



Service Delivery Committee Working Group Update – Quarter Three – 2022 – 2023

ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP

Update from Working Group Meeting

There were two agenda items for this meeting:

The first was the Environmental Strategy and Action Plan 2022 Progress Update, with a presentation by the Climate Change Officer. This was the third-year review of the Strategy and Action Plan, and a summary of the key progress/updates was given to complement the detail contained in the document itself. This included the green credentials of the relocation of the main offices to Brocks Hill, the increase in EV charging infrastructure across the Borough, a funding bid to the government's Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and on-going work around engaging communities with nature through tree planting and volunteering.

There was further discussion around whether the energy and carbon savings of the Brocks Hill relocation could be quantified, with the Climate Change Officer to investigate this further. With regard to EVs, it was noted the main aim of the chargers is to provide the necessary infrastructure to encourage residents to make the switch to electric vehicles and that they would continue to be promoted to assist this. Volunteering at Brocks Hill was also discussed and the feeling is that it is diminishing, not increasing, with a suggestion to use social media to promote these activities and to link to the care of trees, particularly during dry spells, and any litter-picking events planned by the Housing/Well-being teams. Lastly, a discussion took place as to how we move from the existing Action Plan to the new one which will have a stronger focus on climate change and reducing carbon emissions. It was agreed that we will keep the existing Action Plan in place until the new one is prepared and then review the position again at that time.

The second agenda item was the Climate Change Officer Update: it was reported that the Carbon Baseline Study had been delayed by the Consultants, but a draft version had now been received and a new timeline was given. It was asked if it was still possible to report the outcomes of the Baseline Study to the Service Delivery Committee in March and this was to be investigated. Going forward this will then feed into a full review of the Environment Strategy and Action Plan. There was an update on Carbon Literacy Training (to promote a low carbon culture) outlining that training for all staff and Members will come forward through the e-learning platform Learning Pool from April 2023. This will involve the purchase of Learning Pool's "Net-Zero Collection", a suite of online learning modules about sustainability and climate change. Consideration will also need to be given to which modules are most suitable to use for staff and Members.