



Somerset
Council

Somerset Council
Climate and Place Scrutiny Committee
– 20th March 2024

Outline of Approach to Forward Plan for Climate and Place Scrutiny Committee

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Division / Local Member:

1. Summary

- 1.1.** The creation of the new Somerset Council has produced an opportunity for Members and Officers to develop an innovative approach to identifying and agreeing future agenda items for consideration at Climate and Place Scrutiny Committees.
- 1.2.** This will enable the Climate and Place Leadership Team and the Members of the Scrutiny Committee to agree and flag issues of importance necessitating discussion.
- 1.3.** It is recommended that a formal Climate & Place (rolling 6 month) Forward Plan of strategic issues for consideration or information be published internally.

2. Issues for Consideration / Recommendations

- 2.1.** Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and respond to the proposed approach to the C&P Forward Plan.

3. Background

- 3.1.** The creation of Somerset Council on the 1st April 2023 and the development of the new Climate and Place Directorate bringing a variety of new services together has resulted in a need for a new approach to governance.
- 3.2.** Both Members and Officers recognise the benefits of establishing a Forward Plan of upcoming issues for Committee consideration/information.

3.3 Proposed Detail of Climate and Place Forward Plan

March 2024	Dolores Riordan	Paul Hickson	Trading Standards	Progress Report from the Heart of the South West Trading Standards Service.
March 2024	Neil Ogilvie	Kirsty Larkins	S19 Flooding Reports	S19 reports on flooding in Chard (October 2021), Shepton Mallet (Oct 2020), Chard & Forton (Oct 2021) and Ilminster (Oct 2021)
March 2024	Neil Ogilvie	Kirsty Larkins	2023 Flooding preliminary report	Preliminary reports for May and September 2023 Flooding
March 2024	Mike Cowdell	Kirsty Larkins	Expansion of the collection of flexible plastics	Report will detail the trial areas, communication measures and outcomes – item for information only
March 2024	Christian Evans	Mickey Green	Finance	Finance update
June 2024	James Divall	Kirsty Larkins	Climate Vision document	Update on the draft Climate Vision document
June 2024	James Divall	Kirsty Larkins	Local Nature Recovery Strategy	Provision of information
June 2024	Christian Evans	Mickey Green	Finance	Finance update
June 2024	Sunita Mills	Mike O'Dowd-Jones	Bus Service Improvement Plan (currently awaiting information from DfT)	Somerset's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) originally created in Oct 2021 is due another review in-line with government requirements
June 2024	Sunita Mills	Mike O'Dowd-Jones	Local Transport Plan	To consider progress on the LTP and emerging policy proposals to advise planning and transport sub-committee
June 2024	James Divall	Kirsty Larkins	Future Climate/Ecology Vision/Strategy	Update on strategy refresh and collaborative approach

June 2024	James Divall	Kirsty Larkins	Biodiversity Net Gain	Trading and income-generating. Update
June 2024	Sunita Mills	Mike O'Dowd-Jones	Fleet purchase and utilisation review	Consider progress in reviewing and implementing controls for fleet purchase and utilisation and delivering agreed MTFP savings
June 2024	Sunita Mills	Mike O'Dowd-Jones	Active Travel Delivery	Review of progress in delivering Active Travel improvements
June 2024	Sunita Mills	Mike O'Dowd-Jones	Supported Bus Services Review and Bus Connectivity Assessment	Consider process for reviewing and consulting on how we meet our duties to meet a social need for transport in light of the financial emergency. Opportunity to discuss new DfT requirement for a 'bus connectivity assessment'
June 2024	James Gilgrist	Paul Hickson	LEP Integration	Examination of the evidence and emerging priorities and seek direction on priorities
September 2024	Andrew Turner	Mike O'Dowd-Jones	Maintenance Transformation Plan 23/24 & 24/25	New requirement from DfT to set out how uplift in maintenance funds for 23/24 and 24/25 financial years will be used

3.4 Issues to be Brought to Future Scrutiny Committees

Named Officer	Service Director	Subject	Issue	Comment
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Bev Norman	Mike O'Dowd-Jones	Road Safety	Increase in the number of killed or seriously injured (KSI) road users	A new Somerset Council Road Safety Strategy, aligned to the new Local Transport Plan being developed, will be brought to a future Scrutiny Committee
Alison Blom-Cooper	Paul Hickson	Planning	Development of Local Plan	The Local Plan has statutory consultation periods and these are the stages Scrutiny Committee will be invited to feed into the LP consultation. Member briefing sessions will be undertaken at various stages.
Sunita Mills	Mike O'Dowd-Jones	Highways Maintenance	New requirement from DfT to set out how uplift in maintenance funds (over next 11 years) will be used to transform road condition	Awaiting DfT Deadline
Andrew Turner	Mike O'Dowd-Jones	Highways Contracts	Update on effectiveness of new highways contracts following mobilisation stage and first two quarters of delivery	
Bev Norman	Mike O'Dowd-Jones	Parking Services	Update on delivery of the parking service following integration into unitary operation and more integrated approach with transport planning	Circa September 2024
James Gilgrist	Paul Hickson	LEP Integration	Review of draft strategy	Autumn 2024

4. Consultations Undertaken

4.1 None required at this stage.

5. Implications

5.1 At this stage there are no associated financial, equalities, health and wellbeing, climate change and sustainability or HR implications.

6. Background papers

6.1 None

Note: For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author