

## Appendix A7 Q2 – ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE

### Key Activities

**Following the successful environment conference in 2018, develop and implement an environment action plan, by December 2019, that defines our commitment to protect our environment, improve green infrastructure and identify potential for growth of the green economy.**

*In February 2019 the [Environmental Action Plan](#) was presented to the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Regeneration, Planning, Housing and the Environment. Within this update were the following 11 topics that would be progressed in 2019:-*

- *Future energy system*
- *Sustainable tourism*
- *Promoting the biosphere*
- *Promoting electric vehicles and low carbon fuels*
- *Conserving our water supplies*
- *Farming & rural enterprise*
- *Involving the community*
- *Reducing travel impacts*
- *Green business practices*
- *Circular economy (waste and recycling)*
- *Plastic-free Island*

*Progress against this plan includes the significant achievements of:-*

- *Introducing free parking permits for zero emission electric vehicles*
- *Recognition of the IW as part of UNESCOs worldwide network of Biosphere reserves*
- *More than 60 businesses registered with the Green Impact Programme*

Further updates will be provided to the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Neighbourhoods and Regeneration in early 2020

#### **Work towards the delivery of a new record office**

*A meeting was held with officers from the National Archive on 23 May 2019 to discuss the preferred option for a record office and options around a larger facility potentially including a heritage centre, art gallery, conference centre, shop, cafe and digitalisation suite.*

*It has since been agreed by the Record Office project board to pursue the initial preferred option to provide a new record office at an estimated cost of £4m; accordingly, a capital bid has been prepared and submitted for 2020/21. It should be noted that the bid is for 2020/21 as the Council has to evidence that it has its match funding in place when applying for external grants; however given the typical time for a funding bid to be developed and considered, it is likely that work on site would not commence until 2022/23. Once the outcome of the budget process is known the Project Board will reconvene and put an appropriate scope and plan together.*

#### **Develop a rights of way strategy for the Island, promoting riding, cycling and walking.**

*Rights of Way improvement plan has been produced after consultation with key stakeholders.*

*The Local Cycling and Walking infrastructure plan (LCWIP) is scheduled to be completed and approved before the end of 2019.*

**Support the AONB Partnership with their work in maintaining and enhancing the Isle of Wight's UNESCO Biosphere designation.**

UNESCO Biosphere status was awarded 19 June 2019, and work is now being undertaken to establish a steering committee and create a number of partnerships and projects.

**By the summer of 2020, secure the future of the Island's geological collection by working with regeneration and investment partners on the future of Dinosaur Isle.**

Tendering process taking place currently with final submissions scheduled to be received in January 2020. Decision on provider will take place in Feb 2020 with appointment and legal agreements to take place later in 2020