Strategy has been produced, as an early product of the Climate Emergency Strategy work. It is currently on its way through the democratic path towards adoption both here and in the other Councils. The Strategy provides us with projections for EV adoption in Somerset and identifies the actions that we need to take and facilitate to influence this positively. As a result of the Strategy, we will be aiming to work towards 25% of vehicle kms travelled being EV in Somerset by 2030.

- **Electric Vehicle Charge Points**

SWT are planning to lease four car parking bays to an electric vehicle charging point (EVCP) operator, installing 50kw, rapid charge points at Deane House and Blackbrook Sports Centre. Both are expected to be operating towards the end of Q1 2021 and will be accessible to the public 24/7. A number of further sites are being investigated with the same EVCP operator.

In addition to this invitations for expressions of interest have been requested using a nationally recognised procurement framework. Prospective EVCP suppliers will tender to investigate the suitability and, where appropriate, to supply charging points at multiple car parks throughout the district.

- **DC Share**

Western Power Distribution and SWT are finalising the cable routes to the 15 charge points, seeking permissions from stakeholders and landowners across the three locations, Canon Street, Firepool & Coal Orchard.

- **Fleet Transition to Electric Vehicles**

Following the positive use of demo vehicles officers are progressing the procurement of 2 x electric pool vehicles to align with the implementation of the charge points at Deane House, these vehicles will be the first of our pool vehicles to be switched to electric.

- **CDP Annual Disclosure**

Officers submitted our annual disclosure to CDP in August, based on the emerging CNCR Action Plan and Countywide Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy, and recently confirmed that these have now been adopted. In 2019 (our first year of disclosure) we received a score of “C” (Awareness) reflecting the fact that we had declared a climate emergency, and were beginning work on understanding what was necessary to tackle it. In the CNCR we set ourselves a target to work towards a score of “A” (Leadership) by 2023, expecting that we might achieve a “B” (Management) this year. We have now received our 2020 score of “A-” (Leadership) which means we have exceeded our expectations and are now very close to achieving our 2023 goal ahead of time. However, the scoring methodology progressively tightens and there are many things we can and need to do to continue to improve, so we should not become complacent.

- **Interim Policy Statement on Planning for the Climate Emergency**

A Draft Interim Policy Statement has been produced to provide additional explanation and guidance on our existing planning policies in relation to the climate emergency. Its principal purpose is to reiterate existing adopted planning policies and ensure that we are applying them to the best of their effect in tackling the Climate Emergency. The Draft Statement is due for consultation from 23 November 2020 – 4 January 2021.

- **Ecological Emergency**

In September 2020, the Council declared an Ecological Emergency. Work has recently begun, scoping out where the Council should go from here in terms of strategy and action planning as well as how we are already taking action in this regard. A further update report will be presented to Council in due course.

- **Zero Carbon Pilot**

The pilot has commenced pre app stage and has gone out to the market for a main modular build contractor. Seaward Way and Oxford Inn zero carbon projects are being considered by members in December and if approved a total of 115 zero carbon homes will be built over the following 3 years. The low carbon standard for NTWP is being discussed and a report by Hydrock will be produced on the options prior to a works cost being agreed for phase A.

- **EScooter Trial**

The Taunton scheme went live on the 30th October 2020 and the first three weeks stats from Zipp Mobility show that this new form of public transport is extremely popular.

	15/11/2020 - 22/11/2020	Cumulative Total
Total number of rides	2063	4910
Total distance travelled (km)	7734	19076
Average trip length (km)	3.74	
Average trip duration	0:27:14	
Total time spent on scooters (hours)	936:25:55	2404.00
New users last 7 days	903	
Total users signed up since launch	4073	

- **Free Trees**

The free trees scheme was launched in September and was open to all Parish / Town Councils to request free trees for National Tree Planting week, November 2020. SWT supplied and delivered a total of 223 trees.

- **Water Refill Stations**

We are continuing to work with Wessex Water on this project and have identified two town locations to install 3 water refill stations, further detail will be available in the New Year.