

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				
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.	The task and finish group proposal was superceded by the agreement to set up a Planning and Transport Executive Sub-Committee which is now the decision making body to oversee preparation of the Local Transport Plan. The draft LTP will be considered by the Scrutiny Committee at the July 2024 meeting.	Complete
Climate,	Kirsty Larkins	Members received a report setting out the	A Task and Finish group has been established and the	Ongoing

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Sustainability and Environment – Next Steps		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.	first meeting, focussed on Somerset Councils Climate Vision was held on 29 th April 2024.	
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.	Follow up email sent to committee members 10 th June 2024.	Complete
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 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.	This information was provided in the 24/25 Budget setting reports at the joint Scrutiny budget meeting in February 2024.	Complete
17th January 2024				
Flex Collect Update	Mike Cowdell	Members considered the item and requested more information about what recycled flex plastics are used for.	A Flex plastics report is on the agenda for the meeting of Thursday 25 th July 2024.	Complete
20th March 2024				
Flood	Paul Hickson	The committee noted the reports and	Waiting feedback from the Planning Service	Ongoing

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investigation reports		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.		
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
26th April 2024				
Special 'Water Quality in Somerset' meeting	Kirsty Larkins	The committee received information from a number of external bodies concerning water quality on the Somerset Levels and Moors and members voted unanimously in	Members noted the Executive response to the Scrutiny recommendations at their 6 th June 2024 meeting. The Chair asked that members of Scrutiny Climate and	Ongoing

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		<p>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 offset. 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 	<p>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>	
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		Local Plan.		
6th June 2024				
Minutes of the previous meetings	Jamie Jackson	<p>The minutes of the Special meeting held on 26th April 2024 were approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendments;</p> <p>Item 9: Recommendations 4 & 5 to be swapped around and numbered as agreed at the meeting,</p> <p>Item 9: A member asked for it to be noted that some members had understood the proposed task and finish group would also look at how to bring the Somerset Levels and Moors back into favourable conditions.</p>	The amended minutes are available to view here .	Complete
Scrutiny Climate and Place work programme	Jamie Jackson	Upload the Scrutiny Climate and Place Forward plan to the Somerset Council Forward Plans web page.	The Scrutiny committee Climate and Place forward plan has now been uploaded to the Council's Forward Plans web page and can be viewed here	Complete

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.