



Strategic Planning & Environment

Overview & Scrutiny

Agenda

TUESDAY 23 MARCH 2021 AT 6.30 PM

Microsoft Teams - Microsoft Teams

The Councillors listed below are requested to attend the above meeting, on the day and at the time and place stated, to consider the business set out in this agenda.

Membership

Councillor Barrett
Councillor Beauchamp
Councillor Birnie (Chairman)
Councillor P Hearn
Councillor Hobson
Councillor McDowell
Councillor Ransley

Councillor Riddick
Councillor Rogers
Councillor Silwal (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Stevens
Councillor Taylor
Councillor Timmis

For further information, please contact Corporate and Democratic Support or 01442 228209

AGENDA

1. MINUTES (Pages 3 - 13)

To agree the minutes of the previous meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

**5. CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTER REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE IN
RELATION TO CALL-IN** (Pages 14 - 20)

Portfolio Holder decision call in - Littering and PSPO enforcement private contractor pilot scheme

6. **BUDGET MONITORING** (Pages 21 - 28)
7. **PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION PERFORMANCE** (Pages 29 - 44)
8. **ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION PERFORMANCE REPORT** (Pages 45 - 50)
9. **CLIMATE EMERGENCY UPDATE REPORT** (Pages 51 - 96)
10. **WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 97 - 104)

STRATEGIC PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT OSC

MINUTES

2 FEBRUARY 2021

Present

Councillor Birnie (Chair)
Councillor Beauchamp
Councillor McDowell
Councillor Ransley
Councillor Riddick

Councillor Rogers
Councillor Silwal (Vice Chair)
Councillor Stevens
Councillor Taylor
Councillor Timmis

Also present; Cllr G Sutton, Cllr Hearn, Cllr Anderson, Cllr Woolner, Cllr Pringle

Officers

James Doe	Assistant Director – Planning, Development and Regeneration
James Deane	Corporate Director – Finance & Operations
Craig Thorpe	Group Manager – Environmental Services
Luke Johnson	Trees & Woodland Team Leader
Chris Taylor	Group Manager – Strategic Planning & Regeneration
Emma Walker	Group Manager – Environmental & Community Protection
Layla Fowell	Corporate and Democratic Support Officer

The meeting started at 6.30pm

MINUTES

Action points from the meeting dated 20th January

Action: PRayner to send link to web pages to Member Support who in turn will forward to Mr Kazer by email. – Completed

Action: JDoe to provide figures on self-build in the Borough – Completed

Action: JDoe & team to look at simplifying reporting of monies – Will be looked at in the future

Action: PRayner to circulate figures – Completed

Action: PRayner to circulate rules on CIL as per example above.- Completed

Cllr McDowell said he hasn't received any of the documents as per the actions above.

Action: LFowell to Check Cllr McDowell receives all documents sent by JDoe & PRayner listed as action point at the meeting of the 20th Jan, and to check he is on SPAE mailing list

The minutes from the meeting of 20th January were agreed by the members present to be signed by the Chairman at the next available opportunity.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Barrett and Councillor Hobson

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No Public Participation

5 CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTER SUBJECT TO CALL-IN

None

6 BUDGET 2021-22

General Fund

JDeane confirmed that there were no changes affecting the remit of the committee so there is nothing to report.

Cllr Birnie congratulated JDeane on putting in annex A which was the explanation on what comes under the different categories, it's very useful.

JDeane said thank you and that it has been in a few years and they were considering removing it, he said if there are ever any ideas to make it clearer to let them know.

Cllr Birnie asked for questions from the committee.

Cllr Birnie referred to appendix A, He said there are 2 figures one for RSA 940K and another for Council Tax deficit of 150k, he said he can't understand why they don't go through to the final estimate and was it an accounting thing he didn't know about?.

JDeane explained if you follow through on the revenue support grant line, the 1st column you have zero for 2021, and then the assumption was that it would be suspended this year and we would have a negative hit. When this came to the 1st meeting in December that assumption was still there because we hadn't had the settlement, he said the final version is a zero because we have now had confirmation within the local government finance settlement the negative RSG is being suspended so we haven't got any growth in that area.

Cllr Birnie asked if it was the same in Council Tax

JDeane confirmed he wasn't sure why this was a zero at the end and said that the report went to cabinet in December it is an estimate and they do the final version at the end of December It goes to Cabinet for approval and that's the version they use to set the baseline budgets for the amount of Council Tax they expect to get in, that takes into account all the timing delays that feed in from the previous year so you get slight movement in the tax base. He said in terms of the ins and out on the report, they have had a reduction in the tax base, the tax base is less that they thought as the growth was less than they assumed within the

NTFS for this year which is understandable as they have slowed the delivery of new builds and were expecting more people to move into the council tax support system next year.

Cllr Birnie asked if the final zero should in fact be 151

JDeane said no that's is showing that we have had movement, we were forecasting growth, they had growth of 150k in our tax base, the tax base is correct it shows we have had movement throughout the process and it's a very small percentage of the overall tax base.

Cllr Birnie asked if it was a case of one is negative and the other positive so they cancel each other out.

JDeane said no there is movement, he said its one of those lines that are included however not particularly helpful, it's to ensure the whole thing balances.

Cllr Birnie asked when it comes to movement of reserves we are putting in 1.85 million, he asked if he was correct.

JDeane confirmed that he was, we had expected to take 4million out of the Dacorum Development reserve and put it into the Covid recovery reserve, however we have been able to put 1.7million back. He said the hit that was taken in term of the ability to invest Dacorum is now 2.3million instead of 4million.

Cllr Silwal asked about the local government finance settlement he asked if it's a one off or if we needed more would we get it.

JDeane said that it's a wait and see situation, central government are in the same situation as us, they'll have worked out through the spending review what can be allocated out in terms of support and analysed the quarterly returns that every council will submit to try and get an idea about what the requirements are likely to be next year. He said the reality is if the vaccines don't work or lockdowns are ongoing, income gets hit then there is going to be a need for more funding. He said whether or not this comes from local authorities or central government is going to be the subject for negotiation as we move into next year. Ultimately this is why we haven't had the multiyear settlement as they just don't know what's going to happen in 12 months' time.

Cllr Birnie referred appendices E1 page 26 and details of the SPAE's budget and appreciated that there were no major changes. However he asked if they could get some comment from the other officers. He said there is a 21% variance on supplies and services and was it Covid related?

JDeane confirmed that that's the overall summary, however the appendix below will explain. He said one of the things that may be an increase in there is the work we are doing with Hemel Gardens Community project and the consultancy, He asked JDoe to confirm.

JDoe confirmed that some of that would be down to the Garden Community project, some would be from CThorpe's area as it's a generic figure across all departments under this committee's remit..

Cllr Ransley referred to the promotion of town centres. She said she was confused as she hadn't seen promotion of town centres and she asked where this money was being spent. She asked if this is all of the town centres or just Dacorum, and pointed out that it is half a million so it is a lot of Money.

JDeane confirmed this was not in the remit of Strategic Planning, but it's under Finance & Resource.

JDeane referred back to Cllr Birnie's question about Supplies and Services and confirmed that 300k of it is within the Strategic Planning budget and will be linked to the Hemel Community Gardens project, using reserve funding.

Cllr Birnie commented, it's as much trying to see where funding comes from as looking at the actual expenditures.

JDeane said they try and follow the guidelines as to how to report it and he agreed it's not clear, particularly when they're including a reserve draw down, which they cover in the narrative so that when the budget comes through members can see exactly what we've drawn down and why.

Capital Budget

James Deane explained they have broken it down in to the committees.

Cllr Birnie said he didn't understand the budget for replacing refuse vehicles. There seems to be a rolling programme that looks to have had some delays, and then the whole programme that had been agreed, subject to delays, is that correct?. He said there are 2 negative numbers for 20/21 and 22/23, he asked if those 2 negative numbers mean that what has been allocated is being delayed?

JDeane confirmed this was correct. There have been some delays and there is no change to what's been budgeted it's just being phased differently into subsequent years.

Cllr Birnie referred to the next appendix, which shows the fleet replacement programme which runs up until 2026. He asked if he can assume that this is a replacement on a rolling basis.

CThorpe confirmed that this figure was representative of the vehicles that are due to be replaced over the next few years however there is always movement on build times of these and we've had a significant delay on vehicles ordered this year. He said that makes it difficult to be precise about when the spend will occur.

Cllr Birnie referred to the previous table and under fleet replacement programme is 524k in 21/22 which is negative. He asked if that would only be waste vehicles or a range of different types.

CThorpe confirmed that it does include other vehicles, such as small ones for Clean Safe and Green, however the smaller vehicles can be kept on for longer as they have less to go wrong. He said that the refuse trucks are more costly and spend on them is quite significant when they go wrong.

Cllr Birnie asked who decides if an item should be delayed until a following year due to financial reasons. Would this be finance in conjunction with a group manager?

JDeane responded that they're not at a stage where they would be telling people to put holds on projects for financial reasons. The items that are there are planned through. Sometimes you have services that have competing priorities or you get the kind of delays that occur with the refuse vehicles and they will end up having to re-phase and push it back. He said that decision would not come from finance.

Cllr Birnie asked if finance would implement what department heads decide.

JDeane said that what happens is finance will make a budget available for them when they say they need it. If that budget slides but they still need to deliver the project because it's been approved by members, they will re-phase it for them.

Cllr Anderson wanted to re-iterate that we're not just talking about refuse trucks and there are many vehicles that come under the heading of fleet. He said he just wants to corroborate what JDeane had said in that it's down to operational need, in terms of a budgeting discipline process. There is a budget which makes the resource available to pay for things as they are needed but, just like any plan, you will always have things that crop up and cause delays and this causes slippage in the figures, on all the capital bid budget figures not just on the vehicles.

The report was noted.

7 TREE POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION

CThorpe advised that the old Tree and Woodland policy ran out late last year, the new one is a bit late however they wanted to make sure it was fit for purpose, reflected corporate initiatives and was user friendly for the end user. He said they'd hoped they had managed to do that. He further added that although the policy doesn't refer in great detail to climate change it does give a commitment to the initiatives that will no doubt evolve over the course of the policy. This will in no doubt be coming back to the overview and scrutiny committees with ideas we've got for contributing to carbon emissions reduction. He said that it also refers to a new system that places an amenity value on the council's trees that seeks to recoup damages from residents who choose to take matters into their own hands if they don't like a species of tree or the placement of trees, in terms of removing or pruning it.

Cllr Birnie said he feels the report is very well presented and is glad the point has been raised about recouping costs., He said if we are going to start being punitive we may need to issue some kind of information leaflet explaining what we are going to do if residents take matters into their own hands.

CThorpe said what they have seen over the last year, with people being at home more, is that they don't like the trees near their property that they feel its impairing their view or interfering with a TV signal and as we only deal with them if it's a safety issue, it leads to them taking matters into their own hands.

LJohnson ran through the tree policy for the committee.

Cllr Timmis said she is pleased to see a tree policy. She said once someone has taken down a tree it's often too late. She said she had 2 points. She referred to a builder who cleared a site of trees, as they often do, at a weekend when the tree officers are not around. Once that tree is cut its too late. She said she had a resident that had a tree flapping against her house and they have reported but it hasn't been resolved. She said she would also like to know about TPO's. There are a number of trees with TPO's and it seems that TPO's are only put on when a member of the public asks for that to happen. Should inspection take place by us so that we identify trees that require a TPO? She said that people should not be able to take down trees and that she has had it around her a lot recently where they are not replaced.

LJohnson responded that their work programme is delayed due to Covid. It's been a very difficult year for the contractors and they are trying to squeeze a years' worth of work into 8

months and in addition to the Covid restrictions they have also had 4 storm incidents which have added to the delays. He said that the Highways budget for the year has been spent due to the storm incidents. They are restricted due to contractor capability and the level of resource that is available. In response to TPO's he said their primary focus is the Dacorum owned trees and they do not have the resource to look at private trees. They can only respond to requests to make private trees TPOS. He said the administration of TPO's is by the planning enforcement team and he said that they would struggle if we designate many more TPO's than we already do. He said that they were in the process of making a few more in the Berkhamsted area due to some threats.

Cllr Timmis said she feels it would be helpful if people were made aware that, if there is a tree of value and ancient in private gardens, they can ask for a preservation order on it.

LJohnson said that most TPO's do come from requests made from the public.

Cllr Timmis asked if there was a way that at the weekends when the officers are not around an emergency order could be placed on trees.

LJohnson said they can use emergency TPO's. However they have to get to the tree before the developer and the chainsaws.

Cllr Birnie said that he believes DMC when considering planning applications, can look at conditions to preserve trees.

SWhelan confirmed that is correct and it refers to the conditions relating to landscape strategy and how the landscaping is preserved as part of that application. She said if trees have TPO'S on them, as part of the application we can seek to establish a root protection area and that those trees are managed properly throughout the construction. She said she took the point raised by LJohnson that a project to proactively audit the trees would be a very large project.

Cllr Birnie said that if members of the public can actively ask for a TPO to be placed on trees and they may not know they can do this, it might be worth putting this on the website.

SWhelan said that if the planning department sees a trend in an area, then it can look to put something in the Dacorum Digest about how residents can contact the enforcement officers who would administer that. She said we need to make sure that the trees that have been put forward are worthy as some trees, although tall and look lovely, could be in their later years. She suggested that this be a one off as they don't have the capacity to encourage everyone to recommend trees for TPO's all of the time.

Cllr Birnie suggested that they put in the Digest not only that residents can recommend a tree for a TPO but information around enforcement and that there is possibility of enforcement if trees are damaged.

Cllr Ransley asked when there are planned works on a tree the ward councillor is kindly informed and asked if we could mark the tree so residents are aware, as often we get calls and emails from residents who want to know what's going on. once the work has started.

LJohnson responded that there is no practical way to do that, because the subcontractor visits the tree and marks its condition and makes a recommendation, but those works may sit in our system for 6-8 months dependent on the severity of the tree's condition. He said they do not have the capacity to return to that tree and put a notice on it, nor for all the administration that would go with that.

Cllr Birnie said he felt that wasn't the question Cllr Ransley was asking. He felt she was asking if they could be made aware of what trees are due to have work done on them.

LJohnson said that they just do not have the capacity to get together the list of trees to be felled as it entails a few hours work.

Cllr Birnie said he understood that, but perhaps when there are large planned works such as work that took place recently in Bennett's End, could the members be made aware beforehand?

LJohnson explained that the work programme is set by the contractor and they will do letter drops in local areas where large works will take place, but the difficulty is where do you stop with the letter drops? Is it just the residents who can see the tree or is it further afield?

Cllr Anderson explained that they do have the ward councillor's notification system, but if you are looking for something in addition to this then he agreed with LJohnson's point. However if Members haven't received this notification, then something may have slipped through the net.

Cllr Pringle said that it's her understanding that the budget for trees has been significantly reduced and emergency only work associated with danger is possible at the moment. She asked what the implications for this longer term is if the more day to day maintenance is not affordable in the current work programme.

LJohnson confirmed that the budgets haven't been reduced, but it's the pressures associated with the work that arises, For example almost a third of the budget is now going on highway costs and traffic management rather than pruning itself. This will be raised with Herts County Council as it is uncertain whether Highways is aware that a third of the budget is going towards signs and traffic cones etc. He said in terms of housing and parks and woodlands, the budgets have not changed.

Cllr Birnie said his understanding is that costs for any trees that are along the highway are re-charged to Highways.

LJohnson said that Herts pay them per tree and that they look after just under 10,000 trees for them within the borough.

Cllr Birnie said that it sounded like Highways should pay a larger lump sum for trees and other things, such as signs that have been mentioned.

LJohnson said they provide an overall budget based on the number of trees and therefore it's up to them to prune the trees in accordance with the inspection regime and address any significant safety defect and trees that have damage claims through the insurance process.

Cllr Birnie asked where the signs come in to it.

LJohnson confirmed that is the traffic management required when tree work is carried out on the public highway.

Cllr Birnie said it looks like Herts County Council need to look at their Highways Budget.

LJohnson said that they also have some budgetary pressure however this will be discussed with HCC at the end of the year.

Cllr Silwal asked what happens if someone carries out work on a protected trees without permission.

LJohnson confirmed that this is a matter for planning enforcement. He said it usually starts with a neighbour calling in to report the matter and this is then handled by planning enforcement.

Cllr Hearn asked if the policy will be going to Parish and Town councils, as Tring is currently looking at the Town Crier magazine, we could add a small article in that.

LJohnson confirmed that they can send them to both Town and Parish councils and that both the summary and the policy will be available on the website, so there is an opportunity for them to download it if they or residents require it.

Cllr McDowell said he would like to see more emphasis on native species and increasing diversity of native species, if this is our overarching tree policy. He also asked if LJohnson could advise why there is not much mention of us encouraging natural bio diversity.

LJohnson explained that they have ordered trees at the start of the calendar year for the coming winter. They go to the preferred supplier and reserve trees and what has been evident from speaking to nurseries and people in the industry is that we need a broader range of trees in our landscapes rather than just native. He said natives are important but currently there are issues with Oak trees and Ash trees so these are not being planted because they have a range of diseases that are widespread and not just in Dacorum and this means they are having to increase the number of tree species to accommodate present diseases. Also, if the climate warms up trees such as Beech trees will not survive. He said that he is sure this will be picked up in the bio diversity strategy due later this year.

Cllr McDowell said that if this is policy then he feels they should be presented with some evidence as to why they are going down this route of planting more foreign species in the borough. He would like some more factual evidence behind it.

LJohnson said that this isn't just a borough wide issue; it's across the industry and he is attending tree officer meetings for Hertfordshire and they will publish a plant resilience strategy which will provide the evidence asked for by Cllr McDowell.

Cllr Taylor referred to the mention of the contractors visiting trees and uploading their findings onto a system and asked if it were possible to give councillors access to this database.

LJohnson responded that it's not possible as the individual licenses for this database are very expensive and Dacorum has a limited number of licences. The database is also not a user friendly Word report.

Cllr Taylor said that presumably this is a list of trees which have been identified as needing work doing to them and the list of these could be sent out when the work is being scheduled.

LJohnson said they form that list as a secondary process. The contractor will go out and survey the tree, he will then upload his data and his recommendation for the tree.. It is then entered onto an Excel spreadsheet and then once a month officers will look through all of the recommendations and decide what is high priority for action the following month.

Cllr Birnie said, as he understood it the inspections do have a priority notification scheme.

LJohnson confirmed that they record inspections by priority ranked either 1 year or 3 years but the works that result from it are also ranked.

Cllr Birnie proposed that we welcome this report with the recommendation that it should be publicised in for instance Dacorum Digest.

Cllr Ransley thanked LJohnson for the report and was impressed by the woodlands that are managed. She asked if this was a complete list as Dundale woods are not shown.

LJohnson said that Dundale is not classified as a woodland which is why it is not shown.

Cllr Ransley asked what it is classified as.

LJohnson confirmed it was classified as a lake with surrounding vegetation.

Cllr Timmis asked when you look at planning applications she can see a large number of land owners wanting to take down trees on their land and she asked if a planning application needs to be submitted to take a tree down.

LJohnson responded that if the tree has a TPO they need to submit a planning application and if their dwelling is within a conservation area they need to submit a work notification.

Cllr Timmis asked if they are in neither of those situations, can anybody take down any tree they want if it's on their land.

LJohnson confirmed that was correct

Cllr Hearn referred to Dundale being classified as a Lake, she asked if we were looking into it and the state of the trees.

LJohnson said his colleague manages that site and work teams have been there fairly recently and on the back of an enquiry received he should be there next week to look at the specific concern.

Cllr McDowell followed up on his previous point about native species and said that even if the advice is coming from Hertfordshire, as far as he can tell, other councils are pushing for native trees to support bio diversity of our insects. He said if this is to be Dacorum's policy he would like to see it and scrutinize it.

LJohnson responded that Hertfordshire County Council are bringing out a policy which covers the whole of the county and individual boroughs and districts will be signing up to that and he asked Cllr McDowell if he would like to wait for that.

Cllr Birnie commented that he thought Cllr McDowell would like to influence the policy, so if there is any evidence that can be supplied please supply him with it.

LJohnson said that the County Council are taking guidance from national agencies on policy so he will supply this to the committee.

Cllr McDowell referred to the point about Dacorum signing up to their policy and feels we should certainly be scrutinizing it to see if it's the correct policy for us.

Action – LJohnson to provide evidence to the committee on Herts County Council's policy on planting suitable tree species.

Cllr Birnie referred to page 50 of the policy document and the sentence that says "The Council will from time to time undertake work for which external funding has been secured and is not classified by its priority rating" He asked if LJohnson could expand on that.

LJohnson said quite often a housing team may inform us of work such as on void properties or vulnerable persons needing work done urgently.

Cllr Anderson commented that trees can be a very controversial subject, especially when residents want trees cut down and they are told they can't. He said there is no point

employing experts in an area if you're not going to trust the advice. You can't reject the advice given because you don't like it. He added that it's important we see trees as an asset and if there are members of the public who damage public assets, they should be held accountable. One of the difficulties is that Herts County Council is responsible for a large number of trees and for managing those and so can tell us what is to happen with them. He estimated that DBC receives approx. £6.50 per tree per year from Herts County Council, so over a 30 year period we receive about £200 to carry out all works to that tree; but anyone who owns a tree and has work done on it will appreciate it costs more than £200. Cllr Anderson added that, whilst it is appreciated that Herts County Council have their own financial difficulties, they are not paying a fair rate for the work we are carrying out, so we are going to get into fairly intense negotiations on this matter with HCC.. A key thing that has been flagged in the document and tonight is the volume of work on the planning side; the tree officers have to review every planning application that the Council receives with respect to trees and that is an enormous amount of work, as can be gauged from the length of the weekly list of applications. He said he was enormously grateful for the efforts being put into the policy and urged the committee to support it.

Cllr Birnie proposed the policy be noted with the caveat that CAVAT should be publicised in the Dacorum Digest.

The report was noted.

8 WORK PROGRAMME

Cllr Birnie asked if anyone had anything that hadn't been added to the work programme that they wish to add. He commented that there are some items that have been scheduled in the work programme and a long list of those that have not yet been scheduled. He asked that members bear with him on this as he has a meeting booked with officers on the 10th February to schedule these items.

Cllr Timmis wanted to mention that Luton airport has re- submitted its Condition 10 variance plus the expectation of being able to expand to 19 mil passengers by 2024. She said this will be the 3rd consultation, a year or so after the last consultation. She said the decision has to be in by 17th February and that Dacorum will be making a submission and she feels the committee should be aware that despite the current circumstances Luton Airport are still pressing ahead with this huge expansion thus breaking the conditions of the original 2013 planning application,

JDoe said that the DBC submission is ready and Cllr Sutton will be briefed tomorrow and he will also liaise with the officer responsible for Luton Airport.

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The meeting ended at 8.19pm

Agenda Item 5

Report for:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	23rd March 2021
Part:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Portfolio Holder decision call in - Littering and PSPO enforcement private contractor pilot scheme
Contact:	Cllr Julie Banks, Portfolio Holder for Community & Regulatory Services Emma Walker – Group Manager ECP Dawn Rhoden – Team Leader Operations Ben Stevens – Lead Officer Environmental Enforcement / Responsible Officer
Purpose of report:	To respond to call in of a decision to formally approve the decision to use a private contractor to strengthen the Council's enforcement of Littering and various Public Space Protection Orders (Town Centre, Dog Control, & Alcohol DPPO's) across the borough.
Recommendations	
Corporate objectives:	
Implications:	
'Value for money' implications	
Risk implications	
Community Impact Assessment	
Health and safety Implications	
Consultees:	
Background	

papers:	
Historical background <i>(please give a brief background to this report to enable it to be considered in the right context).</i>	
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	EEO – Environmental Enforcement Officer PCO – Pest Control Officer ECP – Environmental & Community Protection OP's – Operations Team PSPO – Public Space Protection Order FPN – Fixed penalty notice LA – Local authority

1. Purpose of Report

To respond to call in of a decision to formally approve the decision to use a private contractor to strengthen the Council's enforcement of Littering and various Public Space Protection Orders (Town Centre, Dog Control, & Alcohol DPPO's) across the borough.

2. Call in Requests

Cllr Uttley - It seems that incentivising a private contractor to generate revenue from residents is unreasonable and disproportionate, as well as committing the council far beyond what our stated objectives are. (If a problem is so irregular that we need to bring in a private contractor to locate it, then we should always have the option to cease the contract once we feel the problem doesn't affect us anymore.) Privatising enforcement, especially when we incentivise the enforcers, risks leading to corruptions and falsified allegations of infringement against our residents.

Per the constitution, and in particular the principals of decision making, this action directly contravenes part a) (reasonableness), d) (proportionate), and h) (the goals and objectives of this decision are unclear and contentious).

Cllr Cloughton - In my view, incentivising a private contractor to generate revenue from residents is unreasonable and disproportionate, as well as committing the Council far beyond its stated objectives. Privatising enforcement, especially when we incentivise the enforcers, will undoubtedly risk the danger of false allegations of infringement being made against our residents.

This action directly contravenes the following parts of Article 12, “Principles of Decision Making”: (a) reasonableness, (d) proportionality and (h) the goals and objectives of this decision being unclear and contentious.

Cllr Barry - I want to call-in this decision, on the basis of Article 12 “Principles of decision making”, d) and h). I am calling this in due to the fact that it is entirely unreasonable and therefore disproportionate to incentivise a private contractor to generate revenue from residents.

Cllr Allen - I would like to call in this decision because I feel it is unacceptable to incentivise private profit through enforcement. As such, the proposal is in breach of the constitution’s principles of decision-making part a) (reasonableness), d) (proportionate), and h) (the goals and objectives of this decision are unclear and contentious).

Moreover, there is a history of Dacorum PSPO’s being ineffective because of difficulty of enforcement (incentivised or otherwise).

Cllr England - I want to call-in this decision, on the basis of Article 12 “Principles of decision making”, a), d) and h).

The activity of the council on enforcement of the PSPO has, hitherto, been minimal, and much of that minimal action has been challenged successfully. There is little evidence of a large-scale problem causing real danger to most residents, because if there were, a responsible council would already have incrementally stepped-up its own operations, following the initial action days.

Incentivising a private contractor to generate revenue from residents is disproportionate. Privatising enforcement, especially when we incentivise the enforcers, will undoubtedly lead to over-sold or falsified allegations of infringement by our residents.

What is needed is behaviour-change. This is essentially a public order policing challenge, where a positive behaviour-focused presence can encourage sustained behaviour-change. But relying on FPNs – because they provide an income-stream to a third-party provider - will establish a conflict of operational interest, as achieved behaviour-change will not be profitable, instead the behaviour will be farmed for income.

Cllr Freedman - I feel incentivising a private contractor to generate revenue from residents is unreasonable and disproportionate, as well as committing the council far beyond what our stated objectives are. (If a problem is so irregular that we need to bring in a private contractor to locate it, then we should always have the option to cease the contract once we feel the problem doesn’t affect us anymore.) Privatising enforcement, especially when we incentivise the enforcers, will undoubtedly lead to corruptions and falsified allegations of infringement against our residents.

Per the constitution, and in particular the principals of decision making, this action directly contravenes part a) (reasonableness), d) (proportionate), and h) (the goals and objectives of this decision are unclear and contentious).

3. Call in Responses

(a) the decision must be reasonable within the common meaning of the word, i.e. it must be a rational decision based on sound judgement;

- The decision to enter into a partnership with a private contractor is based on sound research and engagement with other local authorities into options for alternative methods of enforcing against littering, dog fouling and other PSPO breaches. Due process has been followed in regard to this decision and unbiased information and options have been provided. This has been supported by the Chief Officer Group and Corporate Management Team before the decision was made.

- The decision is to enter into a zero cost 12-month pilot not a long-term contract, so an evaluation can rightly be made post pilot on whether it is appropriate or beneficial to commit to any long-term decision.

- Numerous other Local Authorities are turning to partnership working with private contractors to support certain enforcement provisions where problems have been identified. To date there are over 20 LAs whom are currently in long term contract or pilot scheme partnership with private enforcement contractors and this is increasing all the time.

- The 12-month pilot will be a zero cost to the council with the operational expense and risk incurred by the contractor. The council will not pay for this service and will receive a guaranteed percentage (5%-10%) of income. The pilot is based on four officers to provide 7-day borough wide coverage and that the vast majority of FPNs issued will be for littering offences with approximately 30% made up of other offences.

- The Pilot will facilitate a number of value-added extra benefits including Environmental Awareness, Education, Supporting Community Projects, Litter picking days in the community, free distribution of leaflets, Stubbi Pouches, Bio-Degradable Dog Bags and participation in neighbourhood action and parish council meetings.

(d) the decision must be proportionate (i.e. the action should be proportionate to the desired outcome);

- It is clear through public consultation in 2019 that there was majority support for the implementation of the PSPOs and its enforcement. The misapprehension is that the pilot will incentivise a private company to concentrate on issuing FPNs to cyclists in the town centre where as this is not the case. Of course there will be voices who will not be in favour of increasing the level of enforcement around littering and the PSPOs, but rather than an increase in public resentment this will largely be the individuals penalised for committing offences. The authority is expected to retain the overall approval of the residents and businesses of Dacorum.

- The existing service does not have the in house capacity or resources to undertake this type of enforcement on a consistent basis, even though there are identified litter and dog fouling problems within the borough. It is therefore appropriate to consider options/partners from the private sector to support this enforcement. Data collected and analysed from this pilot will be considered prior to any permanent solution being implemented.

- Similarly, it would be reputationally harmful to introduce PSPOs if they are not going to be effectively enforced. It is important to remember, the pilot will only generate an income from a person who has committed a criminal offence i.e. by dropping litter. Therefore, to not engage in a pilot could be considered unreasonable and disproportionate, by way of making those individuals within the borough who do not drop litter and pick up after their dogs pay for cleaning up after those that do without suitable efforts being made to address the issue.

- The quality of the service will be closely monitored by ECP and any spurious fines issued would be quickly addressed. There will be a service level agreement and an officer code of conduct in place to ensure fairness and consistency. There will also be an appeals process for recipients of FPN's, which will be managed and controlled by the authority.. The overarching aim is for the pilot to be intelligence led to tackle identified problem areas and make a difference where we receive a high volume of complaints.

- According to industry experience, a 70% minimum payment rate will be achieved. Non-payments will be pursued through the courts via the single justice procedure to send a strong message and effect a positive behavioural change.

- When a problem is identified and is having a detrimental effect, the council's purpose and duty should be to take appropriate effective action to remedy, protect and safeguard its residents, members of the public, community and economy by working with other bodies or alone to do so.

(h) when making decisions a presumption in favour of openness must be applied and a clarity of aims and desired outcomes must be displayed;

- Due process has been followed. Reports have been produced regarding possible options for littering and PSPO enforcement at various decision making groups including, Corporate Management Team (September 2020), Portfolio Holder (November 2020) and SPAE Overview & Scrutiny Committee (November 2020).

- The process of making this decision has been open and unambiguous in demonstrating that the overarching aim and desired outcome is to bring a reduction in littering, dog fouling, PSPO and other related complaints with the Borough. The decision to implement a 12-month trial to deliver a visible consistent deterrent to environmental crime and antisocial behaviour is the most appropriate of the various options available to the authority in achieving this aim.

As the Portfolio Holder, there is a need for the authority to address littering, dog fouling and other PSPO compliance within our communities. The process of behavioural change not only requires the elements of education, public awareness but an element of enforcement. Without enforcement, there is no deterrent for those members of society that portray unacceptable behaviour and

will not change their behaviour for the greater good. The pilot for using an external contractor undertaking enforcement is not incentivising profit but a means of evaluating an option over 12 months to enable Members to make informed decisions for a future service policy. There will be checks and balances within the contractual arrangements including monitoring and appeals to safeguard and prevent any overzealous enforcement or excessive income generation through fines. As mentioned in the report, other local authorities have followed this approach and continue today.

Cllr Julie Banks
Community and Regulatory Services

Monitoring Officer comment's:

The Scrutiny Committee's powers as set out in the constitution are set out below in full.

In summary, there are two routes, which the Committee can recommend if it is not happy with the decision following the call-in process. The Committee can either refer the matter back to the Portfolio Holder setting out the nature of its concerns for reconsideration by the Portfolio Holder or it may refer the matter to full Council for consideration.

(a) If, having considered the decision, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is still concerned about it, it may refer it back to the decision making person or body for reconsideration, setting out in writing the nature of its concerns or refer the matter to full Council. The decision maker shall then reconsider the decision within 4 weeks amending the decision or not, before adopting a final decision.

(b) If following an objection to the decision, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee does not refer the matter back to the decision-making person or body, the decision shall take effect on the date of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

(c) If the matter was referred by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee to full Council and the Council does not object to the decision, which has been made, then no further action is necessary and the decision will be effective in accordance with the provisions below. However, if the Council does object, it has no power to overturn or change a Cabinet decision unless it is contrary to the policy framework, or contrary to or not wholly consistent with the budget. Unless that is the case, the Council will refer any decision to which it objects back to the decision-making person or body, together with the Council's views on the decision. That decision-making body or person shall choose whether or not to amend the decision before reaching a final decision and implementing it. Where the decision was taken by the Cabinet as a whole or a committee of it, the decision will be reconsidered at its next meeting. Where the decision was made by an individual, the individual will reconsider within 4 weeks of the Council request.

(d) If the Council does not refer the decision back to the decision making body or person, the decision will become effective on the date of the Council meeting.

Mark Brookes |Assistant Director – Corporate and Contracted Services| Dacorum
Borough Council | the Forum| Marlowes | Hemel Hempstead | Hertfordshire | HP1
1DN|

Direct Line: (01442) 228236



Report for:	Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	23 March 2021
PART:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Budget Monitoring Quarter 3 2020/21
Contact:	Cllr Graeme Elliot, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources Nigel Howcutt, Assistant Director (Finance & Resources) Caroline Souto, Team Leader Financial Planning & Analysis
Purpose of report:	To provide details of the financial outturn position for the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Fund • Capital Programme
Recommendations	That Committee note the financial position for the Council for 2020/21 as at Quarter 3.
Corporate objectives:	Delivering an efficient and modern council.
Implications:	<u>Financial</u> This report outlines the financial position for the Council for 2020/21 and so summarises the financial implications for service decisions for the financial year. <u>Value for Money</u> Regular budget monitoring and reporting supports the effective use of the financial resources available to the Council.
Risk Implications	This reports outlines the financial position for the Council for 2020/21 and in so doing quantifies the financial risk associated with service decisions for the financial year.
Community Impact Assessment	The content of this report does not require a Community Impact Assessment to be undertaken.
Health And Safety Implications	There are no Health and Safety implications arising from this report.

Consultees	The position reported within this report has been reviewed and discussed with relevant Council Officers.
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	GF – General Fund HRA – Housing Revenue Account MHCLG – Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government HCC – Herts County Council AFM – Alternative Financial Model

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 General Fund revenue outturn – the Council is facing significant financial pressures as a result of the coronavirus. Overall in the General Fund a pressure of £3.2m is forecast, of which £2.9m results from the implications of coronavirus.
- 1.2 Strategic Planning and Environment Capital budgets – reporting broadly on budget.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Council's forecast outturn for 2020/21 as at the 31 December 2020. The report covers the following budgets with associated appendices:

- General Fund - Appendix A. A pressure against budget of £3.2m is forecast.
- Capital Programme - Appendix B.

3. General Fund Revenue Account

- 3.1 The General Fund revenue account records the income and expenditure associated with all Council functions, except the management of the Council's own housing stock, which is accounted for within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).
- 3.2 Appendix A provides an overview of the General Fund forecast outturn position.
- 3.3 The table below provides an overview by Scrutiny area of the current forecast outturn for controllable budgets within the General Fund.

Table 1	Current Budget £000	Forecast Outturn £000	Variance	
			£000	%
Finance & Resources	8,006	12,710	4,704	58.8%
Strategic Planning and Environment	10,906	12,921	2,015	18.5%
Housing & Community	1,686	1,792	106	6.3%
Total Operating Cost	20,598	27,423	6,825	33.1%
Core Funding	(20,599)	(24,183)	(3,584)	17.4%
Contribution (to)/ from General Fund Working Balance	(1)	3,240	3,241	

3.4 Core Funding - £3.6m additional funding

Government grant income has been received as follows:

- £2.05m of Covid-19 support grant has been received from MHCLG, including a 4th allocation of £232k announced in October 2020.
- £100k of New Burdens funding relating to welfare reform within the Revenues and Benefits service.

An additional £1.4m of funding is expected under the government's income guarantee scheme to reimburse local authorities for 75% of lost income after the first 5% of the budgeted total.

Recharge to the HRA – a surplus of £72k is forecast in the recharge to the HRA, which is predominantly due to additional premises Insurance charges being passed back to the HRA, less property related costs borne by the HRA being passed back to the General Fund.

Investment Income – pressure of £180k. A pressure of £180k is forecast in General Fund investment income budgets due to the reduction in interest rates announced by the government in March 2020.

3.5 The following sections provide an analysis of the projected outturn and major budget variances shown by Scrutiny area.

4. Strategic Planning and Environment

Table 2 Strategic Planning and Environment	Current Budget £000	Forecast Outturn £000	Variance	
			£000	%
Employees	10,078	10,783	705	7.0%
Premises	990	984	(6)	(0.6%)
Transport	1,240	1,490	250	20.2%
Supplies & Services	2,422	2,762	340	14.0%
Third-Parties	366	365	(1)	(0.3%)
Income	(5,359)	(4,632)	727	(13.6%)
Capital Charges	1,571	1,571	0	0.0%
Earmarked Reserves	(402)	(402)	0	0.0%
Total	10,906	12,921	2,015	18.5%

4.1 Employees - £705k pressure against budget

The pressure in employees' costs includes:

- A pressure of £575k relates to Waste Services employees' costs from additional agency requirements during the Covid-19 pandemic. This is due to a combination of staff sickness and requirements to self-isolate, as well as the requirement for clinically extremely vulnerable staff to remain at home. The service is under pressure due to increased levels of waste, access issues due to more people working from home resulting in a significant increase in missed bins, and the need to maintain social distancing which has put pressure on the rural rounds where there is increased travel in the waste vehicles.
- Pressure of £60k in Planning, predominantly due to a number of maternity covers during the financial year.
- Pressure of £40k in the Vehicle Repair Shop due to additional staffing requirements as a result of Covid-19.

4.2 Transport - £250k pressure against budget

A pressure of £130k relates to the maintenance of ageing fleet vehicles in Waste Services. This pressure is expected to continue until the full fleet of waste vehicles is received.

A pressure of £150k relates to hire of waste vehicles to support social distancing requirements, particularly for crews on rural rounds. The two rural rounds consisting of a driver and two loaders have been split, requiring the hire of two additional vehicles.

4.3 Supplies and Services - £340k pressure against budget

A pressure of £220k is expected in Waste Services from the increased cost of disposal of comingled recycling. This is as a result of 3 factors: firstly, tonnages of recyclable waste have increased by 30% as a result of households being at home during lockdown and continuing to work from home; secondly the contractor has charged additional processing fees to fund the costs of safe working conditions under Covid; and thirdly the global market for recyclables has declined leading to a reduction in income for recyclables.

Pressure of £50k in the Planning service for legal expenditure relating to the appeals process. Where planning decisions are appealed and the decision is not in favour of the Council, legal costs are incurred which causes a budget pressure.

4.4 Income – £727k pressure against budget

The forecast pressures in income budgets are all Covid-19 related:

- Pressure of £200k related to Waste Services income. A pressure of £200k is expected in income from the Alternative Financial Model (AFM) payment from Herts County Council (HCC). This is due to the increase in residual waste particularly during the lockdown period. An increase in residual waste pushes up the cost of disposal to HCC, which is then passed back to local authorities via a lower AFM income payment.

- Pressure of £75k in Planning Income. This income stream has performed well in the first 9 months of the year and is just slightly below budget. However, the income remains exposed to fluctuations in the property market and a variance of £75k is anticipated.
- Pressure of £200k in Commercial Waste Income. This variance arises from the anticipated pressure on income from businesses no longer operating and increase in bad debtors. This will be dependent on the extent of the economic downturn and will be monitored through the broader economic recovery.
- Pressure of £65k in Maylands Business Centre income. A pressure is expected in rental income, dependent upon how businesses are affected by the economic impact of the pandemic.
- There are other pressures in income streams such as Bulky Waste £40k and Cesspool emptying £45k as a result of Covid-19.

5. Capital Programme

5.1 Appendix B shows the projected capital outturn in detail by scheme.

The table below summarises the overall capital outturn position by Scrutiny committee area.

The current budget is the original budget approved by Cabinet in February 2020, plus approved amendments.

The 'rephasing' column refers to projects where expenditure is still expected to be incurred, but will now be in 2021/22 rather than 2020/21 ('slippage'), or conversely, where expenditure planned initially for 2021/22 has been incurred in 2020/21 ('accelerated spend').

The 'Variance' column refers to projects which are expected to come in under or over budget and projects which are no longer required.

Table 3	Current Budget	Rephasing	Revised Budget	Forecast	Variance	
	£000	£000	£000	Outturn £000	£000	%
Strategic Planning and Environment	3,055	0	3,055	3,125	70	2.28%

5.2 General Fund Major Variances

There are no major variances.

6. Conclusions and recommendations

6.1 As at Quarter 3 2020/21, there is a forecast pressure of £3.2m against General Fund budgets.

- 6.2** As at Quarter 3 2020/21, Strategic Planning and Environment capital budgets are reporting to budget.
- 6.3** Members are asked to note the financial position for the Council for 2020/21 as at Quarter 3.



Dacorum Borough Council
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report for December 2020

	Month			Year-to-Date			Full Year		
	Budget £000	Actuals £000	Variance £000	Budget £000	Actuals £000	Variance £000	Budget £000	Forecast Outturn £000	Variance £000
Operational Costs									
Finance and Resources	238	550	312	8,250	9,918	1,668	8,006	12,710	4,704
Housing and Community	148	175	27	571	506	(65)	1,686	1,792	106
Strategic Planning and Environment	777	857	80	7,341	5,593	(1,748)	10,906	12,921	2,015
Net Operational Costs	1,163	1,582	419	16,162	16,017	(145)	20,598	27,423	6,825
Other Items									
Investment Income	(25)	(23)	2	(225)	(161)	64	(300)	(120)	180
Interest Payments and MRP	76	0	(76)	687	517	(229)	916	916	0
Parish Precept Payments	0	0	0	972	972	0	972	972	0
Government Grants	(165)	(2,740)	(2,575)	(1,484)	(23,278)	(21,794)	(1,979)	(5,671)	(3,692)
Taxation (Council Tax and Business Rates)	(1,319)	1,832	3,151	(11,868)	(19,756)	(7,888)	(15,824)	(15,824)	0
Surplus / Deficit on Provision of Services	(1,404)	(931)	473	(11,655)	(41,706)	(30,110)	(16,215)	(19,727)	(3,512)
Transfers between Reserves / Funds									
Net Recharge to the HRA	(365)	(2)	363	(3,288)	57	3,345	(4,384)	(4,456)	(72)
Net Movement on General Fund Working Balance	(644)	649	1,293	1,050	(25,632)	(26,741)	(1)	3,240	3,241

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CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR DECEMBER 2020

Scheme	Budget Holder	Original Budget	Prior Year Slippage	Adj's, Supps, Virements	Adjustments (Slip. C/F)	In-Year Adjustments	Current Budget	YTD Spend	Projected Outturn	Forecast Slippage	Projected Over / (Under)	
General Fund												
Strategic Planning and Environment												
Environmental Services												
144	Wheeled Bins & Boxes for New Properties	Craig Thorpe	10,000	0	90,000	0	90,000	100,000	145,443	150,000	0	50,000
145	Waste & Recycling Service Improvements	Craig Thorpe	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,005	0	0	0
146	Gadebridge Park - Splash Park	Craig Thorpe	0	0	0	0	0	0	(14,941)	0	0	0
147	Gadebridge Park - Renovation of White Bridge	Craig Thorpe	0	370,000	0	0	0	370,000	284,135	370,000	0	0
148	Upgrade of Hand Arm Vibration Monitoring System	Craig Thorpe	17,000	(20,052)	0	0	0	(3,052)	0	0	0	3,052
149	Resurfacing Works and Building Improvement to Depot	Craig Thorpe	60,000	0	0	0	0	60,000	0	60,000	0	0
150	Fleet Replacement Programme	Craig Thorpe	2,311,130	(300,398)	477,314	0	477,314	2,488,046	181,131	2,488,046	0	0
151	Fleet Services Renew Plant & Equipment	Craig Thorpe							(6,397)	0	0	0
152	Fleet Service Management System Upgrade	Craig Thorpe							16,500	16,500	0	16,500
			2,398,130	49,550	567,314	0	567,314	3,014,994	608,877	3,084,546	0	69,552
Development Management and Planning												
	Planning Software Replacement	Sara Whelan						0	15,230		0	
153	3D Modelling Software for Planning	Sara Whelan	60,000	0	0	(60,000)	(60,000)	0	0	0	0	0
154	Tablets for Planning	Sara Whelan	20,000	0	0	0	0	20,000	0	20,000	0	0
			80,000	0	0	(60,000)	(60,000)	20,000	15,230	20,000	0	0
Strategic Planning and Regeneration												
155	Urban Park/Education Centre (Durrants Lakes)	Chris Taylor	0	134,015	0	(134,015)	(134,015)	0	0	0	0	0
156	Maylands Business Centre	Chris Taylor	0	0	0	0	0	0	(9,645)	0	0	0
157	The Bury - Conversion into Museum and Gallery	Chris Taylor	0	55,000	0	(35,000)	(35,000)	20,000	0	20,000	0	0
			0	189,015	0	(169,015)	(169,015)	20,000	(9,645)	20,000	0	0
	Totals: Strategic Planning and Environment		2,478,130	238,565	567,314	(229,015)	338,299	3,054,994	614,462	3,124,546	0	69,552

OSC Report - Strategic Planning & Environment - Planning, Development and Regeneration Dec-2020

Indicator Name	Results Dec-2020	Last Months Results Sep-20	Last Years Results Dec-19	RAG	Comments	Actions
Dacorum Delivers - Efficiencies						
DMP05 - Percentage of minor applications determined within 8 weeks	78.75% 63 / 80 Target: 70%	68.67% 57 / 83 Target: 70%	68.75% 44 / 64 Target: 70%	2 1 1	No Comments Approver Comments: Great result	No Info
DMP06 - Percentage of other applications determined within 8 weeks	84.7% 238 / 281 Target: 70%	80.18% 178 / 222 Target: 70%	74.88% 152 / 203 Target: 70%	0 0 4	Updater Comments: Great result, shows actions following the 10 day blitz project. Approver Comments: Great result, shows actions following the 10 day blitz project. Noted it will be harder to maintain in lockdown	No Info
FIN16 - Planning Fees ytd actual against profiled budget	£902829 Target: £903240	£556412 Target: £602160	£806274 Target: £865500	3 1 0	Updater Comments: In line with target after a strong month in December Approver Comments: Good recovery from the difficulties due to Covid19 in the earlier part of the year	No Info
FIN17 Search Fees ytd actual against profiled budget	£141100 Target: £173250	£75875 Target: £115500	£148389 Target: £173250	4 0 0	Updater Comments: 18.6% below target which is better than expected largely due to relaxation of the stamp duty regulations. Approver Comments: Workload in the service is currently high but linked to the stamp duty holiday - improvement is encouraging but year end figure is expected to be below target	No Info
Dacorum Delivers - Performance excellence						
DMP03 - Percentage of planning application refusals appealed against	48.98% 24 / 49 Target: 35%	18.37% 9 / 49 Target: 35%	37.5% 9 / 24 Target: 35%	1 0 3	Updater Comments: Very high number of appeals lodged Approver Comments: This is a very high level of appeals lodged against refusals and in context of receiving two Judicial Reviews as well in 2020	No Info
DMP04 - Percentage of major applications determined within 13 weeks (YTD)	87.5% 7 / 8 Target: 60%	75% 3 / 4 Target: 60%	50% 4 / 8 Target: 60%	0 0 4	Updater Comments: Target met and exceeded Approver Comments: Good result	No Info

Indicator Name	Results Dec-2020	Last Months Results Sep-20	Last Years Results Dec-19	RAG	Comments	Actions
DMP07 - Percentage of planning applications refused	7.01% 49 / 699 Target: 10%	7.88% 46 / 584 Target: 10%	8.73% 24 / 275 Target: 10%	0 0 4	Updater Comments: Target met, this may go up as we start to handle applications quicker and do not accept amended plans if scheme unacceptable No Comments	No Info
DMP08 - Percentage of planning applications validated within 3 working days	91% 927 / 1024 Target: 70%	96% 1057 / 1096 Target: 70%	31% 224 / 720 Target: 70%	1 0 3	Updater Comments: Fantastic turnaround time and helpful to provide quick decisions on applications No Comments	No Info
PE01 - Priority 1 site visits	50% 1 / 2 Target: 100%	100% 7 / 7 Target: 100%	100% 7 / 7 Target: 100%	1 0 3	No Comments Approver Comments: We have accepted that the three Enforcement stats will be red for rest of 2021 due to inability to complete site visits and ques of works created when lockdowns have lifted - we have 12 month officer in budget for 21/22	No Info
PE02 - Priority 2 site visits	37.04% 10 / 27 Target: 100%	58.33% 7 / 12 Target: 100%	91.67% 44 / 48 Target: 100%	4 0 0	Updater Comments: Site visits continue to be affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Approver Comments: We have accepted that the three Enforcement stats will be red for rest of 2021 due to inability to complete site visits and ques of works created when lockdowns have lifted - we have 12 month officer in budget for 21/22	No Info
LC04 - Average time taken to process an official Local Land Charges search	12.45 Days Target: 10 Days	8.53 Days Target: 10 Days	9.33 Days Target: 10 Days	1 0 3	No Comments Approver Comments: Noted this is above target and in fact is a good result, considering the extremely high volume of land charges requests received created by the stamp duty holiday.	Stamp duty holiday due to end March 2021 and more regular levels of demand and turn around times will be in place
DMP30 - Appeals dismissed	50% 6 / 12 Target: 70%	75% 9 / 12 Target: 70%	53.85% 7 / 13 Target: 70%	1 0 3	Updater Comments: Noted this is below target, we are now reviewing these in more depth with DMC quarterly so can learn where we are losing appeals Approver Comments: Will continue to monitor trends on appeals being allowed and PINs may be more lenient on allowing planning permission considering COVID-19	No Info

Indicator Name	Results Dec-2020	Last Months Results Sep-20	Last Years Results Dec-19	RAG	Comments	Actions
SPR20 - Level of CIL receipts	1127329 Info Only	2112305 Info Only	896932 Info Only		No Comments	No Info
Regeneration - Deliver a Regeneration Plan for Dacorum						
SPR05 - Number of new homes completed	198 Homes Info Only	223 Homes Info Only	23 Homes Info Only		Approver Comments: Overall strong performance for the quarter despite the Covid19 situation	Changing Government targets and the expected Housing Delivery Test results in early 2021 will bring this indicator into sharp focus - although performance is
DMP02 - Number of planning applications received	749 Applications Info Only	692 Applications Info Only	652 Applications Info Only		Updater Comments: Highest number of applications received since Q1 2016 Approver Comments: Very high number of applications being received and this is a national trend as well as locally at Dacorum.	No Info

February 2021 Appeals Update – as reported to Development Management Committee

6.1 APPEALS LODGED

Appeals received by Dacorum Borough Council between 01 November 2020 and 31 January 2021

No.	DBC Ref.	PINS Ref.	Address	Procedure
1	20/01868/FHA	D/20/3262367	42 Box Lane Hemel Hempstead HP3 0DJ	Householder
2	E/19/00290	C/20/3263148	Land to West of The Hive Featherbed Lane Felden	Enforcement Written Representations
3	20/01639/FUL	W/20/3264109	36 Kitsbury Road Berkhamsted HP4 3EA	Written Representations
4	20/01523/FHA	D/20/3264329	Cloverleaf Chapel Croft Chipperfield WD4 9DR	Householder
5	E/20/00421/COL	C/20/3264483	Bovingdon Airfield Chesham Road Bovingdon HP3 0EA	Enforcement Written Representations
6	20/01927/FUL	W/20/3264515	Plot 17 Land SE of Church Rd Little Gaddesden HP4 1NZ	Written Representations
7	20/02404/FUL	W/20/3265286	34 New Park Drive Hemel Hempstead HP2 4QE	Written Representations
8	E/19/00513/NPP	C/20/3265457	Berkhamsted Golf Club The Common Berkhamsted	Enforcement Written Representations
9	E/19/00378	C/20/3265529	199 High Street Berkhamsted HP4 1AW	Enforcement Written Representations
10	20/00274/RET	W/20/3265546	Berkhamsted Golf Club The Common Berkhamsted	Written Representations
11	20/01236/FUL	W/20/3265734	3 Gaveston Drive Berkhamsted	Written Representations

			HP4 1JE	
12	20/02550/FUL	W/20/3265837	Nash House Dickinson Square Hemel Hempstead HP3 9GT	Written Representations
No.	DBC Ref.	PINS Ref.	Address	Procedure
13	E/20/00311/NAP	C/20/3265857	13 Chambersbury Lane Hemel Hempstead HP3 8AY	Enforcement Written Representations
14	20/03101/FHA	D/20/3265856	13 Chambersbury Lane Hemel Hempstead HP3 8AY	Householder
15	20/01866/FUL	W/21/3266474	16 Park Road Hemel Hempstead HP1 1JS	Written Representations
16	20/02843/FUL	W/21/3266650	44 Martindale Road Hemel Hempstead HP1 2QR	Written Representations
17	20/03103/FUL	W/21/3267910	3 Curtis Road Hemel Hempstead HP3 8LE	Written Representations

6.2 PLANNING APPEALS DISMISSED

Planning appeals dismissed between 01 November 2020 and 31 January 2021.

No.	DBC Ref.	PINS Ref.	Address	Procedure
1	20/00248/FUL	W/20/3256051	52 Bronte Crescent Hemel Hempstead HP2 7PR	Written Representations
	Date of Decision:		18/12/2020	
	Link to full decision:			
	https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ViewCase.aspx?caseid=3256051			
	Inspector's Key conclusions:			
	<p>This proposal would be an incongruous intrusion of unsympathetic built form and a jarring addition to the streetscene that would be to the detriment of the visual interests of its surroundings.</p> <p>In such proximity the size and siting of the proposal would significantly increase the sense of enclosure to No.52 and be visually intrusive and overbearing, causing moderate harm.</p> <p>Even in the context of the Council's current housing land supply position (cannot demonstrate a 5-year supply of housing land), the adverse impacts would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the Framework, taken as a whole.</p>			

No.	DBC Ref.	PINS Ref.	Address	Procedure
2	19/02580/FUL	W/20/3247462	Garden Cottage Bovingdon Green Bovingdon HP3 0LD	Written Representations
Date of Decision:			16/12/2020	
Link to full decision:				
			https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ViewCase.aspx?caseid=3247462	
Inspector's Key conclusions:				
<p>The proposed works (mesh, various excavations for foundations/services and pruning the tree, more pruning likely in the future) accumulatively would harm the health, longevity and significance of the tree, which appears in good health and notability. Contrary to saved Policy 99 of the DBLP and CS11 and CS12.</p> <p>The proposal would not provide reasonable living conditions (due to vehicle movement disturbance, car lights nuisance, impact on privacy, overly shadowed garden areas), contrary to Policies CS11 and CS12 and saved appendix 3 of the DBLP.</p> <p>The proposal would provide a new house within a village with good facilities and public transport. This would give economic and social benefits, including the support for local services and a contribution to housing supply. However, as this is only one house the benefit would be very limited and does not outweigh the harm.</p>				
No.	DBC Ref.	PINS Ref.	Address	Procedure
3	20/00332/FHA	D/20/3254895	6 Long Chaulden Hemel Hempstead HP1 2HT	Householder
Date of Decision:			23/12/2020	
Link to full decision:				
			https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ViewCase.aspx?caseid=3254895	
Inspector's Key conclusions:				
<p>Based on the evidence available, the proposed extension would have an unacceptable impact on the health and longevity of the adjacent street trees. The loss of or damage to these trees would severely harm the character and appearance of the surrounding area.</p>				

6.3 PLANNING APPEALS ALLOWED

Planning appeals allowed between 01 November 2020 and 31 January 2021.

No.	DBC Ref.	PINS Ref.	Address	Procedure
1	19/02819/TPO	TPO/A1910/7 821	The Old Boathouse Castle Wharf Berkhamsted HP4 2EB	TPO (tree)
	Date of Decision:		27/11/2020	
	Link to full decision:			
	https://planning.dacorum.gov.uk/publicaccess/appealDetails.do?activeTab=document&keyVal=QHITT0FO00C00			
	Inspector's Key conclusions:			
	<p>In the majority of circumstances, such extensive pruning of a protected tree would be inappropriate but in this instance it is a repeat of previous cyclical pruning and is unavoidable to restore an acceptable relationship between the willow and the adjacent dwelling, which post-dates the tree. However, whilst accepting the need for removal of the majority of the branching that has regenerated since the tree was previously pruned, I consider there to be scope for a proportion of the lighter, inner pendulous growth to be retained and have required this by condition.</p>			
No.	DBC Ref.	PINS Ref.	Address	Procedure
2	19/03052/ROC	W/20/3252729	Top Common The Common Chipperfield WD4 9BN	Written Representations
	Date of Decision:		11/12/2020	
	Link to full decision:			
	https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ViewCase.aspx?caseid=3252729			
	Inspector's Key conclusions:			
	<p>The personal restrictions the Council originally proposed could be widened to also include the owner of Top Common or their staff would still uphold the Council's original objective of preventing permanent harm to the Green Belt from a development not justified on the basis of very special circumstances.</p> <p>The use of the manege was further specified in that it shall be used for the purposes of training competition dressage horses at Levels 7, 8 and 9 of the British Horse Society Competition Levels and for no other purpose.</p>			
No.	DBC Ref.	PINS Ref.	Address	Procedure
3	4/02934/18/MFA	W/19/3243939	The Old Orchard Shootersway Berkhamsted HP4 3NG	Hearing
	Date of Decision:		15/12/2020	
	Link to full decision:			
	https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ViewCase.aspx?caseid=3243939			
	Inspector's Key conclusions:			
	<p>The Council is unable to demonstrate a 5-year supply of deliverable housing sites. In these circumstances, the policies of the development plan which are most important for determining the application are out-of-date, and the</p>			

<p>presumption in favour of sustainable development is engaged.</p> <p>The development of the appeal site as proposed would not prejudice the comprehensive development of the whole of allocated site LA4. It would not conflict with the strategic or local objectives in the Core Strategy, nor with the guidance in the Masterplan. That there may not be a single phase of development across the allocated site is not a factor to count against this proposal.</p> <p>I can identify no harm from the proposed building's mass and height which make a balanced form, nor the siting of its front building line, its orientation or alignments. There would be slight adverse impact on the spatial character of the area (due to the erosion of the distinctive spacious character).</p> <p>Taking into account its viability, the lack of affordable housing in the proposed development does not place it in conflict with CS19 and the DPD.</p> <p>I conclude that the proposed development would not have an unacceptable impact on the safe and efficient operation of the highway network, with particular regard to vehicles exiting the site to turn right.</p> <p>I conclude that the location of the proposed development would be suitable, having regard to its proximity to services and facilities.</p> <p>Whilst I have found that there would be a small risk of loss of privacy from overlooking into the garden shared by the occupiers of Archive Mews, the amount of privacy lost would not reduce their living conditions to an unacceptable degree, nor in the circumstances I found, would it be uncharacteristic or unreasonable.</p> <p>The NPPF confirms the Government's objective to significantly boost the supply of homes. To the benefit of this additional housing I accord substantial weight. The single adverse effect (impact on the spatial character of the area) and the conflict with the development plan policy would not significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits of the proposed development when assessed against the policies in the NPPF taken as a whole. Accordingly, a decision other than in accordance with the development plan is justified.</p>				
No.	DBC Ref.	PINS Ref.	Address	Procedure
4	19/03134/FUL	W/20/3254551	96 Longfield Road Tring HP23 4DE	Written Representations
Date of Decision:			07/01/2021	
Link to full decision:				
			https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ViewCase.aspx?caseid=3254551	
Inspector's Key conclusions:				
<p>The design of the proposed terrace contrasts with the existing buildings in the area but, one of the key characteristics of the design, age and configuration of many of the properties on Longfield Road is their variety. There is no reason why the appeal scheme would not add to rather than</p>				

	detract from this. The proposed parking spaces to the front of each garage will replace the existing boundary fence but, it appears to me that parking to the front of the dwellings is preferable to parking to the rear which was as aspect of the earlier scheme that the Inspector considered unsatisfactory. Landscaping proposals would have the effect of breaking up the proposed parking area into 2 separate sections which would help soften the visual impact.
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6.4 PLANNING APPEALS WITHDRAWN

Planning appeals withdrawn between 01 November 2020 and 31 January 2021.

No.	DBC Ref.	PINS Ref.	Address	Procedure
1	4/02270/19/FUL	W/20/3260685	Land At Featherbed Lane Felden	Written Representations
	Date of Decision:		25/01/2021	

6.5 ENFORCEMENT NOTICE APPEALS DISMISSED

Enforcement Notice appeals dismissed between 01 November 2020 and 31 January 2021.

No.	DBC Ref.	PINS Ref.	Address	Procedure
1	E/19/00302	F/19/3237636	Lock Cottage Ravens Lane Berkhamsted HP4 2DZ	Written Representations
	Date of Decision:		03/11/2020	
	Link to full decision:		https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ViewCase.aspx?caseid=3237636	
	Inspector's Key conclusions:			
	I conclude that there has been no consent granted for the demolition of the wall that forms part of the listed building at Lock Cottage and the appeal on ground (c) consequently fails.			
	I conclude that the demolition of the wall has harmed the setting of the listed building, it requires consent which it does not have and there are no public benefits that indicate that consent should be granted.			

6.6 ENFORCEMENT NOTICE APPEALS ALLOWED

Enforcement Notice appeals allowed between 01 November 2020 and 31 January 2021.

No.	DBC Ref.	PINS Ref.	Address	Procedure
1	E/20/00104/NPP	C/20/3256772	The Water Gardens Waterhouse Street Hemel Hempstead Hertfordshire	Written Representations
	Date of Decision:		02/12/2020	
	Link to full decision:			
	https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ViewCase.aspx?caseid=3256772			
	Inspector's Key conclusions:			
	<p>I find that on the balance of probability the notice was served as required by s172 of the Act. In any event...both Cornerstone and Telefonica UK Ltd have appealed the enforcement notice jointly and therefore neither party has been substantially prejudiced. The appeal on ground (e) therefore fails.</p> <p>This lattice tower mast appears unduly makeshift...and appears as an unduly discordant vertical spikey intrusion. And this visual intrusion continues when seen from public vantage points around, including from the adjacent Water Gardens. I find this temporary lattice mast construction unacceptably harms the character and appearance of the area.</p> <p>I find the mast is harmful to the setting of the registered Water Gardens. The harm would nonetheless be less than substantial. In such circumstances para.196 of the NPPF advises that the harm that would be caused should be outweighed against the public benefits of the proposal.</p> <p>Due to the unprecedented times we are currently in and the heightened use and dependency on telecommunications, I consider it would not be in the public interest to see the coverage in the town disrupted until a replacement facility is brought into operation. This public benefit is of sufficient weight to outweigh the temporary harm to the heritage asset of the Water Gardens.</p> <p>The ground (a) appeal is allowed, the enforcement notice is quashed, and planning permission is granted for a temporary 12 month telecommunications mast.</p>			
No.	DBC Ref.	PINS Ref.	Address	Procedure
2	E/19/00444/NAP	C/20/3254307	Plot 1 Cupid Green Lane Hemel Hempstead	Written Representations
	Date of Decision:		11/01/2021	
	Link to full decision:			
	https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ViewCase.aspx?caseid=3254307			
	Inspector's Key conclusions:			
	<p>The appellant's submissions are consistent in terms of the site having been used for agriculture, not for purposes of agricultural research. When looked at in the round, his evidence is precise and unambiguous. There was little which cast doubt on the appellant's submissions. Therefore, I find the appellant's evidence persuasive and afford it significant weight.</p>			

	<p>Accordingly, on the balance of probability the available evidence shows that the allegation stated in the notice has not occurred as a matter of fact and the ground (b) appeal succeeds.</p> <p>It is open to the Council to issue a fresh enforcement notice, if they consider that the site is in use for purposes other than agriculture and/or attacking the operational development, should they consider it expedient to do so.</p>
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6.7 ENFORCEMENT NOTICE APPEALS WITHDRAWN

Enforcement Notice appeals withdrawn between 01 November 2020 and 31 January 2021.

None.

6.8 SUMMARY OF TOTAL APPEAL DECISIONS IN 2021 (up to 31st January 2021)

APPEALS LODGED	3
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APPEALS DECIDED	TOTAL	%
TOTAL	3	100
APPEALS DISMISSED	0	0
APPEALS ALLOWED	2	66.7
APPEALS WITHDRAWN	1	33.3

	TOTAL	%
APPEALS DISMISSED		
Total	0	0
Non-determination		
Delegated		
DMC decision with Officer recommendation		
DMC decision contrary to Officer recommendation		

APPEALS ALLOWED	TOTAL	%
Total	2	100
Non-determination		
Delegated	1	50
DMC decision with Officer recommendation		

DMC decision contrary to Officer recommendation	1	50
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6.9 UPCOMING HEARINGS

No.	DBC Ref.	PINS Ref.	Address	Date
1	E/20/00023/MULTI	C/20/3249358	Haresfoot Farm Chesham Road Berkhamsted HP4 2SU	24 March 2021

6.10 UPCOMING INQUIRIES

No.	DBC Ref.	PINS Ref.	Address	Date
1	E/19/00321	C/19/3237920 W/19/3237919	Land at Featherbed Lane Hemel Hempstead	11-13 May 2021 (tbc)
2	20/02060/LDP	X/20/3261710	Parker House Maylands Avenue Hemel Hempstead HP2 4SJ	tbc



Report for:	Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	23 March 2021
Part:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Planning, Development and Regeneration Quarter 3 Performance Report 2020-21
Contact:	Cllr Alan Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure Author/Responsible Officer: James Doe, Assistant Director – Planning, Development and Regeneration
Purpose of report:	To set out the performance outturn for the service for Quarter 3 of 2020-21
Recommendations	That the report is noted.
Corporate objectives:	All Corporate Objectives are relevant with this annual review of service performance.
Implications:	<u>Financial</u> None arising from decisions on this report though the financial indicators for Planning fees and Local Land Charges report an under recovery of income against target levels.
'Value for money' implications	<u>Value for money</u> None arising from this report.
Risk implications	None arising from this report. Risks addressed through service level risk register.
Community Impact Assessment	Not applicable for this report.

Health and safety Implications	Not applicable for this report.
Consultees:	Mark Gaynor, Corporate Director Housing and Regeneration Chris Taylor, Group Manager Strategic Planning and Regeneration Sara Whelan, Group Manager Development Management and Planning
Background papers:	Performance report (appendix 1) Appeals Summary (appendix 2)
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	None.

1. This report presents the performance outturn for the Planning, Development and Regeneration service for the second quarter (July-September) of the business year 2020-21. The full performance report is at Appendix 1.
2. Of 15 indicators, five are running at green; six at red; one at amber; and three are for information only.

Income

3. Planning fees income (FIN 16). The financial position in relation to planning fees continues to improve, and at the end of Q3 is essentially on target at just £411 below budgeted income. This has improved from Q1 when a 21% under-recovery against the expected receipts at that stage in the business year was reported, and by the end of Q2, the rate of under-recovery had narrowed to 7.6%. As reported previously, caution needs to be exercised in the event of economic downturn, but for now, business remains strong.
4. The number of applications received continues to rise strongly, at 749 received for Q3, and up again from the 692 planning and related applications were received in Q2.
5. Land Charges Income (FIN17). There continues to be a significant improvement in the income received processing property searches for Q. At the end of Q1, under-recovery of fees was running at 61% of the profiled income target. This had narrowed to 35% by the end of Q2 and the Q3 result is 19% under target.
6. As reported previously, the housing market appears to have responded well to the stamp duty holiday for purchases up to £500,000. This runs until 31 March 2021. Members will note that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has

extended the stamp duty holiday at this level until 30 June 2021, when it tapers down to a £250,000 purchase threshold before reverting to the previous £125,000 threshold on 1 October this year.

7. Officers are continuing to monitor income received to the end of the financial year. An under-recovery is still expected by year end, but the trend is improving.

Development Management Performance

8. As reported above, incoming caseload remains high and slightly up on Q1. By the same token, the proportion of caseload running over time has come down from 41% in Q4 of 2019/20 to 31% at Q3 this year.
9. Performance in the service was good in Q3. 87% of major applications were determined on time (DMP04) – up from 75% in Q2; Minor applications (DMP05) was at 78% - up from 68% in Q2; and 85% of applications in the 'others' category were on time (DMP06), comparable to the 86% in Q2.
10. The validation of planning applications was at 91% within three days, significantly above the target of 70% (DMP08), though down a little from the 96% achieved in Q2. This high level of performance has been maintained constantly across the quarter.
11. The exception to this good performance picture is the Q3 outcome for appeals where six out of twelve cases were allowed by Planning Inspectors giving a result of 50% dismissed against the target of 70%. This is down from the 75% of cases dismissed in Q2, representing nine out of twelve cases that quarter.
12. The main theme to the appeals allowed is around design and scale of proposed developments, where Inspectors took the view that proposed increases in sizes of buildings would not be disproportionate. This is a subjective matter, where there is always bound to be differences of opinion between the Council and the Inspector who would be making the final decision in an appeal situation.
13. Once case in Berkhamsted did involve the issue of the Council not having a full five year supply of housing, which has risen substantially given the high housing need for the Borough.
14. Quarterly reports on appeals are now being made to the Development Management Committee and for reference the last report is attached at Appendix 2. Members will also note that details of any appeal decisions received by the Council are being sent out on Fridays with the Members' News email.

Enforcement

15. The remaining exceptions to good performance are under the indicators covering time taken to carry out site visits for priority 1 and 2 planning enforcement cases (PE01 and PE02), running at 50% and 37% respectively.

16. The reasons are two-fold: firstly a large increase in cases being reported for investigation, and secondly Covid19 restrictions which have limited the ability of Officers to get out on site and make the first visit to investigate.
17. To deal with these issues which have been present for this year so far and much of 2020, a number of measures have been put in place. The caseload is being addressed on an area by area basis with officer resources being directed to geographical areas of the Borough two weeks at a time. Where there are urgent cases, Members can be assured that these will take priority. A full review of the caseload is under way to deal with long running cases which may be able to be closed down. Furthermore a one-year temporary enforcement officer post is being recruited to and at the time of writing, an offer of employment had been made to a suitable candidate.
18. As Members will be aware, enforcement cases often take a long time to resolve and as the measures outline take effect, it is likely that these indicators may remain as red for some time to come.



Agenda item: Q3-

Report for:	Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	23rd March 2021
Part:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Q3- Performance Report for Environmental and Community Protection
Contact:	Julie Banks, Portfolio Holder for Community and Regulatory Services Author/Responsible Officer Emma Walker, Group Manager (Environmental and Community Protection) Bill Buckley, Interim Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Delivery)
Purpose of report:	To provide Members with the performance report for quarter 3 in relation to Environmental and Community Protection.
Recommendations	For Information only.
Corporate objectives:	Resources and Value For Money; Optimise Resources and Implement Best Practice.
Implications:	<u>Financial</u> None.
'Value for money' implications	<u>Value for money</u> Monitoring Performance supports the Council in achieving Value for Money for its citizens.
Risk implications	Risk Assessment completed for each service area as part of Service planning and reviewed quarterly. Key risks are recorded on the Council's Risk Register which has been Updated recently. The key risks relate to not achieving statutory targets and failing to protect the public/businesses from Environmental Health Risks : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If statutory targets are not achieved the service can be Taken over and managed by the Government. • Potentially the public & businesses put at risk • Legal action taken against the Council • Reputational damage to Council

Equality Impact Assessment	
Health and safety Implications	None
Consultees:	
Background papers:	Quarterly Performance Report – Quarter 3 (attached).
Historical background <i>(please give a brief background to this report to enable it to be considered in the right context).</i>	
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	

1. Background

1.1 For the purpose of this report, 'Environmental and Community Protection' includes the following services:

- Environmental Health Team (Covid 19, Food Safety, Health and Safety, Statutory Nuisances, Contaminated Land, Drainage, Private Water Supplies, Infectious Diseases, Air Quality Management, High Hedges)
- Operations Team (Public Health, Pest Control, Dog Warden Services, Environmental Enforcement, Covid Advisors)
- Corporate Health, Safety and Resilience Team (Internal Health and Safety Advice, Technical Support, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity).

2. Environmental and Community Protection – Q3 Performance Indicators

2.1 In Q3, the KPI ECP09 was 61%. Proactive food inspections were suspended on the 23rd March due to Covid19 at the request of the Food Standards Agency. We have written to all 0, 1 and 2 rated premises to remind them of their duties throughout this period and have been responding to complaints. The food hygiene inspection programme was restarted on the 1st September so we have to catch up on Q1 and 2. There has at the time of writing been no further correspondence from the FSA on further suspension of the programme, but it's clear we will have access problems during lockdown. Access problems, Officers being diverted onto Covid 19 Work, and unable visit other premises where officer's visits would risk introducing Covid -19 into high risk settings have been difficulties in reaching this target. Year to date we have completed 40% of the

High risk food programme. It is unlikely that the service will be able to catch up by year end. This will result in a backlog that will need to be visited in the next financial year.

- 2.2 82% (32/39) of Noise cases were closed within 60 days. The team have worked hard to ensure that the cases are dealt with as swiftly as possible, although this has been difficult to do during the pandemic, the team's resources are incredibly stretched. In addition the lockdown in November meant that access to properties to assess nuisance was difficult.
- 2.3 78% (1340/1724) of Food Premises are 4 or 5 rated in Dacorum. This is below target as the premises that are being visited are generally either in response to a complaint or those that have a poorer history of compliance meaning that the rating issued by officers is likely to be lower. I would expect this to rise as the food inspection programme catches up.
- 2.4 90% (1011/1122) of Service requests are acknowledged within 3 working days. The vast amount of resource that the Covid 19 response has taken has meant that this is below target.
- 2.5 95% (667/714) of Fly-Tips were visited by an Enforcement Officer within 3 working days
- 2.6 100% (287/287) of Development Control Consultations with Environmental and Community Protection have a formal response within 20 working days. Significant work has been put into responding to planning enquiries.
- 2.7 47 accidents occurred associated with DBC work activities in Q3.
- 2.8 There was 2 accident associated with DBC work activity that were reported to the HSE in Q3.

3. Environmental Health Team

- 3.1 We have been continuing to work on the implementation Covid-19 Outbreak Plan response this has included various work streams including,
 - District Test and Trace for complex contact tracing went live in December. Three staff recruited and funded by HCC Contain fund.
 - Supermarkets were targeted with Covid compliance checks due to their place in in the common exposure data.
 - Visits to high risk premises, including distribution centres with more than one case of Covid-19 in the workforce.
 - Follow ups to hair dressers and barbers for Covid compliance.
 - Joint visits with Police to check for Covid compliance.
 - Working group initiated on self-isolation checks.
 - Beer Mats with play your part issued to licensing to assist licenced premises reminding patrons of social distancing rules.

- Mask compliance checks at supermarkets completed, results show 97.7% visitors wearing masks. Only three people out of the 1000 checked refused to wear one when challenged.
 - Team have been out visiting premises most weekends to support businesses with Covid Compliance.
 - Following up on covid complaints from members of the public.
 - Investigating workplace outbreaks.
- 3.2 Representation on the weekly COVID19 Health Protection Officer Board. Opening meeting held on 23rd June. Main points for discussion include Local Outbreak Management Plan, Vaccine roll out, enforcement and communications.
- 3.3 Team appointed 2 permanent EHO's Jolade Alayo, Kal Ifegwu into a permanent post in the Food, Health and Safety Section.
- 3.4 Team have successfully prosecuted Hemel Food Centre in the Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead for Health and Safety Offences relating to breach of prohibition notice which was originally issued for use of an unguarded band saw. This resulted in a £30K fine plus £4K costs.
- 3.5 Environmental Health Team were presented with Runner up Team of the Year 2019, narrowly missing out to the Finance Team. This is testament to the hard work of the team pre-covid.
- 3.6 Annual return to DEFRA for Environmental Permitting work relating to work completed in 2019/20. New permits were issued to several premises including, Dry Cleaners, Minerals Screener Activity and a Cement Batcher.

4. Corporate, Health, Safety and Resilience Team

- 4.1 Service continues to support departments in drafting and redrafting of Covid-19 Risk Assessments. The Team also produced an outbreak control process, Manager FAQ and supporting documents to assist managers in the event of an outbreak at DBC. The team have also been auditing front line services against Covid control measures to ensure compliance.
- 4.2 The team act as a conduit between the Local Resilience Forum Response and the Councils Incident Management Team, to ensure that the Councils Covid response is tied in with our Local Resilience Forum Partners.
- 4.3 In terms of Business Continuity the department have been on Incident Management Team Meetings providing feedback from the Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG) Tactical Co-ordinating Group (TCG) and various cells that sit underneath including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Swabbing Cell, and Environmental Health Advisory Cell.

- 4.4 Team report weekly from Dacorum Safety Advisory Group to County Strategic Safety Advisory group to advice on upcoming events and ensure consistence advice on the ever changing Covid guidance and legislation.
- 4.5 Robotics programme working with the innovation team is in final stages of testing this is to support the whole Environmental and Community Protection team with indexing of documents to our document management system. The robot follows a set of instructions to automatically attach files with a reduced input from staff.
- 4.6 Staff were provided with on-line training for setting up of receptions centres in the event the Emergency Plan is activated.
- 4.7 Staff Award was issued to the Team Leader Russell Ham for Demonstrating our Behaviours and Values.
- 4.8 Following consultation with relevant staff and the Health Safety and Resilience Committee, SLT (Senior Leadership Team) approved the following updated policies/plan:
- Lone Working Policy
 - First Aid Policy
 - DSE Policy
 - Business Continuity Plan

5. Operations Team

- 5.1 Enforcement Figures for Q3. 16 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) Served for Fly-tipping Offences, 3 FPN's served for Duty of Care Offence, one littering FPN. 6 abandoned vehicles were seized and removed.
- 5.2 The enforcement section have 6 cases pending prosecution that have been delayed due to Covid 19. Will continue to pursue these cases as much as we can.
- 5.3 Joint operation with the Police on the 26th October with the Police for the Town Centre Public Space Protection Order this resulted in the service of a fixed penalty notice.
- 5.4 2 Clear ups of properties that have been declared Filthy and Verminous. These properties were filled from top to bottom with waste through hoarding activities. We have worked with other DBC services to enable the house to be renovated to a suitable standard to be habitable again, we also helped the neighbour resolve a leak between the properties.
- 5.5 Animal Welfare Team rescued its first set of budgies in November. The owner signed them over due to a prolonged hospital stay. These were rehomed with the assistance of an animal rehoming charity.
- 5.6 9 Stray dogs were collected by the team in Q3. Those that are not reclaimed within 7 days are rehomed.

5.7 Colin Lee-Dade (Pest Control Officer) won Customer Service Star Winner and Runner up Employee of the Year 2019. Colin is an excellent member of staff and always goes the extra mile, its good to see him recognised in this way.



Report for:	Strategic Planning and Environment overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	23 March 2021
Part:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Climate and Biodiversity Emergency Progress Update
Contact:	Councillor Andrew Williams, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Contracted Services Author/Responsible Officer – Mark Gaynor, Corporate Director Housing and Regeneration
Purpose of report:	The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress of the Council’s work to tackle the climate and biodiversity emergency and to report the feedback from the Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
Period for post policy/project review	The Strategy and Action Plan will ultimately be reviewed in 2030 but it is proposed that there should be an annual ‘state of the environment’ report made to Cabinet and Council setting out the progress made in the previous 12 months and measured against the baseline carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas position together with the specific targets and actions for the forthcoming year. In addition there will be periodic reporting to both Cabinet and the Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
Corporate objectives:	The Council’s Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan will help to support all 5 corporate objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Safe and clean environment:</i> e.g. contains actions relating to the quality of existing environments and design and layout of new development that promote security and safe access; • <i>Community Capacity:</i> e.g. provide a framework for local communities to be better informed and involved in climate emergency mitigation; • <i>New and Affordable housing:</i> through both direct delivery and setting improved sustainability requirements in new homes would help to reduce both the cost of energy and water and the carbon dioxide (CO2)

	<p>emissions the homes would produce;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dacorum delivers</i>: fulfilling the zero carbon pledge will make a huge contribution to local sustainability and assist in the national target to reach zero carbon as a nation by 2050; • <i>Regeneration</i>: the strategy and action plan will provide improvements to air quality, biodiversity, and opportunities for cycling and walking as well as major economic potential for ‘green’ businesses. • <i>Climate and Ecological Emergency</i>: the strategy and action plan is focused on meeting the Council’s pledge to be zero carbon on its own emissions by 2030 for Scopes 1 and 2, and 2050 for Scope 3
<p>Implications:</p> <p>‘Value for money’ implications¹</p>	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>The financial implications of achieving the strategy are not as yet fully costed but will be factored in to the Medium Term Financial Strategy and subsequent budgeting. Some areas will procure and use alternative products, materials and services which may be more expensive, others adapt ways of operating, and for others such as the regulatory services the cost will fall to the private sector. One clear factor is that failure to act will have both financial and societal impacts which will be far more damaging and expensive.</p> <p>There is budget for the Climate Change Emergency Officer, the new post of Climate Change Emergency Technical Officer and a further £100,000 available for 2021/22 together with the remaining earmarked reserve.</p> <p><u>Value for money</u></p> <p>The aim of the Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan is to reduce the carbon footprint of the Council’s activities and whilst in procurement the Council will seek value for money through intelligent procurement and tendering a critical part of the value for money assessment must be the degree to which the expenditure acts to reduce net CO₂ and other greenhouse emissions</p>
Risk implications	A Risk Assessment will be completed and added to the Council’s Strategic Risk Register
Community Impact Assessment	A full community impact assessment will be carried out following Cabinet’s consideration of this report.
Health and safety Implications	Failure to act on the climate and biodiversity emergency would be damaging to the health and safety of all who work and live in the Borough. Action is required to mitigate the impact of our changing climate and day to day weather – flooding, drought, excessive temperatures and so on. There would also be severe impacts on air quality, ecological well-being and overall quality of life
Consultees:	Association of Public Service Excellence

	Corporate Management Team
Background papers:	Cabinet Report Climate Change Emergency Strategy and Action plan 19/5/20, and 23/6/20, 20/10/20
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	CO2 Carbon Dioxide APSE Association for Public Service Excellence HRA Housing Revenue Account CSG Clean Safe and Green MTFS Medium Term Financial Strategy EPC Energy Performance Certificate PV Solar Photovoltaics BREEAM Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method PSH Private Sector Housing PRS Private Rented Sector HMO House in Multiple Occupation CAVAT Capital Asset Valuation of Amenity Trees AQAP Air Quality Action Plan AQMA Air Quality Management Area LDS Local Development Scheme (Local Plan) LGA Local Government Association DCN District Council Network

1. Background

- 1.1 Cabinet received and approved a report on the draft strategy and action plan on 20 October 2020. This confirmed the Council's commitment to achieving net zero carbon for the Scope 1 and 2 emissions resulting from its service delivery and operations by the end of 2030. It also agreed a net zero position on the Scope 3 emissions arising from the 10,250 Council homes it provides by 2050 recognising that given its cost, current budgets, financial restrictions and the absence at this point of reliable and affordable alternatives to gas this will be a longer process.

2 International and National context

2.1 United Nations

Secretary-General António Guterres on December 12 2020 delivered a speech at the United Nations Climate Ambition Summit 2020 taking place virtually with world leaders invited to make pre-recorded statements outlining their new and ambitious commitments.

World leaders should declare a "[climate emergency](#)" in their countries to spur action to avoid catastrophic global warming, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in opening remarks at a climate summit on Saturday. On the fifth anniversary of the [2015 Paris Agreement](#), more than 70 world leaders are due to address the one-day virtual meeting in the hope of galvanizing countries into stricter actions on global warming emissions.

Guterres said that current commitments across the globe did not go "far from enough" to limit temperature rises. "Can anybody still deny that we are facing a dramatic emergency?" Guterres said. "That is why today, I call on all leaders

worldwide to declare a State of Climate Emergency in their countries until carbon neutrality is reached."

"So far, the members of the G20 are spending 50% more in their stimulus and rescue packages on sectors linked to fossil fuel production and consumption, than on low-carbon energy," Guterres said. "This is unacceptable. The trillions of dollars needed for COVID recovery is money that we are borrowing from future generations," he said. "We cannot use these resources to lock in policies that burden future generations with a mountain of debt on a broken planet," he added.

China and India vowed to advance their commitment to lower carbon pollution at the summit. President Xi Jinping was one of the first leaders to address the virtual conference and he said China will boost its installed capacity of wind and solar power to more than 1,200 gigawatts over the next decade. Xi also said China will increase its share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption to around 25% during the same period.

2.2 European Union

European Union leaders meeting in Brussels on 10 December 2020 agreed to make the currently 27-member bloc carbon neutral by 2050. This equates to a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the next decade by 55% in order to be able to achieve zero carbon by 2050.

The European Green Deal includes:

- A €100bn Just Transition Mechanism to help countries still heavily dependent on fossil fuels and "carbon-intensive processes" to move to renewable energy sources
- Proposals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 50% of 1990 levels or even lower by 2030 - instead of the current target of a 40% cut
- A law that would set the EU "on to an irreversible path to climate neutrality" by 2050
- A plan to promote a more circular economy - a system designed to eliminate waste - that would address more sustainable products as well as a "farm to fork" strategy to improve the sustainability of food production and distribution

3 United Kingdom – The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution

Of more direct importance is the government's new plan for carbon reduction and promotion of sustainability and associated business opportunities. There is a link below for the full document. The plan has been broadly welcomed though the level of investment committed at £12B is felt to be a start only and not adequate to deliver the promises made in the plan. Set out in Appendix One is the summary set out in the report. The key features are set out below:

1 Offshore wind

Producing enough offshore wind to power every home and supporting up to 60,000 related jobs.

2 Hydrogen

Working with industry to aim to generate 5GW of low carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030 for industry, transport, power and homes.

3 Nuclear

Advancing nuclear as a clean energy source and developing the next generation of small and advanced reactors.

4 Electric Vehicles

A ban on new cars and vans powered wholly by petrol and diesel being sold in the UK from 2030 and an acceleration of the infrastructure required to transition to electric vehicles.

5 Public Transport

Making cycling and walking more attractive ways to travel and investing in zero-emissions public transport.

6 Greener maritime

Supporting maritime and airline industries to become greener through research projects for zero-emission planes and ships.

7 Homes and public buildings

Making UK homes, schools and hospitals greener and more energy efficient, including a target to install 600,000 heat pumps every year by 2028.

8 Carbon capture

Becoming a world-leader in technology to capture and store harmful emissions away from the atmosphere, with a target to remove 10MT of carbon dioxide by 2030.

9 Nature

Protecting and restoring the UK's natural environment, including by planting 30,000 hectares of trees every year.

10 Innovation and Finance

Developing the technologies needed to turn the UK into the world's number one centre for green technology and finance, creating the foundations for years of economic growth.

Unfortunately there was very little new investment for tackling the climate emergency announced in the recent budget which seems like an opportunity missed.

4 Officer Climate Groups: Progress Report

4.1 Housing and Built assets

4.1.1 New Build

Current work includes:

- Reviewing previous projects and capture lessons learnt.

- Capturing benefits / performance of our current schemes. See updates on Bingham Mews and Coniston Road below
- Work to establish a DBC standard for new builds going forward. - this includes delivering projects at a higher performance level than Building Regulations and targeting Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) B.
- Reviewing our Design Guide and Employers Requirement to identify possible improvements including materials specified.
- Reviewing current Energy & Sustainability Strategy with a view to update it to reflect the increase in sustainability required and reviewing the Project Management Handbook to further embed carbon reduction and sustainability.

Improvements coming through Building Regulations are tracked – we are currently reviewing the forthcoming changes to Part L of the Building Regulations (Conservation of Fuel and Power) and the outcome of the second consultation of the Future Homes Standard.

Reviewing Building Research Establishment Environmental assessment Method (BREEAM) standard to see how we can adopt. .Improvements coming through Building Regulations are tracked – we are currently reviewing the forthcoming changes to Part L of the Building Regulations (Conservation of Fuel and Power) and the outcome of the second consultation of the Future Homes Standard.



Built by our team, the homes back onto open fields and are designed to c New residents have recently moved into a small development of three two-bedroom homes for social rent in West Dene, Gaddesden Row designed to complement the neighbouring properties. They are also highly energy efficient - these super-insulated homes come with photovoltaic panels and air source heat pumps to deliver an off-gas heating system using renewable energy.



4.1.1a Coniston Road development update

Work has started on this village development of ten 2-bedroom and 3-bedroom homes, including a fully compliant wheelchair house, all for social rent in Kings Langley.

Project managed by our team, the homes back onto open fields and are designed to complement the neighbouring council properties to the side. They are also energy efficient - these highly-insulated homes come with photovoltaic panels and increased insulation to the fabric above the current building regulation requirements, in addition each home will have an external 32amp power supply to the front or side of the house to allow the connection of up to 7kw wall chargers for an electric vehicle.

Our contractor, Bugler Developments Ltd is registered with the Considerate Contractors Scheme and provides a monthly newsletter to the surrounding residents, keeping them updated on progress during the construction period.

The homes should be ready for letting in the summer of 2022.

4.1.2 Existing homes

4.1.2a Green Homes Grant Vouchers

Green Homes Grant vouchers can subsidise energy saving measures such as insulation and renewable energy technologies across all tenures of housing.

- We have responded to over 25 Green Homes Grant enquiries from private residents via email and telephone.
- We have promoted the Green Homes Grants scheme via social media, our website and the Dacorum Digest.
- Green Homes Grant vouchers will contribute to the cost of loft insulation in 50 council tenants' homes

4.1.2b Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery 1 and 2

The Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery funding is for local authorities to directly control the roll out of Green Homes Grants for low-income households across all tenures of housing.

- We applied for Green Home Grant Local Authority Delivery 1a funding as part of a consortium led by Watford Council. Unfortunately, the bid was not successful.

- Dacorum has been allocated approximately £0.4 million via the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Phase 2, which needs to be spent by December 2021.

4.1.2c Energy Company Obligation Funding

We support vulnerable private residents in applying for Energy Company Obligation funded measures such as boiler replacements and provide match funding where applicable via a Disabled Facilities Grant.

- In July 2020 we signed a Service Level Agreement with Yorkshire Energy Solutions. Since then, nine households have received heating repairs/replacement and/or insulation with works in progress at a further eight properties.
- In January 2021, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Energy Foundation, which will allow a network of installers to provide energy company funded grants and scale up the work being completed.

4.1.2d Social Housing Technical Assistance Pilot

The Social Housing Technical Assistance pilot, funded by the Greater South East Energy Hub, aims to create a detailed assessment of the current energy performance of Dacorum's Council Housing stock and make recommendations to set it on a path to net zero. Our application to take part in the Pilot was successful. The data is currently being analysed and report expected after 31 March 2021.

4.1.2e Home Energy Conservation Act Progress Report 2021

Every two years we are required to provide a progress report to the department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) on the progress we have made under the Home Energy Conservation Act (1995). New guidance for local authorities was issued by BEIS in February and the next report will be required by 31 May 2021.

4.1.2f Low Carbon Skills Fund and Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme

The Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) was launched in autumn 2020 and offered £1bn grant funding to decarbonise Public Sector buildings. In order to help access this funding, running alongside this there was also a Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF).

The LCSF essentially would pay for any survey work that needed doing which would then provide evidence to access the PSDS. We submitted an application for the LCSF which proposed the surveying of Cupid Green Depot and the near-by Grovehill/Woodhall Farm Adventure Playground. However, due to high demand we were unsuccessful in this round. The delayed response from the LCSF application consequently meant that there was no opportunity to apply for the PSDS.

4.1.2g Energy Saving Trust

Using housing data, the Energy Savings Trust (EST) are in the process of running a variety of scenarios in order to develop a Home Analytics Report and a Portfolio Energy Assessment Tool (PEAT). The data and reports supplied by

EST will provide a wide range of information for every household in the borough, such as the actual and predicted EPC ratings.

The PEAT scenarios can accurately forecast a range of outputs, for example;

- the work that is needed to raise each household's energy efficiency levels;
- how much the retrofit work is expected to cost per household;
- the EPC rating the household could achieve;
- how much it could reduce the household bills by;
- whether the property is likely to be suitable for solar panels;
- what the CO2 emission savings will be per household.

The final report, which is due by the end of March 2021 will present a stock overview of the carbon impact of the current building stock, including regional and national benchmarks. It will also provide a series of decarbonisation recommendations that Dacorum can use to work towards its EPC goals and carbon reduction targets.

This knowledge will be crucial not only to help plan future housing retrofit schemes but also to use as evidence when applying for government funding. Part of the work has been specifically tailored to fit with the government's Green Homes Grant eligibility criteria.

Using this data will also feed into the communications plan – as part of this we will work to target private households and landlords and signpost them to funding that will be able to support them make their homes more energy efficient.

4.1.2h Retrofitting

Planning and ultimately delivering net zero council housing will not, and currently cannot, happen quickly. There are various reasons for this:

- The scale of the challenge and the finance required to deliver
- The absence of affordable alternative energy sources that don't at this point have a reliability on fossil fuels
- The lack of capacity in the construction sector to deliver at scale existing alternatives such as heat pumps (delivery nationally in 2020 was 35,673 homes). At this rate it would take 85 years to deliver on to every home in the UK.
- The expectation, and need, of significant technical advances in alternative energy provision such as hydrogen, continued greening of the grid and so on. This will take time

Consequently, the approach we are taking is referred to as 'fabric first'. Making homes more energy efficient and fitting additional changes as they become available.

As indicated above Housing and Regeneration are currently working with the Energy Savings Trust (EST) to develop a number of scenarios or suggested joinery maps to address the climate emergency agenda. These scenarios cover the whole Dacorum regardless of tenure and ownership, however the scenarios will also be broken down to highlight the Dacorum Housing Revenue Account (HRA) portfolio.

Housing will use these scenarios, compelled with some existing data and knowledge, to map and develop a business model/programme to help tackle climate emergency aspirations. Consideration is being given at breaking this down further into a phased approach as technology and the energy related industry is changing daily with improved methodology, ie with time more sustainable and logical options will come into the market place with potential addition funding options from central Government. The first phase being considered is a 5 year programme to tackle low performing dwellings within the HRA portfolio with a fabric first approach, this would concentrate on roofs, insulation, windows and ventilation (with the potential of some type of solar intervention). Further phases would hopefully widen the scope as industry and technology moves forward to consider areas such as heating.

Housing are also about to develop a model/specification for a separate more traditional stock condition survey of the HRA portfolio, this would be used in conjunction with the EST data to develop a capital investment model, at this time decisions would need to be made about what can realistically be delivered within a said time frame, hence agreed development of a 30 year business plan for investment.

The 2021/22 financial year in terms of capital investment will concentrate on catching up with delayed projects from 2020/21 due to the Pandemic, however this relies on no further lock downs within the UK. The phased approach to tackle climate emergency would commence financial year 2022/23.

Some bespoke pre-agreed carbon savings projects will commence earlier as planned on the HRA portfolio, with the possibility of some pilot vehicle charging point projects. The stock condition survey exercise, EST data and capital investment programme will go a long way to improving the energy efficiency of the HRA stock. In tandem with this we will develop a robust tenant engagement and behaviour change programme. Our tenants will play a crucial role in achieving our climate change targets and we need to be able to influence factors beyond our direct control, such as energy usage. We will also encourage the (free) installation of Smart Meters. Understanding how a building performs and how an individual's actions can reduce carbon emissions, whilst potentially saving money, is equally important as investing in our stock.

In the private rented sector, we are working with private landlords to ensure minimum energy efficiency standards are met. The pandemic has had a significant impact on the finances of both tenants and landlords. Targeting external funding for this sector will help make the costs of compliance more manageable for landlords.

Over the next 10 years, sustained funding will be required to meet the goal of net zero carbon emissions from private sector housing. Additional staff resources will be required if large scale funding schemes are to be directly managed by Dacorum.

5. Community and Communications

5.1 Learning from Lockdown – Results and Recommendations

During July and August 2020, we ran a six week sustainability survey to help understand how certain behaviours within Dacorum changed as a result of the safety measures brought about by COVID-19.

Several of the lifestyle changes that people made are also essential for helping to tackle the Climate Emergency. We wanted to understand how we can positively embrace these changes within Dacorum, so that instead of going 'back to normal', we move forwards to a better, greener future.

1500 residents took part. The survey was broken down into several key areas; Transport, Cycling, Commuting, Food, Waste and Resources, Energy and Water Use. The survey delivered a number of key findings, for example:

- 9 out of 10 people would like to see fewer cars on the road
- The number of people working from home after lockdown is expected to increase by a third, rather than 'return to normal'. With an increase in flexible working.
- Over a third of people stated that the barrier to them cycling more was road safety concerns.
- Approximately 1 in 5 more residents will be growing food locally compared to 'before lockdown'
- Half of participants told us they would volunteer at a community garden, with 9 out of 10 saying that they would want to buy food from one.
- Half of participants would be interested in using a community fridge.

The report was made available online in November to residents. This Recommendations Report has been circulated to staff for input and presented to the Leadership Team. There are a number of actions from the back of this research that will be able to feed into the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and Action Plan as well as a Communications Plan.

The survey results have also been used by local community groups to provide evidence to support grant applications. One group have been awarded £4000 from an NHS charities grant and credited the survey results for helping to achieve this. Several of applicants for the Green Community Grant also referred to these results to support their projects. The full report is at Appendix Two

5.2 Communications Plan

As an organisation, the Council is responsible for just 1% of the total emissions within Dacorum as a borough, and we have limited control over the remaining 99%. For this reason, connecting with the local community is crucial so that we can lower the borough's emissions as quickly as possible.

To help with this, we will plan to use the Council's 'spheres of influence' to educate, enable and engage with residents and local organisations. A range of resources, initiatives and campaigns will be put together in a comprehensive Communications Plan. This will incorporate both internal activities as well as local and national campaigns.

One of the immediate key focuses of this plan will be overhauling the content on our website and providing much more information for residents to help them learn more about the Climate and Ecological Emergency and what they can do to help at home.

The Learning from Lockdown survey results provided a great deal of local insight and statistics that can be used when shaping these ideas. Lockdown

showed us all the value of social interaction and developing a communications work plan that is full of events, training, presentations and promoting volunteering with community groups will be a significant part of the sustainability work – when it is safe to roll these initiatives out. For example – hosting Repair Café events, supporting the establishment of Community Fridges, a ‘Library of Thing’s, as well as creating Community Gardens and Orchards too.

Another element of the communications plan would be looking at engaging with staff and residents through surveys. For example, having an annual transport survey would be very useful to help us understand whether active travel campaigns are having an impact.

5.3 Green Community Grants scheme

Providing funding is another method of enabling the local community to reduce their emissions. Several of the initiatives that are highlighted in the Learning from Lockdown survey would involve high levels of officer resources if we were to deliver them internally – e.g. managing a community fridge. However, by encouraging local groups to take on these types of projects, and providing support, funding and resources where possible, these initiatives are able to be delivered more effectively.

In November we launched the first Green Community Grant scheme. This allowed community groups to apply for pots of up to £2000 to help with their environmental projects, with a total pot of £10,000.

The scheme was specifically set up to support projects in our community which benefit the environment, as well as Dacorum’s residents. The purpose is to encourage and enable local groups to ‘*think global and act local*’ whilst tackling environmental challenges. In order to apply for funding, proposed Green Community Grant projects needed to demonstrate that they would actively help towards the mitigation of the Climate and Ecological Emergency locally. Projects were required to fit at least one Key Environmental Theme:

- Energy and emissions
- Transport
- Biodiversity
- Waste and consumption

The projects with the greatest environmental impacts scored more highly. Projects also needed to demonstrate that they would be working with local residents on these sustainability issues to engage, enable and/or educate. Projects scored more highly if they could demonstrate that they would meet the following Community Benefits:

Making new connections – such as engaging with people who would not normally be involved in sustainability issues

Being more active – such as encouraging people to get more active than they normally would be, or try a new activity.

Learning – such as developing new skills or delivering a programme of education.

Volunteering – giving people an opportunity to engage with their local community through volunteering

The application window ran from 1 December 2020 – 31 January 2021. In total there were 17 applications and of these, seven were successful. These were:

1. Community Garden and Bike Project, Apex

Project overview: “Community Garden / Get on your bike” is a two-stage project to help Active Dacorum Hub become a ‘greener’ venue and for Apex and its partner organisations to reduce their carbon footprint.

Stage 1 will be to create a ‘Community Garden’ outside the Active Dacorum Hub – originally starting with two planters but hopefully growing over time. This would provide an opportunity for the surrounding community to grow local food.

Stage 2 involves installing a shipping container by the Hub which would be multipurpose – it would provide a secure storage space for visitor’s bikes as well as community bike hire, an area to host a bike repair scheme, and an area to store community garden equipment.

The shipping container would be stored next to an existing shipping container and modified so that it can harvest rainwater, have a grass roof, living walls and big hotels. Lessons learned from this could then be supplied to the existing shipping containers.

As part of the condition of funding, we proposed that Apex also offer bike confidence classes, which they have agreed to.

2. Mixed Meadow Grazing Project, Sunnyside Rural Trust

Project overview: A 1.5-acre plot of land that will be converted into an area of high biodiversity value through a variety of conservation management techniques – such as grazing and using scythes. Community partnerships with various local groups and schools would be carried out, along with regular volunteer surveying.

3. Allotment wilding project, Chaulden Allotments

Project overview: Working with Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, this group plan to support plot-holders through a variety of educational methods in order to help them learn more about eco-friendly gardening, how to improve the biodiversity of their plots, encourage crop-sharing and improve plot-holders overall gardening knowledge.

The group are keen on establishing a blue-print that can be rolled out to other local allotment groups. The work will involve educational resources and interactive sessions.

4. Community Fridge, Viking Fitness

Project overview: The Community Fridge project will involve a team of volunteers regularly collecting food from local supermarkets and other food businesses that is still good to eat but would otherwise be thrown away. This food is then brought to a central location and be made available for anyone who wants it.

Food waste is a high source of carbon emissions and so this has a high environmental benefit, as well a strong community-focused one also.

5. Planters and local active travel engagement, Boho Boxmoor

Project overview: There are two elements to this project...

- To install two planters on Boxmoor high street which will provide an opportunity for communal gardening initiatives, as well as improve the aesthetics of the area.
- To have QR code signage in these planters, as well as throughout the local area which will direct towards the community group's website and encourage people to discover a variety of local walks. These routes will be updated regularly in order to tie in with seasonal activities. The aim is to encourage the Boxmoor community to explore the local environment through active travel and learn about its ecology.

6. Wildflower verge, Northchurch Parish Council (NPC)

Project overview: To convert the 700m roadside verge that runs between Dudswell and Cow Roast into a wildflower verge and associated management related to this. This area is maintained by NPC and the project would be in partnership with Sunnyside Rural Trust and involve a number of local volunteers.

7. '56 Club' - Gardening Club, Wigginton Parish Council

Project overview: The goal of the project is to encourage 56 households in Wigginton (10% of the areas population) to sign up to the gardening club. Seeds would be provided to each family that signs up, and information and resources would be shared also. Project plans include educational talks, a seed swap, a produce exchange stand and use of a spare allotment plot for those with no growing space at home.

We plan to work closely with the successful groups and help them to promote their projects in order to raise their project's profile, as well as inspire others.

As this initial scheme was a success in terms of attracting interest and some excellent projects, we plan to run the grants annually moving forwards – keeping as £2,000 maximum per group. The current budget of £10,000 is currently provided from the Climate and Ecological Emergency budget. It is proposed to ask Cabinet to consider that for 2021/22 that the budget be doubled (to be funded through the existing budget). A report will be brought to Cabinet in time to consider within the budget setting process 2022/23 whether it wishes there to be a separate budget for this in future years or a corresponding increase to the corporate Climate and Ecological Emergency budget .

5.4 Dacorum Climate Action Network

The development of Dacorum's Climate Action Network (Dacorum CAN) has not been able to move forward due to the pandemic affecting public interaction. However, we are planning to host a launch event in November to coincide with the United Nations Climate Change Conference which is taking place in Glasgow (COP26).

The event would be a presentation and networking opportunity for members of the public to learn about what Dacorum are doing and find out about how they can get involved. We would invite various local environmental groups to have stalls. We will ask that the community groups who have received Green Community Grant funding each do a short presentation about their project, how the funding has helped them, and how people can get involved with them.

6. Sustainable Transport

In Dacorum, transport is responsible for 43% of the borough's total greenhouse gas emissions. Focussing on transport will be a key part of the Climate Emergency work. This will involve reducing car use and increasing active travel (such as walking and cycling).

A Sustainable Transport group has been established in order to focus on projects and initiatives that fall under this area. This group will meet quarterly and has two sub-groups – one dedicated to Behavioural Initiatives and another dedicated to Electric Vehicles.

6.1 Behavioural Initiatives workstream

The Behavioural Initiatives theme will focus on researching and developing initiatives which will increase active travel (such as walking and cycling) and decrease car use. There are a variety of initiatives to explore both internally for staff, as well as externally to promote to residents and organisations.

Research and recommendations from the Learning from Lockdown survey will help to shape the work plan for this group. A range of cycling initiatives will be explored, including supporting bike confidence classes, rewards-based initiatives and bike-hire schemes. Discussions are underway with an organisation that is interested in using Dacorum for an e-scooter hiring trial, which is backed by the Department of Transport.

6.2 Green Transport Policy

One of the first key objectives for this group will be the creation of a Green Transport Policy for staff. This will aim to enable and encourage staff to reduce their carbon emissions. Various initiatives will be explored, such as car sharing and cycling schemes.

This work will involve relaunching the bike pool scheme. A policy for relaunching this has been drafted and will be reviewed by the Behavioural sub-group.

6.3 Electric Vehicle (EV) Work stream

The Electric Vehicle (EV) theme will focus on the creation of an Electric Vehicle Strategy. The objective for the creation and development of this strategy will be to help guide us in terms of how many chargepoints we need to expect to be putting in, where they need to go, what types we should have, how to manage them, etc.

The government recently brought forward the end date for the sale of petrol and diesel engines to 2030, which adds to the pressure of rolling out sufficient infrastructure now.

Around two thirds of the borough have 'off-street' parking available to them, such as driveways, which means that they can charge EVs at home overnight. However, for 39% of Dacorum's households (approximately 25,000 homes) this is not an option to them - we will need to ensure that there are sufficient plans in place to cope with this rising demand.

The number of ultra low-emission vehicles (ULEVs) registered in Dacorum rose 31% from 2019 to 2020.

6.4 On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS) Funding

The government is providing funding for the installation of EV chargepoints through the On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS), which we will be applying to in 2021-22.

The scheme supports local authorities with capital costs of procurement and installation of on-street electric vehicle charging points for residential use in areas without off-street parking. This can include public car parks.

We are liaising with the Energy Savings Trust (EST) who administer the scheme and are able to offer support and advice regarding the creation of both ORCS applications, as well as the EV strategy.

The maximum funding available is for 75% of the capital costs of procuring and installing a chargepoint and this funding previously was limited to £100,000 however this cap has recently been removed. The remaining 25% must be secured via sources other than OLEV funding. Sourcing this 25% of project costs is something which we would need to identify and secure before submitting an application. Larger applications will still be considered on a case by case basis.

BP Chargemaster, the organisation that currently manage our existing charge points have offered to pay for this 25% funding if we adhere to their conditions. Their priority is installing charge points in car parks. The maximum amount OLEV will fund per single or double headed chargepoint is £6,500.

Demonstrating value for money in the application is key to securing approval. Funding will be broadly awarded on a first come first served basis and the project, including installations, should be complete by March 2022. For this reason, this application work will be a priority for the EV sub-group to work on. It

is proposed to ask Cabinet to consider if a bid should be submitted based on the installation of charge points in Council car parks which would require £25,000 match funding for the £100,000 grant.

6.5 Electric Vehicle Residents Survey

An online Electric Vehicle Residents Survey was launched in February to help us understand the short-term and future needs for residents. The survey takes five minutes to complete and all residents are encouraged to take part, regardless of whether they have an EV already or not.

The creation of a survey such as this was advised by the EST as one of the first steps to take when planning an ORCS application. This is required in order to develop an understanding of where there is a need for EV chargepoints, both now and in the future, as well as provide evidence to support the application to justify that the chargepoints are required.

The survey is live on our website and there is no end date, it will remain a permanent fixture so that we have a consistent method for collecting this type of information from residents. In the first week of it being live it received over 750 responses.

6.6 Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

6.6.1 Field Dynamics - Jumpstart

In order to support the development of the EV strategy, we are working with a specialist net-zero consultancy called Field Dynamics. They have a new service called '*Jumpstart*' which is specifically aimed at supporting local authorities with developing their EV chargepoint plans.

JumpStart is a structured, data-led approach that will build an evidence foundation specifically for Dacorum. This structure will utilise our local knowledge and key national data sets and then be processed through a series of objective analysis sessions. It will give us all the information we need to deliver on these EV challenges to the point of operational hand-off. It will be a constant resource for us to reference to whenever we need objective, data based, accurate evidence to back up our approach.

The information will provide a useful baseline to help guide all future EV work, regardless of whether the chargepoints will be managed by Dacorum BC, Herts CC or external companies.

This information will also be useful for supporting ORCS applications.

6.6.2 Street lights and bollard EV chargepoints

We are currently liaising with EV chargepoint companies that specialise in working with local authorities in order to retrofit street lights or install bollards. This method significantly reduces the capital costs associated with installing EV infrastructure.

Dacorum own over 800 street lights - the majority of the street lights are allocated to estate footpaths, alleyways, garage areas and car parks. Approximately 50 may be suitable for EV residential charging locations.

Through the ORCS funding scheme, council-owned car parks that have public access 24 hours a day are permitted to be used for EV chargepoint installations. 19 of the 28 council-owned car parks could therefore be potential EV chargepoint locations. 5 of these car parks already have EV chargepoints.

We are currently liaising with Hertfordshire County Council to determine whether they would give permission for their street lights to be used in this way.

6.6.3 Plough Roundabout Car Wash

A site has been identified as potentially being suitable for an all-electric charging forecourt. The area is currently a car wash by the Plough Roundabout. Discussions are underway with interested businesses.

The Council has been approached by a number of organisations interested in locating an 'electric forecourt' in the Borough – effectively a rapid charging station. These organisations already have a track record in installation. One has plans for over 100 electric forecourts being built by them over the next five years, and are keen to work within Dacorum and offer at least one, if not two electric forecourts.

The area which is most attractive commercially would be to have a large hub near Maylands so that it is in close proximity to the M1 junction as well as being close by to all of the businesses in the industrial estate who are likely to be switching to EVs faster than residents uptake. Interest has also been shown by the companies with regard to the former petrol garage at the Magic Roundabout (currently a carwash). We continue conversations with these companies.

7 Planning

Officers are undertaking feasibility work that will underpin a new Carbon and Biodiversity Offset Fund for the Council. Once established it will allow the Council to secure funds from developers which will be invested in carbon and biodiversity projects across the Borough.

7.1 Carbon Offset

Carbon offset funds arise when development fails to achieve the required targets for reducing carbon emissions on site, and local authorities are able to use planning policy to collect contributions towards compensatory offsite measures. Typically these are calculated as a set sum for each tonne of carbon the new building will emit. The funds are then used to finance carbon reduction projects within the local authority area. Milton Keynes Council was an early leader in sustainable planning policy scheme and introduced the first carbon-offset local plan policy in 2008, to help achieve its ambition to become carbon neutral by 2030 and mitigate for future greenfield development. Within the first 10 years, the scheme achieved carbon savings totalling over 6,600 tonnes and generated more than £1 million, funding energy-saving projects for local residents. A similar scheme for Dacorum could generate funds to help deliver the priorities of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan.

Officers are now examining several options for setting up the Offset fund, reviewing carbon pricing options and fund administration options and will report to Members in due course.

7.2 Biodiversity Offset

National planning guidance and the forthcoming Environment Bill require development to create a net gain for biodiversity, to be set at 10% above the baseline biodiversity for a site. Where these measures are not achieved onsite, payments can be made to a biodiversity net gain fund equivalent to the cost of achieving the required number of biodiversity units elsewhere.

Officers are considering options for setting up and administering this fund, including whether the fund is separate or joined with the Carbon Offset Fund.

Officers are also considering options to develop a Biodiversity net gain Supplementary Planning Document and we're working with The Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust to utilise the work they have been doing with other authorities in Hertfordshire.

Herts County Council is also leading a baseline biodiversity evaluation of land across Hertfordshire and separately providing advice on opportunities for increasing biodiversity on Dacorum managed green space. Officers have commissioned a local tree assessment and tree planting strategy. This background work will inform the Council's Biodiversity Strategy and identify priorities for allocating biodiversity net gain contributions. Bunkers Park has been identified as a future biodiversity enhancement project.

Officers will continue to develop options for progressing both including further feasibility studies into each.

7.3 Renewable Energy Map

In order to understand the potential for future renewable energy initiatives in the borough, we will be sourcing a consultant to survey the borough and create a report on this for us.

This information will put us in a good position ready for when we are able to establish to the Carbon and Biodiversity Offset Fund and create projects that feed into this.

7.4 Biodiversity

Central government policy developments are beginning to open up new opportunities for increasing biodiversity. The Environment Bill, once passed, will likely mandate a 10% biodiversity net gain from developments. It will be possible to deliver these gains both on the site of the development as well as on off-site locations.

In November, the Agriculture Bill 2020 passed into law. The Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) set out in the bill lays out how farmers and land managers will in future be rewarded with public money when they provide 'public goods'. These goods could include better air or water quality, improved soil health, or thriving wildlife. The scheme is thus designed to help achieve the

aims of the 25 Year Environment Plan and the net zero emissions by 2050 commitment. Trials and tests have already begun ahead of a national pilot to commence in late 2021, and the scheme will be fully rolled out in 2024.

Both of these policy developments represent opportunities for biodiversity improvement, and thought of in conjunction, they open up particular possibilities around ways in which local authorities could work with farmers to enhance biodiversity on farmland (which is not currently defined as a habitat of principle importance in the Biodiversity 2020 **Strategy**).

8. Environmental Services

8.1 Clean, Safe and Green workstream

Climate Emergency Sub-Group – Environmental Services – update

CSG Summary of current projects and progress:

1. Tree planting (Three-year plan): a more detailed update is provided below. This is going to plan with the first batch of mass tree planting in the form of mature whips taken place in Gadebridge Park. This is in addition to specimen trees, which have already been planted as part of the scheme.
2. Northend Orchard: Unfortunately, this project is on hold due to COVID. With the Lock Down planned to be relaxed we will be able to progress this and start to look into the possibility of setting up a community group.
3. Allotments: CSG has completed the clearance works at Windmill Road Allotments and the site is now with the Estates Team. They are now looking to make plots available for the community.
4. Grass cutting of verges: This is underway on a project to map all these areas and to upload this data onto Cadcorp maps. A set of maps has been created showing all the areas we left uncut through the summer. This information now needs to be captured on a new mapping layer on Cadcorp. Work is underway with IT to create the layer, and capture the data/information. Once this has been completed enable us to plan better and resource accordingly. Once this has been completed it will we can look at the possibility of establishing more areas and trying to link them all up to create corridors.
5. Wildflower Areas/Meadows: The update for this is much the same as above with us mapping these and trying to create corridors rather than just having loads of isolated pockets which individual while nice are not practical. Once they are all linked up, we are hopefully that this will create wildlife corridors across the urban landscape.
6. Other projects:
 - Solitary bee project-
For the last 4 years, we have been part of <https://www.masonbees.co.uk/> a project that intends on increasing numbers of mason bees, as well as other solitary bees (Leaf cutter bees). We will be expanding this project to Tring and Berkhamsted. With houses planning to be installed in Canal Fields Park in Berkhamsted and in the Memorial Garden in Tring and the possible installation of one in Douglas Gardens EPD in Berkhamsted.
 - Pollinator friendly planting-More areas being planted (Douglas Gardens, Tring Memorial garden, Gadebridge Park). More housing

areas (especially new housing projects) directed towards pollinator friendly planting. A reduction in annual bedding to be replaced with more sustainable, pollinator friendly planting.

8.2 Tree Planting

Throughout January and February over 1300 trees have been planted as part of the Tree Planting Strategy, as well as separate projects. Of the trees planted, 915 were whips (2-3 year old trees) - these were all mixed native species including Hazel, Holly, Cherry, Hornbeam, Blackthorn, Hawthorn and Apple. A fence will be erected to protect the whips from unwanted attention, which can be removed after 5 -7 years. 210 trees were 'small' and 188 were 'standard' (2-3 metres tall).

- Gadebridge Park
 - 500 whips
 - 15 standard Cherry trees
- Keens Field
 - 415 whips
- Coronation Fields,
 - 30 standard trees – mixed species (Maple, Birch, Cherry, Lime, Rowan)
- Leys Road open space
 - 210 small fruit trees - to extend the area of existing trees within the space that already included some Apple and Cherry species. We've added further Apple and Cherry varieties and included Pear, Greengage and Plum. This will also be fenced in the short term. When available, the fruit can be picked as required by local residents.
- New Bunkers Park cemetery
 - 26 native standard trees
- Verge hardening schemes
 - 12 Standard trees
- Northchurch - funded by Nash Mills Parish Council
 - 3 Willows by the canal
 - 2 replacement trees
- Highway and Housing locations across the borough
 - Over 100 standard trees.

Between now and 2025 another 1000 native whips will be planted in Gadebridge Park combined with 30 more Standard trees, and 2000 whips in Bunkers Park. Highway and Housing tree planting will continue, subject to funding. Informal fruit tree planting will be progressed at Bunkers Park, close to the existing Hazel woodland.

This tree planting has been publicised through a press release. Signage is also in the process of being created which ultimately will be put by tree planting sites to signpost to our website, which will explain the progress being made and the borough's plans in more detail.

8.3 New Trees and Woodlands Policy

The new Trees and Woodlands Policy was recommended for approval by Members at the Strategic Planning & Environment Overview & Scrutiny

committee in February. The policy contains information about the management of public trees and also guidance for residents as to how they can manage their own trees.

The previous policy was published in 2015. The new policy recognises the role that tree management will play within the Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy. It also introduces the CAVAT (Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees) valuation system, which enables a monetary value to be placed on a tree. Where damage or destruction of public trees occurs, we will seek full compensation from those involved to the full CAVAT value. Residents are therefore advised to check with our Trees and Woodlands team before undertaking any planned tree works.

In addition to the full policy document, a shorter summary document which contains policy statements and answers to common tree issues is also available on the website for residents in the hope that they refer to this before submitting an enquiry to the Trees and Woodlands department.

9. External Workstream

9.1 Biodiversity Baseline

The Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP) subgroup on Biodiversity, identified that there is a need to develop the next steps that the group can take together in order to increase biodiversity across the county.

With habitats and wildlife remaining under pressure from pollution, pesticides, and loss of suitable land (amongst other things), there is a clear need to establish where we are as a County with regards to biodiversity.

A county-wide biodiversity baseline is the HCCSP's first step in forming an understanding of where we could develop strategic sites for biodiversity and ensure that gains from developments are maintained within Hertfordshire and as close to the development site as possible. This baseline will act as the foundation of our exploration into maximising these opportunities.

The objectives of the baseline are:

- To establish a county-wide biodiversity baseline to understand the state of biodiversity in Hertfordshire. All land will be surveyed during this baseline assessment, not just council land.
- For areas of land to receive a biodiversity unit score, to allow us to easily illustrate future increases or decreases in biodiversity in the future
- Production of a detailed report from the contractor that carries out the auditing and access to all data collected

Once this work is completed and we have a county-wide baseline and a consistent measuring tool, we can then look towards mapping specific opportunities for increasing biodiversity. Whether we do this work together through the HCCSP on a county-wide basis, or on a more localised basis will be determined in the future.

The cost to each local authority is £4000 and has already been agreed through all members of the HCCSP. The contract is out for tender and should be awarded by the end of June. The finalised reports are expected to be provided within the 2021/22 financial year.

10. Hertfordshire County Council - Green Spaces Audit

Hertfordshire County Council will be using the company CMS to carry out an audit of all the council-owned green spaces in Hertfordshire. We will be able to request that any of our green spaces are included in this, not just large sites, and the information will be provided to us for free. The Sustainable Hertfordshire team are funding this work.

A dedicated team will visit the sites to survey them and suggest ecological improvements that could improve the areas biodiversity. It is expected that most changes will be suggested at the boundaries of existing sites so that recreational activities will not be affected. Suggested changes could include mowing changes, woodland planting, hedgerow planting, pollinator friendly changes, etc. This work will complement the baseline audit that HCCSP are working on. The surveys are expected to be carried out over the summer. It is expected that the information will be ready by autumn/ winter 2021.

10.1 Hertfordshire Tree Canopy Information

Hertfordshire County Council are working alongside volunteers on a desk-based GIS project to map the percentage of tree canopy cover for each ward. They will be providing this information to us for free.

This information will help us to set goals and standards – for example, we could state that we want each ward to have a minimum of 20% tree cover and use this with our tree planting targets.

10.2 External Tree Reports

We have appointed Treeconomics, the biggest urban tree specialists in the sector, to carry out two pieces of work for us. This work will be carried out in 2021-22 Quarter 1.

10.3 Biodiversity Strategy

In order to fully utilise the forthcoming ecological information from the HCCSP biodiversity baseline, the HCC biodiversity audit and canopy cover data, the external tree reports and our internal wildflower mapping work, we will be creating a Biodiversity strategy.

The creation of a dedicated strategy will help us to plan future work and how this could be funded via the Carbon and Biodiversity Offset Fund and the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) income.

It has been highlighted by officers that land availability is a concern and so part of the strategy may be to look at purchasing areas of land. This will be possible through the BNG income.

We will be liaising with Hertfordshire and Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT) in order to create an effective strategy.

As part of the development of this strategy we will be exploring how we can engage with the public on this topic. This could involve community initiatives, working with schools, hosting events, establishing community groups, providing resources, running campaigns, etc. This public engagement work could also include surveying residents to gauge public opinions for activities such as grass cutting.

We will also explore providing additional training and resources to Clean, Safe and Green team members who carry out grounds maintenance but may not be aware of key plant species not to mow – such as orchids.

10.4 iTree Eco Inventory Report

Using a software model called iTree, Treeconomics are able to measure the structure and composition of Dacorum's council-owned trees and urban forests. They then calculate the benefits and ecosystem services they provide, and value them in monetary terms. This inventory will provide estimates of the ecosystem services provided by our trees, including air quality improvement, avoided stormwater run-off and most significantly to our Climate Emergency work, carbon storage. The carbon storage figure will be used to offset part of the borough's carbon footprint and is an important piece of our work to get us to net-zero emissions as an organisation by 2030.

Detailed information on species composition, and pest and disease resilience will also be detailed. The inventory report incorporates CAVAT information, and will help us to have clean data moving forwards. All of which will help to provide an evidence based approach in the development of informed urban forestry programs, management plans and projects.

Hertfordshire County Council have worked with Treeconomics to obtain this data for all of their highways land.

10.5 Tree Planting Strategy - Opportunity Mapping Report

Treeconomics will use a variety of data, including GIS, to identify hotspots for potential new tree planting. Hotspots are typically areas with low tree canopy cover, high levels of pollution, high social deprivation, or with an increased risk of flooding. They will work with us to generate a map, showing those areas most desirable for planting. This report will help us to focus future tree planting in the areas where there is the most need and least tree cover.

The outcome will be a detailed ward by ward report detailing potential and actual plantable space on public and private land and an indexed heatmap of tree planting opportunity. A set of all the GIS layers used to build up the map will be provided.

This information will be highly important, not only to help plan future tree planting work, but also to use as evidence in the event of applying for external

funding or working with other organisations, local councils, community groups, etc.

11. Internal Corporate progress

11.1 Sustainability Officer

Approval has been provided for the recruitment of a Sustainability Officer who will report to the Climate Emergency and Sustainability Programme Lead Officer. The new role will provide support for the delivery all future CEE projects and work-streams.

11.2 Staff Update Session

In November, during a virtual staff update session, a presentation was delivered to give all staff members an overview of the Climate and Ecological Emergency work stream. It is envisioned that this update will happen several times a year to increase staff engagement with the work being carried out.

11.3 Carbon Literacy Training (CLT)

Local authority specific Carbon Literacy Training sessions were offered to the Corporate Officers Group, all members of the CEE sub-groups and any other members of staff put forward by COG. This training was to ensure that our key decision makers are sufficiently equipped with an understanding around the causes and impacts of climate change, as well as solutions from a local authority perspective.

The Carbon Literacy Project was recognised by the UN at COP21, in Paris, where it was awarded as a TAP100, one of 100 worldwide Transformative Action Programs. The training is a certificated 8 hour all-day course split into four units. It was delivered via APSE virtually using Teams.

Unit 1 - The science behind climate change

Unit 2 - Global Climate Change Impacts: Understand policies globally, nationally and locally: the scientific consensus; the role of Local Councils; the policy position.

Unit 3 - Climate Change Action

Unit 4 - Influence from the frontline

In December, over 40 members of staff took on the training, including Dacorum's new CEO. Claire is the first CEO from a local borough council to have received this training. Due to high demand a third date has also been added for April which will bring us up to over 60 staff members trained. As a substantial percentage of the workforce will have been trained, this means we can explore getting the accreditation of a 'carbon literate organisation'.

The Carbon Literacy Project are currently developing a Councillor tailored version of this training and once this is developed we will work with APSE to offer these sessions to Members.



‘Learning from Lockdown’ Survey: Key Findings and Recommendations

Executive Summary

The ‘Learning from Lockdown’ sustainability survey provided us valuable insights into a range of different areas as to how Dacorum can help mitigate the Climate Emergency locally.

Dacorum will need to use its ‘spheres of influence’ to lead behavioural change through enabling, encouraging, educating, engaging and leading by example. This will require a range of campaigns, initiatives, schemes, policy changes, events and training to help achieve this.

This report outlines the key findings from the survey as well as a range of suggested recommended actions to take and include in the Climate Emergency Strategy that is being developed.

Many of the recommendations involve both potential internal change within Dacorum Borough Council as well as propositions for engaging with local organisations. One key recommendation is for Dacorum to produce a ‘**Green Business Charter**’ (GBC) for local organisations to voluntarily sign up to. This would outline a range of initiatives that local organisations could adopt in order to create a low emission and more sustainable work place. The GBC would provide a useful way of having a cohesive approach on these matters with local organisations, as well as providing support to those who are not sure how to have a positive environmental impact. The GBC would include a pledge of aiming to be a net-zero carbon emissions organisation by 2030. The suggested actions in the GBC would help to provide a pathway for how organisations can get there and be more sustainable overall.

Dacorum’s newly-formed Sustainable Transport group will play a key role in putting together and delivering a work plan. Many recommendations directly relate to areas this group could take forward – for example, establishing an electric car pool scheme for staff, developing an internal Green Transport policy, installing more bike racks and cycle lanes throughout the borough, and many more. Encouraging residents to cycle more will play an important role in reducing the borough’s overall emissions and improving air quality.

A crucial role that Dacorum will play is in developing campaigns and communicating with residents. A Climate Emergency Communication work plan will be developed in order to capture key information and messages that will need to be delivered to residents.

Lockdown showed us all the value of social interaction and developing a communications work plan that is full of events, training, presentations and promoting volunteering with community groups will be a significant part of the sustainability work – when it is safe to roll these initiatives out. For example – hosting Repair Café events, establishing Community Fridges to help reduce food waste, a ‘Library of Thing’s, as well as creating Community Gardens and Orchards too.

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Introduction

In summer 2019, Dacorum Borough Council (DBC), declared a Climate Emergency following a report released by the International Panel on Climate Change that called for an urgent global response and recommended that we have until 2030 to limit carbon emissions in order to avoid catastrophic impacts that global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels would cause.

During July and August 2020, DBC ran a six week sustainability survey to help understand how certain behaviours changed locally as a result of the safety measures brought about by COVID-19.

Several of the lifestyle changes that people made are also essential for helping to tackle the Climate Emergency. DBC wanted to understand how to positively embrace these changes within Dacorum, so that instead of going ‘back to normal’, we can move forwards to a better, greener future.

The survey was broken down into several key areas: transport and commuting, cycling, food, resources, energy and water use. 1500 residents took part. The full results have been published and are available to read [here](#); it is recommended that this report is read alongside these results.

Dacorum has set a target of getting the council’s operations to net-zero carbon emissions by 2030 – however, DBC is only responsible for 1% of the emissions in the borough. Therefore in addition to this, DBC will need to also work alongside residents, communities and businesses to help them reduce their impacts so as to reduce the emissions of the overall borough as much as possible.

A number of the changes required to reduce emissions can be brought back to behavioural changes. Dacorum will need to use its ‘spheres of influence’ to lead behavioural change through enabling, encouraging, educating, engaging and leading by example. This will require a range of campaigns, initiatives, schemes, events and training to help achieve this.

This report outlines a range of key findings and recommendations based on the survey results which will help shape elements of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and Action Plan, which is being released in 2021.

1. Respondent Demographic:

1.1 Nearly 1500 residents took part in the survey and 9% of these were Dacorum employees.

1.1.1 This shows that many of the answers provided are relevant for us to consider internally.

1.2 With an average participant age of 54, there was lower engagement across younger age brackets

1.2.1 This should be kept in mind when interpreting the results throughout the report.

1.2.2 When rolling out public consultations or surveys in the future, look for ways to engage with younger demographics. This could include working with schools and colleges, advertising through different social media platforms, etc. To engage with older audiences posters could be used at community centres.

1.3 The population of Dacorum is approximately 155,000 with the population of Hemel Hempstead making up around 63% of this; Berkhamsted 11% and Tring around 9%

1.3.1 As such, the demographic of the participants is suitably represented.

1.4 There were nearly as many retired people who completed the survey as those in work.

1.4.1 This should be kept in mind when interpreting the results throughout the report.

2. Transport and Commuting

Transport is the largest emitter of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK and is responsible for over a quarter of the UK's greenhouse gases. Private vehicle use, especially car use, makes up the bulk of transport emissions.

Climate targets require a reduction in car use by 2030 of between 20% - 60%, depending on the speed of the switch to electric vehicles. In the UK, commuting is responsible for around a fifth of all miles travelled. Changes are needed to make walking, cycling and public transport more attractive to people than driving.

During lockdown, many people began working from home; travelling by car less, walking and cycling more and socialising differently via online platforms such as Zoom.

Transport - Key Findings and Recommendations:

2.1 The three most important benefits to participants of cars not being on the road were air quality (65%), less emissions due to the Climate Emergency (55%) and quieter more peaceful roads (51%). Over half of participants were also concerned about safety in general – there was notably more concern for cyclists and pedestrians than children playing in the street. When asked to give additional comments around the benefits of less cars, 43% related to the positive impacts on wildlife.

2.1.1 This information highlights the need for the Climate Emergency work to tie in closely with the Air Quality work that both Dacorum and Hertfordshire County Council are doing. We must ensure that any campaigns and communications stemming from the Air Quality work are included as actions within the Climate Emergency Communications Strategy and have a cohesive approach.

2.1.2 When designing behavioural change communications and campaigns to encourage reducing car use, these key benefits will be heavily used in order to maximise engagement. These could be incorporated into the Climate Emergency Communications Plan.

- One potential behavioural campaign to explore developing could be based around the slogan "*Don't be idle; walk scoot cycle*" – which encompasses all elements of reducing car use and idling, alongside encouraging active travel. This could be heavily promoted with residents, especially in schools and businesses.

2.1.3 When developing communications relating to Biodiversity, reminding people about the benefits that they witnessed for wildlife from reduced cars could be a useful emotive tool.

2.2 Approximately 9 out of 10 people want to see less cars on roads in the future. Only 2% of participants disagreed with this.

2.2.1 This demonstrates that there is a strong appetite for more people to take up active travel and use public or shared transport. A cohesive Sustainable Transport group needs to be established and create strategies and work-plans that will help to deliver the changes needed.

2.3 Around two thirds of participants work within Dacorum (14% of participants work from home), with many working in various locations both in and outside the borough. Nearly half of participants can travel to and from work in under half an hour. The top three areas for commuting to were Hemel Town Centre (11%), Mayland's Industrial Estate (5%) and Apsley and Corner Hall (3%).

This information demonstrates that walking, cycling, lift-sharing or using public transport to get to work could be feasible for a large number of residents.

2.3.1 Focused campaign work could be done with the companies that are based in Hemel Town Centre, Mayland's Industrial Estate and Apsley and Corner Hall in order to encourage their staff to explore alternative travel options.

2.3.2 These statistics can be used when developing an Active Travel / Sustainable Transport work-plan or strategy. This work could include both behavioural change communications, and initiatives as well as physical changes such as placement of cycle lanes and bike racks.

2.4 Over a third of participants travel outside of Dacorum to get to their place of work. 38% of these travel to London, 32% stay within Hertfordshire, 15% to Buckinghamshire, 4% to Bedfordshire and 4% elsewhere.

2.4.1 When developing a Sustainable Transport work plan, we should collaborate with Hertfordshire County Council to investigate the public transport links currently available and work with the necessary organisations to research and improve links to the most popular areas that people commute to – London, Herts and Bucks.

2.4.2 We should work with residents and businesses to encourage more regular working from home where this is a suitable option.

2.5 The 'methods of commuting' answers indicate there will be an increase in the number of people who will be planning on walking to work (2%), cycling (4%) or using an electric bike or scooter (4%). The number of people using a bus is predicted to stay the same. There will be a decline in those using the train (2%) and driving (5%) – the additional comments indicate that this is mostly because of more opportunities for working from home.

2.5.1 Developing an annual transport survey to help monitor how residents are commuting / travelling would be useful so that we can identify changes and understand where to focus campaigns to help people transition to active or public transport.

2.5.2 Campaigns could encourage people to pledge to / adopt the method of 'walking if their destination is less than a mile, or cycling if it is less than 3 miles'.

- 2.5.3 Infrastructure should be provided to help encourage this in the form of sufficient paths, crossings and cycle racks.
- 2.5.4 The majority of additional comments around commuting methods were to complain about how unreliable, inconvenient and expensive public transport is.
- 2.6 Over three quarters of participants said that they will be using video conferencing such as through Teams or Zoom to reduce the need for external meetings. Before COVID-19, this would have been unheard of and shows how quickly society can adapt when they need to. It is important that this change is harnessed.**
- 2.6.1 As part of an internal Green Transport Policy, Dacorum could encourage staff to use video conferencing as a priority wherever possible rather than have external meetings, conferences and training.
- Within Dacorum hold training sessions or circulate educational materials (such as 'how to' videos and 'hacks') for members of staff to show them how to fully maximise the potential for video conferencing to minimise the need for external meetings.
- 2.6.2 Campaigns and initiatives encouraging local businesses to utilise video conferencing could be developed, highlighting the cost savings for hiring conference centres, catering, business mileage, etc.
- 2.7 Only 1 in 5 participants regularly need a car whilst at work. Another 1 in 5 need a car occasionally with the remaining 58% not needing a car at work at all. It would be anticipated that the rise in external meetings taking place through video conferencing would reduce the number of people who need their own cars occasionally.**
- 2.7.1 Dacorum could consider the introduction of a car and bike pool scheme for those staff members who require transport whilst at work but do not want to commute in with a vehicle. This would help to support people leaving their cars at home in favour of active or public transport. These pool cars should be electric vehicles and e-bikes so that they have as few emissions as possible.
- Research could be carried out as to whether this pool scheme could be made available for residents also.
- 2.7.2 Dacorum could work with local organisations to encourage them to have similar schemes. Especially those with large numbers of employees who are likely to need transport whilst at work. This would be a suggestion for the Green Business Charter.
- Government funding is available for businesses to install EV chargepoints. When promoting these ideas to businesses, Dacorum should raise awareness of and encourage businesses to utilise this funding.
- 2.7.3 These statistics could be used whilst shaping Active / Sustainable Transport communications campaigns – e.g. “Our survey indicated that 3 out of 5 participants do not need a car whilst they are at work.”

2.8 1 in 3 employees would be willing to car share on their commute – with an equal split between ‘Yes’ and ‘Sometimes’. Despite this, there are currently only 4% of people car sharing.

2.8.1 To help raise the number of people sharing journeys, there are car sharing apps and schemes available that Dacorum could partner with to endorse and promote locally both internally with DBC Staff, as well as externally with organisations and residents. This initiative could be included as part of a Sustainable Transport work plan.

- Of those who would be happy to car share, 40% need a car whilst at work – this further supports the need for having a fleet of pool cars available.

2.9 40% of participants would not car share, but also do not need a car whilst at work. Over a third of the additional comments indicate that the key reason for this is due to concerns over flexibility and shift patterns. Around 10% of those who said no to car sharing did so due to needing to do the school run.

2.9.1 In order to encourage these people to take up either car-sharing or active travel, initiatives such as flexi-working and working-from-home could be encouraged. These are important factors in ensuring staff have lower emission commutes because it allows people to use alternative greener methods of travel (e.g. walking or cycling may take them longer, catching a bus or train may mean they arrive past their regular start time), it also allows parents to fit in the school run without having to use their cars as frequently. Additionally, the same journey can have fewer emissions if the vehicle is not caught up, or adding to, traffic congestion by travelling at peak times.

2.9.2 Flexible working and working-from-home is something that Dacorum often embraces well with its own staff, however is not necessarily fully embraced by all managers / departments. This could be addressed within the introduction of an internal Green Travel Policy to empower staff in understanding what their available choices are.

2.9.3 Local businesses could be encouraged to also adopt similar Green Transport policies.

2.9.4 When developing campaigns to promote car sharing to individuals and businesses an emphasis could be put on the flexibility of such schemes. It would be beneficial to partner with an existing app or website that will help to provide people with this proven, flexible and trustworthy approach – with case studies where possible.

2.10 68% of participants were able to work from home during lockdown. 23% stated that they could not do their job from home – this rises to 40% when including those who were furloughed and worked from home ‘sometimes’.

2.10.1 However, when comparing the barriers people gave for not working at home more frequently over 50% said it was because of the type of work carried out. This shows a clear difference and highlights that there is an opportunity for more people to be able to work from home more regularly.

2.10.2 Where suitable, Dacorum could carry out a review of internal processes that might be preventing more home working and find simple ways to alter these in order to improve levels of flexibility and the opportunity for more home working. Such a review could investigate all areas of sustainability around the processes (e.g. paper-use).

2.11 The three other barriers to home working all had an equal number of people (16%) give them as reasons. This included that their employer will not allow home working; no suitable workspace at home; and preferring being around people.

2.11.1 This suggests that more workplaces need to embrace the opportunities that working from home can have both for staff and the environment by reducing carbon emissions and make policy changes where necessary to reflect this.

2.11.2 In the roles for which it would be suitable, optional regular home working could be considered for staff who often do not need a physical reason to be in the workplace. In order to help create an open dialogue between staff and their line managers regarding this area, this discussion could perhaps become part of the internal PDR process to ensure that home working is discussed and agreed upon, at least annually if not more regularly in order to recognise the fact that personal and work situations change.

- These situations can change throughout the year as to whether home working suits staff lifestyles or not can change for a range of reasons – this can depend on a staff member’s living situation, commute, childcare, pet care, having multiple jobs, hobbies, socialising aspects, etc. Commuting or working from home is a personal preference that should be balanced in order to tailor both the best needs for the individual and the organisation as much as possible.
 - For example, one colleague may enjoy coming into the office in the summer as they can cycle in more easily, but would prefer to work from home in the winter. Whereas another colleague may prefer being at home in the summer but their house is expensive to heat all day in the winter and so they would prefer to come into the office for those months instead. It is accepted that the requirements of the service will always be part of such considerations.

2.11.3 Dacorum can further support this by providing any equipment or IT support required to ensure home working can take place.

2.12 For the 17% of people who go into work because they prefer being around people – this suggests that some people may choose to work from home more if there were more community-based groups for them to regularly be involved with.

2.12.1 This highlights the need to develop and/or heavily promote sustainable community groups, classes and regular volunteering opportunities – this social aspect will be an integral part of the Dacorum Climate Action Network when this is launched. For example, making ‘green gym’ volunteering groups available that people can go to on their lunchbreaks or after work.

- Dacorum should not only encourage our own staff to take part, but also encourage local work places to join in and promote it to their staff, as well as promote to residents in general.

2.13 For the 33% of people who do not have a suitable workspace at home and prefer being around people, there does not need to be a choice between simply being at home or in the workplace.

- 2.13.1 Shared office spaces can be rented which could be closer to home and so avoid the commute, whilst also being a professional work space allowing people to concentrate but also socialise and see others. Socialising can play an important part of mental health and so this could be a useful situation for some. Shared office spaces are likely to become more useful as many companies may need or choose to close buildings permanently following COVID for financial reasons.
- 2.13.2 Dacorum could suggest and encourage using shared office spaces to staff who live further away but struggle working from home. This could form part of an internal Green Travel policy.
- 2.13.3 As Dacorum is largely seen as a commuter town (around a third of participants work outside of Dacorum) there could be many residents who would find renting an office space a useful option if they are no longer required to travel to their usual workplaces. Dacorum could support this by:
- Creating and promoting a list of potential offices within Dacorum through the new Climate Emergency website.
 - Potentially own office spaces to rent out to residents. This could become an income stream for the council with the added benefits that there would be lower travel emissions within the borough and that Dacorum would be in direct control of ensuring the office is managed as energy efficiently and sustainably as possible.
 - This could be an especially important consideration for the Hemel Garden Communities work as the additional homes being built are over an hour and a half walk away from Hemel train station and therefore less suitable for encouraging active transport for commuters.
- 2.13.4 Dacorum could encourage local businesses to also embrace home working through the above measures – this could be included within a Green Business Charter.

2.14 Before lockdown 58% (481 participants) worked from home – ranging from once a week to full time. Answers suggest that after lockdown, this will rise to 75% (627 participants). During lockdown 77% (657 participants) worked from home and so there is only expected to be a minimal decrease. There is only a 4% increase in the number of participants working from home a full 5 days a week. The percentage difference in number of days working from home show that most will be working 3-4 days a week at home with a percentage increase of 173 – 194%.

- 2.14.1 This suggests that there will be a significant rise in the number of people who either never worked from home before or only did so once a week. This highlights that this is more of a flexible change to working patterns
- 2.14.2 These results show that lockdown has had a significant difference in sparking a paradigm shift in not only working from home, but also working to more flexible working patterns with an improvement in work/life balance, rather than a permanent new working structure of moving to all staff being at home.

3. Cycling:

Cycling is a highly efficient transport that will be a crucial part of the solution for a low-carbon future. It is one of the simplest lifestyle choices that individuals can make to reduce their carbon footprint. It also has huge benefits for their physical and mental health, finances, air quality and their neighbourhoods.

Cycling - Key Findings and Recommendations:

3.1 Half of all participants own a bike, however 16% of these owners say that their bike does not work. 14% of all participants don't have a bike, but would like one. Approximately a quarter of those who have a bike use theirs for regular travel or exercise, a quarter use it for casual leisure and the remaining half are completely disengaged from cycling regularly.

3.1.1 This suggests that promoting bike repair initiatives such as the governments voucher scheme, bike repair workshops, or signposting to 'how to' videos on Dacorum's Sustainability webpages and social media would be beneficial to residents and could be incorporated into the Climate Emergency Communications Plan.

3.1.2 Dacorum could work with organisations that help to repair old bikes and sell them affordably to the local community in order to support those who may be struggling financially to have one.

3.1.3 If Repair Cafes were held at least annually within Dacorum, people could be encouraged to bring their bikes along and have them fixed there/ learn how to fix them.

3.1.4 This highlights the need to deliver campaigns and initiatives to encourage people to use the bikes that they own, as well as encouraging people to buy one. There are a number of different organisations and initiatives Dacorum could partner with to help with this.

3.2 A third of participants cycled more over lockdown. Half did not change their behaviours. Of those who cycled more, a third of people stated their reasons as being 'exercise'; another third 'safer, quieter roads' and 23% saying that they had more time. 11% said better air quality and only 2% saying because of money.

Exercise was the top answer given by 50% of people when asked what their main reasons were for cycling. 20% used cycling as a way to spend time with friends and family, with another 18% saying that it is better for the environment.

3.2.1 This demonstrates that when running campaigns and initiatives to encourage people to use their bikes more, the best angle to use will be exercise and social fitness with the environment being a secondary reason. Money savings should not be used as a tool to encourage this behavioural change.

3.2.2 Dacorum published a Cycling Strategy in 2009, this could be reviewed and updated where necessary by the Sustainable Transport group whilst working closely with Hertfordshire County Council and any other relevant local organisations.

3.3 Over a third of people said that the key barrier to them being able to cycle more was because they were worried about road safety. Linking this to another question where participants asked what they liked most about having less cars on the road - 51% enjoyed the more peaceful and quiet roads and 43% thought that the streets were safer for cyclists and pedestrians

3.3.1 Safer roads for cyclists is clearly a key factor and looking at ways to improve road safety needs to be a key action in the Sustainable Transport work plan.

- Many additional comments in the survey results provide further information as to where residents would like to see improvements such as bike lanes.

3.3.2 These safety concerns could be highlighted in campaign work and the work done to improve road conditions could be communicated to residents.

3.3.3 An annual borough-wide transport survey could ask residents which areas they are most concerned about to ensure that we are working with the insights from the road-users.

3.4 13% of participants (200 people) said that a barrier for them not riding more is due to lack of confidence. However, looking deeper at the responses from participants who previously answered 'No I don't want a bike', the top two barriers to cycling was road safety (28% - 127 people) and because of lack of confidence (20% - 91 people).

3.4.1 This means that an estimated 1 in 5 Dacorum residents who do not want a bike is because they lack confidence – this could be resolved through increasing access to bike classes, increasing road safety, targeted campaigns.

3.5 When asked about bike classes, 23% of participants – nearly 1 in 4, said yes they would be interested in these. Two thirds of the people who said that they would be interested in bike classes already have their own bike, although 15% of these participants have a broken bike, suggesting that classes should be on bike maintenance as well as riding safely. Interestingly, 7% of people who said they would be interested in classes previously answered that they don't want a bike.

3.5.1 Dacorum could research and partner with cycling organisations to offer and heavily promote (and potentially subsidise) bike proficiency classes to help increase road confidence, then this would be likely to have a significant impact on the number of cyclists in Dacorum.

- Many local councils already offer free cycle training classes – e.g. [Cycle Confident](#) who works with many London boroughs.
- Dacorum should focus promoting these classes and skills to secondary schools to ensure that the younger generation are equipped with the confidence and knowledge to become frequent cyclists.

3.6 8% of participants are put off cycling because there are not suitable shower and changing facilities at work, with another 4% saying that there is nowhere to securely store a bike.

3.6.1 Although these numbers are not overwhelmingly high, they could be lowered if these changes were suggested to businesses in a Green Business Charter.

3.6.2 Dacorum could work with Hertfordshire County Council and the borough's primary and secondary schools to ensure that there are sufficient numbers of bike and scooter racks in order to accommodate a substantial shift to this mode of transport.

- [Cycling UK](#) are working to encourage schools to take up cycling for a range of important reasons including physical and mental health, improved air quality and for environmental benefits. They explain *"if more people cycle at peak times, local roads will be less congested. A significant proportion – around half – of traffic between 8 and 9am is caused by 'education' and by 'escort education' trips (i.e. when the sole purpose is to accompany someone else to education). Although a good many children usually walk to school, over a third are driven and very few cycle (less than 3% or so)."*

3.7 35% of those who said that they 'do not have a bike, but would like one' listed 'I cannot afford a bike' as their reason for not having one. This represents around 6% of all participants.

3.7.1 There are a range of ways that Dacorum can support with this, these should be explored and researched by the Sustainable Transport group with approved ideas being incorporated into the work plan. Potential schemes:

- Rolling out the Beryl Bike short-hire scheme
- Work place 'cycle to work' schemes and bike pools could be embedded in the Green Business Charter.
- Encourage the passing on of second-hand bikes through local reuse networks;
- Encouraging the repairing and resale of old bikes at low prices through a community scheme or organisation – e.g. [Recycle Your Cycle](#)
- Encouraging the sale of more affordable second-hand bikes, e.g. at Reuse Centres.
- Offering a council-led bike hire scheme e.g. Islington's ['Try Before You Bike'](#)
- These initiatives and campaigns could be promoted via the Climate Emergency webpages site.

3.8 Approximately two thirds of people do not think there are enough bike racks in the borough. There were 280 additional comments suggesting where people would like to see bike racks.

84% of participants think there should be more cycle lanes in Dacorum. There were 320 additional comments suggesting where people would like to see cycle lanes.

Roughly two thirds of participants think that there should be more 20mph zones throughout Dacorum. There were 324 additional comments suggesting where people would like to see 20mph zones.

3.8.1 As part of the Sustainable Transport work plan, these additional comments should all be reviewed and researched further with improvements made where necessary, whilst working in cooperation with Hertfordshire County Council and other relevant organisations.

4. 'Resources' – analysis, comments and actions:

Reducing, reusing and recycling are key behaviours that help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing energy consumption and the amount of resources that go into making products and packaging.

Resources - Key Findings and Recommendations:

4.1 In general people are more likely to give something away second-hand than take – a difference of approximately 15%. The top three methods of second-hand reuse are online (34%), charity shops (30%) and family and friends (23%).

- 4.1.1 Charity shops play a valuable function in the reuse market and is the single most used method of trading second-hand for both giving and finding. However, nearly a third more people give items to charity shops rather than buying items there - this is a concern that these shops may not be able to sell as much as they take on.
- 4.1.2 It could be useful to encourage people into shopping in charity shops more through campaigns encouraging buying second-hand. Dacorum could support this by having an informative list and/or map on our website which shows people where charity shops are and what items they accept.
- 4.1.3 To embed buying second-hand as 'normal behaviour', primary and secondary schools could be encouraged to have more swapping days for items such as clothes, toys, books and electricals.
- 4.1.4 Initiatives to promote the normalisation of the second-hand market could be encouraged. Dacorum already has successfully launched Clothes Swap events in recent years which have proven to be very popular with residents. These should be continued and potentially be run more than twice a year.
- 4.1.5 Online reuse websites and community groups such as on Facebook are viable tools in encouraging reuse and local groups could be promoted more heavily on the Dacorum website.
- 4.1.6 As car boot and jumble sales are the lowest method of reuse and clearly becoming obsolete for both giving and taking these should not be promoted in campaigns.
- 4.1.7 This information breakdown will be useful when shaping behavioural campaigns around 'reduce, reuse, recycle' within the community

4.2 Reuse centres at Household Recycling Centres are primarily used to give away second-hand items rather than find.

4.2.1 If we wanted these to become used more heavily they would need a great deal of promotion and could potentially be a project that we work with Herts County Council on.

4.3 3 out of 4 people would be interested in using a community 'library of things', with additional comments being very supportive.

4.3.1 This is a substantial amount of interest and Dacorum could investigate setting one of these up, potentially in partnership with Hertfordshire County Council.

4.4 1 in 4 people do not have the tools or equipment to repair items that are broken.

4.4.1 This further supports the proposal of initiating a community 'library of things' to help people to repair items they already own as this helps to remove this barrier and so simultaneously reduces the need for resources as well as helping to prolong the life of other items.

4.5 40% of people do not repair something because they do not know how to.

4.5.1 Community Repair events could provide help to fix these items.

4.5.2 Simple repair skill workshops or how-to videos could be promoted to help people repair standard broken things. This can be incorporated into a Sustainable Communications plan.

4.6 23% of participants would replace the item instead if it is affordable to do so.

4.6.1 Behavioural change campaigning is needed to encourage people to think not just of the financial cost of an item, but the value of the resources that went into producing it. The right thing to do is therefore to extend a products lifespan as much as possible – either by repairing it, repurposing it or giving it away to someone who will. By rolling out community events, initiatives and presentations that push these messages this will help to encourage this behaviour change.

4.7 2 out of 3 people would attend a Community Repair event – with 7% of participants telling us they would be happy to help out as a volunteer to fix items.

4.7.1 This demonstrates that there is sufficient interest in hosting events such as these and Dacorum could look at putting these on in future as part of its sustainability community work.

5. Food – analysis, comments and actions:

The food we choose to eat can make up a significant part of our individual carbon footprints.

Growing food locally reduces the carbon footprint of our food by reducing factors such as transportation, storage, and packaging. It also increases resilience for food security which is one of the key risks of climate change. A third of all the food produced in the world goes to waste. This is a huge environmental and social issue and is responsible for 11% of all global greenhouse gas emissions.

Food - Key Findings and Recommendations:

5.1 Nearly half of participants would be happy to use a food sharing app. Just over half of people would also be willing to use a business-to-person food sharing app.

5.1.1 This suggests that these apps could be promoted through campaigns and initiatives not just with people, but with local food businesses also.

5.2 Just under half of participants would be interested in having a local [‘community fridge’](#) to help reduce food waste, with 9% saying that they would be happy to volunteer to help manage a scheme like this.

5.2.1 This demonstrates that there would be sufficient interest in setting these up in Dacorum and we should look into establishing these.

- There are over 100 community fridges in the UK which already run successfully.

5.2.2 Many of the additional comments provided highlighted that the Community Fridge would need to be situated somewhere that is easily accessible, not somewhere you would have to pay for parking to be able to visit it quickly.

5.3 The percentage of participants who grew food before lockdown was 45% and the percentage of those who expect to grow food after lockdown is 66% - an increase of 21% - meaning that two thirds of Dacorum residents will be growing food locally.

5.3.1 This means that approximately 1 in 5 more people are now growing food since lockdown, which proves that lockdown had a significant positive impact in the number of people who wanted to grow their own food locally.

5.4 Interestingly, the number of people who grew food over lockdown rose to 60% and instead of the 'after' results dropping down, they rose to 66% - this shows that those who didn't grow food during lockdown will still be planning to after.

5.4.1 This indicates that these people may have been influenced by the behaviours of friends and family and want to follow their example. This might demonstrate that normalising sustainable behaviours has a trickle-down effect and is worth bearing in mind when forming behaviour changing initiatives and campaigns.

5.5 The data shows that the majority of people grow between 1-5 types of food. However, the split between the number of types of food grown shifted over lockdown. Before lockdown 76% of those who grew food would grow 1-5 types, 14% would grow 6-10 types and 10% would grow 10+ types. For after lockdown, this is expected to be 65% growing 1-5 types, 22% 6-10 types and 13% 10+ types.

5.5.1 This suggests that not only did lockdown cause people to start growing food for the first time, but for those that already did, they shifted to growing more types of food than they normally would.

5.5.2 This information can be used to support the establishment of any initiatives regarding growing local food.

5.6 There are nearly three times more people who would like to have an allotment (182), than those that do (64). 90% of those who would like to have an allotment, already have a garden. The remaining 10% either do not have a garden or live in a flat with a balcony.

5.6.1 This shows that there is a strong appetite for people to have allotments and more work could be done by Dacorum to make more available, and also provide alternative methods for those who would like to be able to grow food – such as community gardens.

5.7 There are a variety of different reasons why people would want to grow their own food locally. The top answers were 'healthy food', 'better for the environment' and as a 'hobby', but 'saving money' and 'improving mental health' also scored highly.

5.7.1 When running campaigns to encourage people to grow food locally, these results should be kept in mind so as to appeal to as many people as possible.

5.8 The main answer for why people would not be able to grow food locally is because they don't have a suitable space – 40% of answers. For those that say that they do not have a suitable space, 80% of these already have a garden. This matches the previous finding that even though people have gardens, they would still want allotments.

5.8.1 If there was sufficient space available either as allotments or community gardens, we would have a greater number of residents able to grow their own food. This further supports the need to have more allotments and community gardens available for residents.

5.9 26% of participants said that a barrier to them not growing food locally was because they don't have the knowledge or equipment and 15% said that they do not have the time. Only 20% said that they were not interested.

- 5.9.1 A community garden would be perfect for someone who is curious about growing food but does not have the knowledge or equipment as they would be able to learn from others and use shared equipment.
- 5.9.2 Primary and secondary schools could be encouraged to have gardens on their school grounds where possible, so as to help learn about growing food, as well as other key areas such as valuing food as a resource, the importance of eating seasonally and organically, reducing food waste and packaging, etc. Dacorum could look at ways in which it can support schools with this.
- 5.9.3 A community garden would be a useful solution for those who are interested in growing food, but do not have the time to commit themselves and so instead could volunteer on a casual basis.

5.10 Half of participants would be willing to volunteer at a community garden. Of these, 22% would do so weekly, 35% would do monthly and 42% would volunteer several times a year.

- 5.10.1 This demonstrates that community gardens would be well supported throughout Dacorum and more could be initiated widely.
- 5.10.2 Some community gardens already exist within Dacorum and these could be promoted more heavily. Dacorum's website can be used to help provide a map of all of the available community gardens.
- 5.10.3 92% of people who would volunteer at a community garden already have access to their own garden. This is the same percentage of participants who answered that they have their own garden which suggests that these answers are representative of the demographic of participants, rather than indicative.
- 5.10.4 Nearly two thirds of people would like to see a community garden in Hemel, but there is still some interest in Berkhamsted and Tring; once again this seems representative of the demographic. Participants suggested they would want community garden locations in a range of areas, with Adeyfield having the highest level of interest.
- 5.10.5 Dacorum could help to initiate community gardens by allocating land and supporting put together a volunteer network and a guide on best practise as well as promoting.

5.11 88% of people would buy food from a community garden, but only 2% already do. 58% of participants would be interested in having a veg box scheme, but only 8% do.

- 5.11.1 This shows that there is a huge market for schemes selling local food to be pushed within Dacorum. Community gardens or local enterprises such as Sunnyside could be encouraged to tap into this.

5.12 Despite approximately 50% of people saying that they would volunteer at a community garden, 88% say they would buy local food from them.

5.12.1 This highlights that these gardens would still be beneficial to the community even if people are not interested in volunteering.

5.13 Over half of participants would be interested in volunteering at a community orchard. Of those, 12% would do so weekly, 30% would do monthly and 57% would volunteer several times a year.

5.13.1 Although slightly more people are interested in volunteering at an orchard compared to a garden, people are more willing to volunteer in a garden more regularly – such as on a weekly or monthly basis.

5.14 Participants suggested they would want community orchard locations in a range of areas, with Adeyfield and Boxmoor having the highest level of interest.

5.14.1 Dacorum could help to initiate community orchards by allocating land, planting the trees and supporting a volunteer network and guide on best practise as well as promoting.

6. Energy and Water Use

Energy and Water Use - Key Findings and Recommendations:

6.1 On average, over half (56%) of participants saw an increase in their energy and water bills – with approximately 40% seeing a slight increase and 15% seeing a significant increase. The energy and water bills have stayed the same for around a third of households.

6.1.1 This indicates that since lockdown, there is a greater need for energy and water efficiency campaigns.

6.1.2 The answers provided indicates the areas that people want to know more about which will be useful for guiding future campaign work in these areas.

6.1.3 The survey has also provided us with a mailing list of residents to contact about future initiatives when these are up and running.

United Kingdom – The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution

‘Two centuries ago the UK led the world’s first Industrial Revolution. Powered by innovation and private investment, this transformation gave birth to many of our great cities and effectively created the modern world. Today we will mobilise the same forces to level up our country and enable our proud industrial heartlands to forge the future once again. By investing in clean technologies – wind, carbon capture, hydrogen and many others – Britain will lead the world into a new Green Industrial Revolution.

As the world begins to recover from the devastating impact of the coronavirus on lives and livelihoods, a broader transformation is taking shape. We will create hundreds of thousands of new jobs by investing in pioneering British industries while simultaneously protecting future generations from climate change and the remorseless destruction of habitats.

Britain is already leading the way. Over the last 30 years, we have shown that economic success and environmental responsibility go hand in hand. We expanded our GDP by 75 per cent while cutting emissions by 43 per cent. Our low-carbon industries already support over 460,000 jobs, from electric vehicle manufacturing in the Midlands and the North East to our thriving offshore wind industry centred on the Humber and the Tees. In 2019, we became the first major economy to adopt a legally binding obligation to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

This year, our Ten Point Plan will lay the foundations for a Green Industrial Revolution. We will start by supporting 90,000 jobs across the UK within this Parliament, and up to 250,000 by 2030. Engineers, fitters, construction workers and many others will be engaged in harnessing British science and technology to create and use clean energy and forge great new industries that export to new markets around the world. Our Lifetime Skills Guarantee will equip people with the training they need to take advantage of these opportunities.

The government has announced over £5 billion to support a green recovery. This plan mobilises £12 billion – and potentially more than three times as much from the private sector – to place green jobs at the heart of our economic revival. As the world goes green, we will seek to put the UK at the forefront of global markets for clean technology. One measure of the opportunity is that 83 per cent of the \$13.3 trillion of global investment in electricity systems by 2050 could be in zero-carbon technologies.

We will generate new clean power with offshore wind farms, nuclear plants and by investing up to half a billion pounds in new hydrogen technologies. We will use this energy to carry on living our lives, running our cars, buses, trucks and trains, ships and planes, and heating our homes while keeping bills low. And to the extent that we still emit carbon, we will pioneer a new British industry dedicated to its capture and return to under the North Sea. Together these measures will reinvigorate our industrial heartlands, creating jobs and growth, and pioneering world-leading

SuperPlaces that unite clean industry with transport and power. All of these ambitions will be propelled by doubling down on Britain's world-leading expertise in green finance and innovation.

Finally, we will harness nature's ability to absorb carbon by establishing new National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and making them even greater havens of biodiversity, with the aim of protecting 30% of England's countryside by 2030. We will use the freedoms we regain by leaving the EU to support Britain's farmers so that, alongside producing high-quality food, we ensure healthy soils which will also retain and – over time – capture carbon. We will restore our peatlands and woodlands, create the Nature Recovery Network and wilder landscapes, generating new jobs in nature and land management. And we will better adapt and protect our communities from the already visible effects of climate change by investing in flood defences and using nature-based solutions to increase flood resilience.

The cumulative effect of this plan will be to reduce UK emissions by 180 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂ e) between 2023 and 2032, equal to taking all of today's cars off the road for around two years. But this is only the start. Over the next year we will work with industry to devise further sectoral plans and meet our carbon budgets and target of net zero by 2050. To drive our progress towards this national priority, the Prime Minister will establish a new Task Force Net Zero, putting a systems approach at the heart of our thinking.

But action by the UK alone will not be sufficient to avoid catastrophic climate change. Our Ten Point Plan strengthens our ability to bring other countries with us and positions Britain as a leader in the green technologies we all need to employ. Through our Presidency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties 26 (COP26) in Glasgow, the UK will urge ambitious action from countries, businesses, cities, and investors alike. Together we will deliver the promises of the 2015 Paris Agreement and drive progress towards global net zero. And next month, alongside the UN and France, the UK will host a Climate Ambition Summit five years after COP21 in Paris to rally the world behind the goal of a greener, more resilient and sustainable future.'

Agenda Item 10

SPAE OSC : Work Programme 2021/22

Meeting Date	Report Deadline	Items	Contact Details	Background information
Tues 27 April 2021	Fri 16 April 2021	Action Points (from previous meeting)		
		Environmental Services performance Q3 Environmental Services Annual Review	Group Manager for Environmental Services craig.thorpe@dacorum.gov.uk	
		South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan	Assistant Director for Planning, Development & Regeneration james.doe@dacorum.gov.uk Chris Outtersides, SW Herts Joint Strategic Plan Director Chris.outtersides@dacorum.gov.uk	Update report on progress on the proposed Joint Strategic Plan
		Water & Sewerage	Group Manager for Strategic Planning and Regeneration Chris.taylor@dacorum.gov.uk	Background on infrastructure planning for water supply and sewerage provision in the Borough
Tues 15 June 2021	Fri 4 June 2021	Action Points (from previous meeting)		
		Quarter 4 2020/21 Reports:	Assistant Director for Planning, Development &	Quarterly performance

		Planning, Development and Regeneration performance	Regeneration james.doe@dacorum.gov.uk	report
		Environmental Services performance Q4	Group Manager for Environmental Services craig.thorpe@dacorum.gov.uk	
		Environmental and Community Protection Performance Report Q4	Group Manager for Environmental and Community Protection Emma.walker@dacorum.gov.uk	
		Abandoned Vehicle Policy	Lead Enforcement Officer Operations ECP ben.stevens@dacorum.gov.uk	
		Environmental improvements to the River Gade	Interim Assistant Director Neighbourhood Delivery Bill.Buckley@dacorum.gov.uk May change	
Wed 30 June 2021	Mon 21 June 2021	Action Points (from previous meeting)		
		Dacorum Local Plan emerging Strategy for Growth	Assistant Director for Planning, Development & Regeneration james.doe@dacorum.gov.uk	To report on the outcome of the draft strategy for growth consultation and next steps
Wed 7 July 2021	Mon 28 June 2021	Action Points (from previous meeting)		

	Planning, Development and Regeneration performance Q1	Assistant Director for Planning, Development & Regeneration james.doe@dacorum.gov.uk	Quarterly performance report
	Environmental Services performance Q1	Group Manager for Environmental Services craig.thorpe@dacorum.gov.uk	
	Environmental and Community Protection Performance Report Q1	Group Manager for Environmental and Community Protection Emma.walker@dacorum.gov.uk	
	Where does Dacorum waste go	Group Manager for Environmental Services craig.thorpe@dacorum.gov.uk	
	Waste presentation from the HWP	The Herts Waste Partnership Duncan.Jones@hertfordshire.gov.uk	
	Annual planning enforcement report	Team Leader, Development Management Philip.Stanley@dacorum.gov.uk	Annual report on planning enforcement activity and updates to the Local Enforcement Plan
	Growth & Infrastructure Strategy	Assistant Director for Planning, Development & Regeneration james.doe@dacorum.gov.uk	Update report on progress on the Dacorum Growth and Infrastructure Strategy
	Luton Airport expansion proposals (DATE TO BE CONFIRMED)	Strategic Planning Manager Alex.robinson@dacorum.gov.uk	To review and consider the proposals from London Luton Airport

				for major expansion
Wed 22 Sept 2021	Mon 13 Sept 2021	Action Points (from previous meeting)		
		Food Service Plan	Group Manager for Environmental and Community Protection Emma.walker@dacorum.gov.uk	
		Environment & Community Protection Enforcement Policy	Group Manager for Environmental and Community Protection Emma.walker@dacorum.gov.uk	
		Stewardship & Open Spaces Policy update	James Doe Assistant Director for Planning, Development & Regeneration james.doe@dacorum.gov.uk & Interim Assistant Director Neighbourhood Delivery Bill.Buckley@dacorum.gov.uk (Probably new AD in post)	To review progress on the new policy for stewardship and management arrangements for open spaces secured through new developments in the Borough
Wed 20 Oct 2021	Mon 11 Oct 2021	Action Points (from previous meeting)		
		Q2 Budget Monitoring	Nigel Howcutt/Fiona Jump	

		Q2 Planning, Development and Regeneration performance	Assistant Director for Planning, Development & Regeneration james.doe@dacorum.gov.uk	Quarterly performance report
		Environmental Services performance Q2	Group Manager for Environmental Services craig.thorpe@dacorum.gov.uk	
		Environmental and Community Protection Performance Report Q2	Group Manager for Environmental and Community Protection Emma.walker@dacorum.gov.uk	
		Hemel Hempstead Town Centre Strategy	Assistant Director for Planning, Development & Regeneration james.doe@dacorum.gov.uk	To report on progress on the Strategy for Hemel Town Centre
		Economic Development Update	Group Manager for Strategic Planning and Regeneration Chris.taylor@dacorum.gov.uk	Annual update on activity from the Council's economic development service and Hemel Hempstead Market
		Waste Resources Review – Update on Govt Consultation with Herts Waste Partnership	Group Manager for Environmental Services craig.thorpe@dacorum.gov.uk	
Wed 24 Nov 2021	Fri 15 Nov 2021	Action Points (from previous meeting)		

		Hemel Garden Communities	James Doe Assistant Director for Planning, Development & Regeneration james.doe@dacorum.gov.uk	Update report on progress on the Hemel Garden Communities programme including major study work
Wed 1 Dec 2021	Monday 25 Nov 2021	Action Points (from previous meeting)		
		Joint Budget <i>Ideally no further items to be added</i>	Corporate Director, Finance & Operations James.deane@dacorum.gov.uk	
Tue 11 Jan 2022	Fri 31 Dec 2021	Action Points (from previous meeting)		
		Fire Safety Policy	Group Manager for Environmental and Community Protection Emma.walker@dacorum.gov.uk	
		Developer Contributions Update	James Doe Assistant Director for Planning, Development &	Annual report on funds

			Regeneration james.doe@dacorum.gov.uk	received through new developments via s106 agreements and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
		Commercial Waste Service- update	Group Manager for Environmental Services craig.thorpe@dacorum.gov.uk	
Tues 2 Feb 2022	Monday 24 Jan 2022	Action Points (from previous meeting)		
		Joint Budget <i>Ideally no further items to be added</i>	Corporate Director, Finance & Operations James.deane@dacorum.gov.uk	
Wed 16 March 2022	Mon 7 March 2022	Action Points (from previous meeting)		
		PSPO & Enforcement Annual review	Group Manager for Environmental and Community Protection Emma.walker@dacorum.gov.uk	
		Planning, Development and	Assistant Director for Planning, Development &	Quarterly performance

	Regeneration performance Q3	Regeneration james.doe@dacorum.gov.uk	report
	Environmental Services performance Q3	Group Manager for Environmental Services craig.thorpe@dacorum.gov.uk	
	Environmental and Community Protection Performance Report Q3	Group Manager for Environmental and Community Protection Emma.walker@dacorum.gov.uk	