

Performance Monitoring Report: Environment Committee

DATE OF MEETING	3 September 2020
ATTENDEES	Members: Chris Brine, Haydn Sutton Officers: Brendan Cleere

PERFORMANCE UPDATE <i>(please give a brief progress update on the following areas)</i>	
CDP PRIORITIES <i>(see Excelsis)</i>	<p><i>CDP3.11 Implement the revised Environment Strategy and develop an action plan with partners to incorporate our commitment to being a Carbon Neutral district by 2030 (CN2030).</i></p> <p>There has been activity to progress the Environment Strategy via the development of new projects and partnerships that seek to lower carbon emissions and raise community engagement. These activities, the early achievements and a wider context of council work has been thoroughly researched and reviewed to develop a strategy and associated action plan incorporating our CN2030 commitment. This is currently undergoing internal review prior to an all members briefing and workshop on 3 September 2020. The draft strategy and action plan will be published for consultation this Autumn and will be accompanied by extensive engagement activity across the district.</p>
	<p><i>CDP3.12 Work with partners to implement the next phase of the cycling and walking strategy, focussing on routes between Dudbridge-Nailsworth; Dursley-Cam-Uley; Wotton-Kingswood-Charfield.</i></p> <p>Dudbridge-Nailsworth: Resurfacing of the track is all but complete with some further works and finishing off to still be carried out by GCC and the resurfacing contractor. SDC has completed all contributions to this project.</p> <p>Dursley-Cam-Uley: SDC has earmarked £50k to carry out works on a section of footpath CDU14 to make it suitable for cycling and re-designate it as a bridleway. The local cycling group have started a public consultation on this proposal, after which we will work with GCC to implement the proposal. Negotiations are ongoing to finalise the northern section of the route through the North East Cam development following a proposal from the developer. A finalised design for the route between Dursley and Uley also needs to be established.</p> <p>Wotton-Kingswood-Charfield: Following a tender process, Sustrans have been commissioned to carry out the design phase of a feasibility study. SDC is contributing £10k for this piece of work. Stroud-Chalford: No further spending following a £600 contribution towards creating promotional material for the route to present to the public. We will continue to engage with the group leading the project and potentially make contributions to additional work as the project progresses.</p>

	<p>CDP3.13 In our role as statutory waste collection authority, support community groups to phase out single use plastics; whilst also reducing its use across council services</p> <p>SDC have supported the work that Chloe Turner, from Stroud District Action on Plastic (SDAP), has been undertaking. This has included answering technical questions and conducting joint presentations. Most recently Chloe announced that Surfers Against Sewage had deemed Stroud District a Plastic Free Community status see https://www.sas.org.uk/plastic-free-communities/ - a great achievement.</p> <p>CDP3.14 In partnership with Stroud Town Council and Friends of the Lido submit a bid to National Lottery Heritage Fund for additional funding to refurbish Stratford Park Lido.</p> <p>The preparation work has been undertaken by the consultants regarding submission of a bid. Progress with the bid has slowed due to Covid-19, and it has been recommended that further match funding is found prior to submission of a bid for heritage lottery funding.</p>
<p>PROJECTS / CAPITAL PROGRAMME (if not covered in CDP)</p>	<p>Assess air quality within the District in line with the requirements of Defra and prepare an annual report on air quality in the District</p> <p>The Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) for the Stroud District for air quality in 2019 was approved by DEFRA on 27th July 2020. It concluded that there is no requirement to declare Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) within the District. The ASR is available at:</p> <p>https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/1286864/asr_template_england_2020_v1.pdf</p> <p>Non-automatic (passive) monitoring of NO₂ was conducted at 27 sites during 2019, 7 of which were new sites for that reporting year. There were no exceedances of the NO₂ annual mean objective and there was a general downward trend in NO₂ concentrations across the District. Automatic monitoring was also undertaken for PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} at two sites in the Stroud district in 2019, Hardwicke and Haresfield. The annual mean concentrations for PM₁₀ at these sites were 10.1 and 8.6 µg/m³ respectively, well below the objective and with no exceedances of the 24-hour mean objective. The annual mean concentrations for PM_{2.5} were 6.4 and 5.8 µg/m³ respectively, also below the objective. Monitoring continues but, with the advent of Covid-19, NO₂ monitoring was suspended from March to May 2020 (inclusive). Monitoring was recommenced from June. It should be noted that the significantly reduced levels of traffic during the lockdown period mean that NO₂ levels would have been much lower than the norm.</p> <p>Establish a working group and governance structure for the development of work plans to deliver the 2030 Carbon Neutral commitment.</p> <p>Governance arrangements for the delivery of climate change commitments are integrated with those established to drive external recovery, approved at Strategy and Resources Committee on 18 June 2020.</p>

<p>PROJECTS / CAPITAL PROGRAMME (if not covered in CDP)</p>	<p>In addition to the above, the draft climate strategy and action plan referred to under CDP3.11 (above) includes detailed arrangements for wider community involvement in the delivery of climate commitments.</p> <p>In the meantime, a steering group of officers and members is established, engagement with all members is planned (including the workshop on 3 September) and the network of neighbourhood climate action groups continues to grow.</p> <p><i>Deliver and secure the long term sustainability of the rural SuDS project in partnership with the EA, working closely with land owners and communities using innovative land and flood management techniques.</i></p> <p>The recent Environment Agency document 'National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England' praises the Stroud Rural Sustainable Drainage Scheme (SuDS), claiming "a strong local, supportive partnership is a key strength of the project."</p> <p>So far the Stroud Rural SuDS Project has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked in partnership with 42 different landowners • Implemented 559 natural flood interventions • Planted 1,500 trees • Enhanced 26,391 metres of riverine length • Engaged 2,500 people through talks, workshops, conferences and project site tours. • Reduced the number of internal floods reported by residents who regularly experience flooding. • Achieved over 95% of positive feedback from landowners • Improved habitat, biodiversity and water quality • Worked in partnership with the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, University of Gloucestershire, Environment Agency and Gloucestershire County Council • Reduced peak flood level by up to 1.4m at the Slad Road gauge (using data from 2 similar events) • Reduced the amount of debris downstream which has resulted in a lower maintenance cost at grills and sluices. <p><i>Manage the delivery of the 'Warm Homes Fund' project</i></p> <p>The original project deadline was March 2020 which has been extended with funders to April 2021. The original target was to install 1175 heating systems across the Warm & Well Partnership area of Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire. The outputs have also been revised to 872 as it has proved difficult to find suitable properties in off gas areas for alternatives available under the scheme.</p>
	<p>Some delay was caused by the COVID 19 lockdown which meant installation works in people's homes could not go ahead. In Stroud District 74 installations have been completed and another 31 are in progress. Quarterly Warm & Well Partnership reports are available on the website which include a full update on the Warm Homes Fund.</p>

PERFORMANCE MEASURES (see <i>Excelsis where applicable</i>)	Q1 figures are not yet available.
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RISKS (see <i>Excelsis</i>)	<p>CCR9 WASTE MANAGEMENT: Cost of providing waste and recycling services to the district currently constitutes around a third of the organisation's budget. As such any budgetary implication is of significant consequence to the MTFP.</p> <p>In financial year 19/20, Ubico underspent against the budgetary position, whilst recycling rates and associated incentive payments remained stable. The cost of recycling has increased, as per the recent report to Environment Committee, that reflects on the current commodity markets. We are awaiting firm detail of any proposed legislative changes.</p>
RELEVANT FINANCE ISSUES	See - Budget Monitoring Report 2020/21 Q1 (3 rd September 2020 Environment Committee).
FOLLOW UP (any issues for consideration at the next meeting)	None at the time of writing

ANY ISSUES OF SIGNIFICANT CONCERN TO BE REPORTED TO AUDIT AND STANDARDS	
None	
ANY ACTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE	
None	
REPORT SUBMITTED BY	Brendan Cleere (with input from relevant lead officers)
DATE OF REPORT	13 August 2020