

North Hertfordshire District Council
Climate Change Briefing December 2020



Contributions to the Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP)



The scoping document for a county-wide biodiversity baseline was presented at the January 2021 meeting. The paper included the next steps, including the development of a Procurement Intention Notice, and a Specification for the work and recommendation for joint working and funding from each of the districts.

At a recent meeting, HCCSP representatives meet with the MD, Executive member and manager to review the effectiveness of the partnership.

The subgroup will now be working together to draft an Action plan in regard to Biodiversity. This Action plan will identify next steps/actions for the county. These topics under discussion will include but not be limited to - developing a biodiversity baseline, raising awareness of local biodiversity, advocacy of the specification of local green space management as a statutory function, highlight the value of Local Nature Reserves and other wildlife areas, and support the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gains.

An audit is being conducted by SIAS for all district councils in regard to climate change. NHDC's is scheduled to take place in February 2021.

Environment Panel Meeting

The Policy Team are working to update the latest version of the Climate Change Strategy. The team are reviewing the progress of those initial proposed actions and making some amendments to the strategy in line with the latest environmental guidance. Officer recently attended at LGA collaboration meeting with Kent County council to share best practice and other crosscutting matters. We have also updated the LGA website to publicise the Council' stance in regard to the Climate emergency.

Work is underway of the preparation of the February Cabinet Panel for the Environment. This panel will concentrate of the review of the council's climate change achievements in 2020. The Air Quality topic will be covered at another meeting. **Next meeting – 23rd February 2021.**

Greenspace Management

The annual clean of the River Hiz is planned to take place during early 2021. This year the drain down of the balancing tanks adjacent St Mary's Church is due to take place on the 22nd January 2021 with the cleaning and refilling completed within a week. This is weather and Covid restrictions permitting.

