

Scrutiny Committee – Climate & Place - Outcome Tracker 2023 - 2024

Agenda item	Lead officer	Committee Request/Recommendation	Outcome	RAG Status
17th May 2023				
Infrastructure and Transport: Highways Service Responsiveness Update	Mike O'Dowd-Jones	Members resolved to set up a task and finish group to review the Highways and Transport Services communication interfaces.	This was not progressed due to long-term sickness absence of a key member of staff and challenges in accessing the data needed to support the review. This remains a key transformation area for the Council and we are considering how to resource a review. We will engage Scrutiny at an appropriate point during the review process once it is up and running; when there are some insights to consider.	On Hold
Climate, Environment and Sustainability: EV Charging Update	Mike O'Dowd-Jones	The Committee was advised that the Council was looking at applying for additional funding from the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund in order to run a small scale Egully trial. The Egully enables the on-street charging of residential vehicles, where people do not have their own driveways, without trailing wires across pavements etc. After the trial they would then report back and develop a strategy based upon their findings.	An all-member briefing note will be issued following LEVI approval of the Stage 2 application.	Ongoing
19th July 2023				
Climate, Sustainability and Environment – Next Steps	Kirsty Larkins	Members received a report setting out the next steps of the Council's strategic approach to Climate, Environment and Sustainability, to ensure that the Council was committed to reducing carbon emissions, achieving Net Zero and supporting nature's recovery. Members resolved that a Climate Strategy Task & Finish Group be set up.	A small focus group met with officers on 29 th April 2024 and gave feedback on the Council's strategic objectives. A 'Climate Vision' document will be brought back to the wider committee on 23 rd September 2024.	Complete
20th March 2024				
Flood investigation reports	Paul Hickson	The committee noted the reports and discussed the difficulties around obtaining planning permission to install flood defences on listing buildings, which	Waiting feedback from the Planning Service	Ongoing

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		<p>resulted in members voting unanimously in favour of the following recommendation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Scrutiny Committee- Climate and Place recommends that the Somerset Council Planning Service review its policies and advice regarding the application of flood defense mechanisms to listed buildings. 		
Task and Finish: Somerset Energy Investment Plan	Paul Hickson	<p>The committee unanimously agreed to accept the recommendations as set out in the report, with the addition of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Scrutiny Committee - Climate and Place recommends that the Planning Service reports back to this committee on the efficacy of providing; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) A supplementary planning document on how we approach energy efficiency developments in listed buildings, as per BANES. (Bath and Northeast Somerset Council) b) A policy like Bristol City Council's BCS14: The heat hierarchy 	Waiting feedback from the planning service	Ongoing
26th April 2024				
Special 'Water Quality in Somerset' meeting	Kirsty Larkins	<p>The committee received information from a number of external bodies concerning water quality on the Somerset Levels and Moors and members voted unanimously in favour of the following recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Immediately remove the 20% buffer included in the Somerset calculator. 2. Conduct a speedy review of the huge inconsistency between what Dr Clegg said, echoed by Wessex Water and what the calculator says with how much of the river 	<p>Members noted the Executive response to the Scrutiny recommendations at their 6th June 2024 meeting.</p> <p>The Chair asked that members of Scrutiny Climate and Place Committee who would like to sit on a Task and Finish group (Scrutiny recommendation 4) should look to arrange a members-only meeting, to discuss if and how the debate can be taken forward, as soon as possible.</p>	Ongoing

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		<p>borne phosphorus enters the Somerset Levels and Moors, as that calculator is what informs developers as to how much phosphate we are requiring them to offset.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Conduct an urgent review of the entire nutrient neutrality policy in light of the legal advice we have received, which makes it clear that headroom exists and that it could be used in the mitigation of new housing development. 4. The Climate and Place to set up a Task and Finish Group which will report back to the Committee on a tight timescale to set out the options available to the Council once it is in possession of the correct data. 5. The Council looks to work on a Land Use Strategy as part of a Local Plan. 		
25th July 2024				
Work Programme	Mike O'Dowd Jones	A member asked about Executive forward plan item no. 60 looking at delegation highways maintenance to parish and town councils and queried whether this should be added to this committee's forward plan before it goes to the Executive in September '24.	The Service Director responded to the Cllr by email explaining that this item is not seeking to introduce any new proposals for devolution but rather a technical part of the process to enable the devolution initiatives that have already been announced.	Complete
Work Programme	Paul Hickson	A member queried the Connecting Devon and Somerset and asked that an update be brought to the committee.	The Service Director has advised that a report for information about the CDS programme was provided to the committee in June 2024. A further report will be brought to a future meeting of the committee with timing subject in particular to the position with one of the contracted suppliers to the programme.	Complete
Work Programme	Paul Hickson	A member asked for an update on the progress of the Somerset Council Local	The Service Manager Development Management will provide an update at the meeting on November 11 th	Ongoing

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		Plan and when this would be added to this committee's forward plan.	2024.	
Work Programme	Kirsty Larkins	A member asked when and how this committee would be scrutinizing the work of the Somerset Rivers Authority.	The Service Director has agreed that an item would be brought to the committee on 11 th November 2024.	Ongoing

Completed	Action complete and will be removed from tracker for next meeting
Pending	Action on-going or plans in place to address.
Incomplete	No action currently in place with a minimum of 3 months since action agreed.