

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

Agenda item	Lead officer	Committee Request/Recommendation	Outcome	RAG Status
17th May 2023				
Approach to Climate and Place Scrutiny Committee	Jamie Jackson	Members received a presentation on the principles of scrutiny and the approach being taken regarding scrutiny within the new Somerset Council, which would be reviewed after a year.	<p>The 5 Scrutiny Committee Chairs conducted a review of Scrutiny and identified 7 actions. (below) which were taken to Scrutiny Committee Corporate and Resources on Thursday 25th April, and Full Council on 23rd May 2024.</p> <p>1) The current structure of 5 scrutiny committees to remain in place, with a further scrutiny review to be conducted by the scrutiny chairs in late 2024/early 2025 following any potential service restructure. (2) The scrutiny manager is tasked with preparing a revised and improved scrutiny report template, which enables clearer and more concise presentation of reports, a standard consistency of Page 3 Agenda Item 7 reports across all 5 scrutiny committees, a clearer link between committee recommendations onto the Executive/Executive Member(s) and ensuring service areas clearly demonstrate where scrutiny is able to add value.</p> <p>(3) That all 5 scrutiny committees adopt a consistent approach to dealing with information only items, in order that agendas are kept clear for items with specific recommendations and the opportunity for the committees to add value.</p> <p>(4) To bolster the links between all 5 scrutiny committees and the Executive by ensuring clear communication between the parties and encourage increased opportunities for committee chairs to update the Executive on areas of focus and present any</p>	Complete

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			<p>recommendations/proposals the committee have agreed. Also for the Democratic Services team to establish a central record of all formal scrutiny recommendations and the responses to them.</p> <p>(5) The scrutiny manager to liaise with the 5 Group Leaders in advance of the AGM Council meeting (My 2024) in order to provide detailed attendance information on each of the Committee’s membership, to ensure committee membership reflects maximum engagement and consistency. (6)The scrutiny manager to liaise with the 5 Group Leaders to ensure a consistent, timely and wherever possible consistent approach to scrutiny substitutes.</p> <p>(7) To continue with the monthly meetings of the 5 Scrutiny Chairs, Vice Chairs and scrutiny manager.</p> <p>(8)To support the continuation of a dedicated scrutiny resource from the Democratic Services team as per para 3.5, to allow for more effective and efficient scrutiny and increase scrutiny opportunities, whilst ensuring resilience within the officer cohort.</p>	
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.		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	An all-member briefing note will be issued following LEVI approval of the Stage 2 application.	Ongoing

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		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.		
19th July 2023				
Future Transport	Mike O'Dowd-Jones	The Committee was advised that a new Local Plan and Local Transport Plan will need to be in place by 2025. Members resolved that a Local Transport Plan Task & Finish Group be set up.		On Hold
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 Task and Finish group has been established and the first meeting, focussed on Somerset Councils Climate Vision was held on 29 th April 2024.	Ongoing
20th September 2023				
Award of Contracts for highway services	Mike O'Dowd-Jones	Members received details of the following 5 highways contracts that were to be considered by the Executive. A written response would be given on how long, under the contracts, a pot-hole repair would be guaranteed for.		Awaiting further information
22nd November 2023				
Climate and Place Budget Monitoring Position Month 5	Christian Evans	The causes of the £800k climate overspend were questioned, which included the costs incurred as a result of the pay award in the waste collection		Complete

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		service. It was questioned if there were full year impacts or if these were part year impacts and if this could be provided in the next report.		
17th January 2024				
Flex Collect Update	Mike Cowdell	Members considered the item and requested more information about what recycled flex plastics are used for.		Awaiting further information
20th March 2024				
Flood investigation reports	Neil Ogilvie	The committee noted the reports and discussed the difficulties around obtaining planning permission to install flood defences on listing buildings, which resulted in members voting unanimously in favour of the following recommendation: 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.	NEED SUMMARY FROM ALISON	Complete
Task and Finish: Somerset Energy Investment Plan	Cara Naden/Jon Doyle	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;	NEED A SUMMARY	

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		<p>a) A supplementary planning document on how we approach energy efficiency developments in listed buildings, as per BANES. (Bath and Northeast Somerset Council)</p> <p>b) A policy like Bristol City Council's BCS14: The heat hierarchy</p>		
Climate and Place Budget Monitoring Position Month 10	Christian Evans	The committee received the budget monitoring update and requested more information regarding the underspend on broadband contracts and how the 'claw back' funds are redistributed.		Complete
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 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 be discussed at the Executive meeting of 5 th June 2024.	Ongoing

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		<p>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. 		
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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.