

# Public Agenda Pack



## **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - CLIMATE AND PLACE** **Monday, 11 November 2024** **10.00 am** **John Meikle Room, The Deane House,** **Belvedere Road, Taunton TA1 1HE**

### **SUPPLEMENT TO THE AGENDA**

To: The members of the Scrutiny Committee - Climate and Place

We are now able to enclose the following information which was unavailable when the agenda was published:

Agenda Item 5      Scrutiny Climate and Place Work Programme (Pages 3 - 6)

To receive an update from the Service Manager, Governance Scrutiny. To assist the discussion, the following documents to follow:-

- (a) The Committee's work programme
- (b) The Committee's outcome tracker

Please use the following links to view the latest Somerset Council Forward Plans and Executive Forward Plan of planned key decisions that have been published on the Council's website:

[Somerset Council Forward Plans](#)

[Somerset Council Executive Forward Plan](#)

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

Agenda item	Lead officer	Committee Request/Recommendation	Outcome	RAG Status
<b>17<sup>th</sup> May 2023</b>				
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
<b>20<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b>				
Task and Finish: Somerset Energy Investment Plan	Paul Hickson	The committee unanimously agreed to accept the recommendations as set out in the report, with the addition of: 1. The Scrutiny Committee - Climate and Place recommends that the Planning Service reports back to this committee on the efficacy of providing; 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

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

26 <sup>th</sup> April 2024				
Special 'Water Quality in Somerset' meeting	Paul Hickson	<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"> <li>1. Immediately remove the 20% buffer included in the Somerset calculator.</li> <li>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 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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>5. The Council looks to work on a Land Use Strategy as part of a Local Plan.</li> </ol>	<p>Members noted the Executive response to the Scrutiny recommendations at their 6<sup>th</sup> 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> <p>Update being presented to Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024.</p>	Ongoing

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

<b>25<sup>th</sup> July 2024</b>				
<b>Work Programme</b>	Paul Hickson	A member asked for an update on the progress of the Somerset Council Local Plan and when this would be added to this committee’s forward plan.	The Service Manager Development Management will provide an update at the meeting on November 11 <sup>th</sup> 2024.	Ongoing
<b>Work Programme</b>	David Mitchell	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 <sup>th</sup> 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.

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