

## Scrutiny Task Group recommendations update

<b>Title of scrutiny review:</b>	<b>Environment Strategy Task Group</b>
<b>Chair of scrutiny review:</b>	<b>Councillor Mark Hofman</b>
<b>Final report published:</b>	<b>1 February 2023</b>
<b>Forwarded to Cabinet:</b>	<b>13 March 2023</b>
<b>Date of review:</b>	<b>31 January 2024</b>

<b>Recommendation:</b>	To increase the target for the number of households who commit to making one change to live more sustainably to be more challenging; potentially to 50% of households.
<b>Update:</b>	Target changed to:  10% of Watford Households signed up to Count Us In or equivalent by 2025; 25% by 2027; 50% by 2030.

<b>Recommendation:</b>	Any off-setting required to meet the targets should be within Watford as much as possible.
<b>Update:</b>	While not specifically stated in the strategy, the intention is for any off-setting to be within or close to Watford wherever possible.  In addition, Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP) is looking at the potential to achieve offsetting for Hertfordshire within Hertfordshire (called insetting). This is for total county emissions, not the council emissions. We will benefit from the work done there, and look at how / what we can implement within Watford. Review of this work is being done through the HCCSP carbon subgroup including if and how it may be taken forward, and implications for this for Watford will be discussed in the first instance with the Sustainability Board and portfolio holder.

<b>Recommendation:</b>	The delivery plan for the Sustainability Strategy should be brought to Overview and Scrutiny Committee for review and discussion.
<b>Update:</b>	The delivery plan for 2023-25 has been agreed and went to Cabinet in March 2023. The delivery plan is a 2 year document, and will be reviewed and updated during 2024-25 for implementation in 2025-27.

<b>Recommendation:</b>	The Sustainability Strategy's delivery plan and accompanying documentation should include a risk register.
<b>Update:</b>	A risk register has been developed as part of the Sustainability Board documentation, and is reviewed regularly by the board. The board is responsible for the officer oversight of the strategy and delivery.

<b>Recommendation:</b>	The updates on progress against net zero carbon targets should be published with and without the impacts of aviation and shipping.
<b>Update:</b>	We are publishing without aviation and shipping. This is not included in the domestic data for transport. (Apologies if wrong information was given previously). It is possible to publish transport data based on the data the local authority has influence over, and in essence removes motorway traffic. We could do this, if this was thought useful.

<b>Recommendation:</b>	To strengthen the consideration of the sustainability impacts in council decision-making processes, including having regard to the targets in the strategy.
<b>Update:</b>	We are developing the Watford Wheel to support this in decision making. Officers are being made more aware of the implications of climate change through training initiatives, and a regular meeting between the Sustainability Officer and ADs has been initiated.

**Recommendation:**

A communications plan and behavioural change campaign will be required to ensure residents and businesses engage with the targets and feel part of the solution.

**Update:**

Agree. Some money has been assigned to this as part of the delivery plan.