



Telford & Wrekin
C O U N C I L

Addenbrooke House Ironmasters Way Telford TF3 4NT

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date **Wednesday, 6 October 2021** Time **6.00 pm**
Venue **Telford Room, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3 4NT**

Enquiries Regarding this Agenda

Democratic Services	Kieran Robinson	01952 382061
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Committee Membership: Councillors M Boylan, C Cassar, V J Holt, T L B Janke, T J Nelson, G L Offland and G C W Reynolds (Chair), Co-optees

AGENDA

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| 1. Apologies for Absence | |
| 2. Declarations of Interest | |
| 3. Minutes of The Previous Meeting | 3 - 6 |
| 4. Terms of Reference
To approve the Committee's Terms of Reference for the municipal year 2021 to 2022. | 7 - 10 |
| 5. Flood Water Management Review
To receive the report of Dean Sargeant (Director: Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services).

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Green Spaces, Natural & Historic Environment and the Cabinet Member for Economy, Housing, Transport & Infrastructure will also attend for this item. | To Follow |
| 6. Chair's Update | |

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ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday, 21 July 2021 at 6.00 pm in Telford Room, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3 4NT

Present: Councillors V J Holt, G L Offland and G C W Reynolds (Chair).

Also Present: Councillor C Healy (Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Green Spaces, Natural and Historic Environment)

In Attendance: A Lowe (Associate Director: Policy & Governance), K Robinson (Democracy Officer (Scrutiny)), L Stanway (Group Manager: Community Services, Communities, Customer & Commercial Services)

Apologies: Councillors M Boylan, C Cassar, T L B Janke and T J Nelson

ENVSC28 Declarations of Interest

None.

ENVSC29 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2021 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

ENVSC30 Work Programme 2021/2022

The Chair provided an overview of the items on the draft work programme for the year 2021/2022. It was recommended that the Seating in Green Spaces suggestion be removed from the work programme.

Members agreed the work programme as amended.

ENVSC31 Plastic Free Update

Members received the presentation of the Group Manager: Community Services, Communities, Customer & Commercial Services.

As part of the plastic free agenda, the Council was committed to removing single-use plastics from its activities, and replacing them with sustainable alternatives, by 2023. The Authority had also established a Plastic Free Taskforce.

Due to the challenges presented by Covid-19, it had not been possible to hold community events, meeting had been held online where possible but this had

meant that a number of projects were on hold. Some practices that had been put in place prior to the pandemic had had to stop during Covid response.

In terms of the Council's own action plan, there had been progress and a report detailing the work undertaken had been presented to Cabinet in September 2020.

The Plastic Free Taskforce had regrouped in January 2021, new members joined and there was an opportunity to take stock. All of the Borough's town councils had signed up to the Taskforce and it was noted that Newport Town Council had already gained Plastic Free Community status. Since regrouping, AO and Wrekin Housing Group had signed up to the taskforce.

From spring 2021, as the country had reopened, in person activities had run with litter picking events across a number of areas. At the litter picks, participants had been asked to separate the items picked so that items could be recycled where possible. There was also a new recycling process in the Street Champions scheme; all street champions were now issued with clear bags that contractors recognised as recycling bags to be taken away separately.

Work was underway on an ocean fish project, launched as part of a schools education programme with 23 schools participating and learning about the impact of plastic on the ocean. Each school had painted a fish sculpture that would be displayed in the Town Park as part of the Balloon Festival.

The Council had undertaken a number of promotions and campaigns in aid of the plastic free agenda via social media, the Sustainable Telford website, and an e-newsletter. There had also been links to national campaigns such as National Refill Day and Plastic Free July.

Moving forward, there were a number of projects in the works. A Green Guide, central platform offering advice on improving sustainability and promoting sustainable businesses in the Borough, was being worked on. The Authority was also arranging educational visits to AO, a flagship employer in the Borough, to visit the recycling centre.

Despite the pandemic, it was still believed that the Authority would meet its 2023 plastic free target.

A discussion followed with Members discussing how to influence behavioural changes and encourage environmentally friendly consumer choices. The opening of plastic free/refill/zero waste shops was discussed, with Members highlighting a recently opened plastic free refill shop in Oakengates.

How could messaging on domestic food waste be improved?

The increased ease of recycling made consumption easier, the key was to stop creating plastic waste. It was necessary to change behaviours, explaining not to buy plastic in the first place, and this was why the Green Guide was being created – to help people find reusable options near them.

Was there a way to encourage shops to have a green section?

The Council's influence in the area was negligible, especially with regard to chain shops. In relation to independent stores, the Council had an advantage through grant schemes to encourage such initiatives.

A plastic free shopping event, encouraging shoppers to try local refillable stores in a fun and supportive environment was suggested.

ENVSC32 Chair's Update

Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on 6 October 2021.

The meeting ended at 6.44 pm

Chairman:

Date: 6 October 2021

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TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 6 October 2021

REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

REPORT OF ANTHEA LOWE – ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR: POLICY & GOVERNANCE

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

For the Environment Scrutiny Committee to review its Terms of Reference attached at Appendix 1.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Committee review and agree the amended Terms of Reference set out at Appendix 1.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	Yes	The Committee is part of the Council's decision making framework and therefore contributes to all of the Council's priorities.
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	No	
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE	If the Committee recommends any changes to the Terms of Reference; they will proceed to Council Constitution Committee and then, if approved, onto full Council at the earliest opportunity.	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	Scrutiny has a role in ensuring that local government is effective and accountable. This includes undertaking reviews and challenging and monitoring performance. Support for the committee and the work programme are managed within existing resources. The financial implications of any recommendations made by Scrutiny should be considered as part of the specific reports making those recommendations. TAS 21/7/21
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	The Constitution requires that the

		Terms of Reference be reviewed on an annual basis. The Council is required to comply with the Constitution. This report demonstrates compliance with this requirement. (05.08.21 IR)
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	There are no other specific impacts arising from this report.
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	Yes	Borough-wide impact

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Constitution requires that Full Council should agree at its Annual Meeting the Terms of Reference for each of its Committees to enable the Council to efficiently conduct its business.
- 4.2 At the Annual Meeting on 29 April 2020, Full Council delegated authority to each Committee to review its own Terms of Reference.
- 4.3 The Terms of Reference forms part of the Constitution and was approved by Full Council in that context on 14 July 2016.
- 4.4 There is one minor change suggested to the Terms of Reference (shown in red on Appendix 1) to provide clarity around the process for appointment of a Chair for the Committee.

5. PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 5.1 Council – 14 July 2016 and 21 May 2020

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Constitution – www.telford.gov.uk/constitution

Report prepared by Kieran Robinson, Senior Democracy Officer (Scrutiny), kieran.robinson@telford.gov.uk, 01952 382061

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Membership

1. The Committee will be made up of elected members from the Scrutiny Assembly, appointed at Annual Council in line with the political balance of the Council, and co-opted scrutiny members.
2. The number of co-opted members must not exceed 50% of the number of elected members.
3. In addition to standing co-optees, the Committee may appoint additional co-optees for one-off reviews to supplement the skills, knowledge and experience of members of the Committee on that particular issue (subject to the rule on total number of co-optees above).
4. **The Chair is appointed at the Annual General Meeting of full Council. A Vice-Chair may be appointed by majority decision of the Committee.**
5. The quorum for a meeting is 3 elected members.

Functions

6. The Committee will be the main mechanism by which Scrutiny members will scrutinise and monitor issues relating to the following key areas:
 - Environment and ecology
 - The natural and built environment
 - Sustainable planning
 - Building conservation and heritage
 - Ultra-Low Emissions Strategy
 - Plastic Free Telford & Wrekin
 - Waste management, including waste recovery and recycling
 - Environmental maintenance
 - All aspects of infrastructure (transport, communication, drainage and sewage, water, lighting, bridges and structures)
 - Public Transport (bus and rail)
 - Rights of Way
 - Highways network including highways improvements, cycleways and car parking
 - Local Nature Reserves, parks and green spaces, including the Green guarantee
 - Local Plan (Jointly with Business & Finance Scrutiny Committee)
7. The Committee will consider matters referred by the Scrutiny Management Board, and will exercise discretion as to whether a suggestion falls within the remit of the Committee to scrutinise.
8. The Environment Scrutiny Committee will be the designated body for scrutiny of Flood and Water Management as set out in the Flood and Water Management Act

2010 (associated regulations in the Flood Risk Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee (England) Regulations 2011 expired on 6 April 2018). The work programme will make provision for scrutiny of this item.

9. The Committee will set its own work programme in accordance with the areas set out above and may look at any issue deemed by the Committee to fall within its remit.

Meeting Administration and Proceedings

10. The Committee procedure rules as set out in the Council's Constitution apply to this Committee.
11. The meetings will follow the principles of scrutiny ie no party whip will be applied and a constructive, evidence based approach will be used.
12. If the Chair or Vice-Chair (if appointed) are unable to attend a meeting the Members present will elect a Chair for the meeting.
13. All Scrutiny Committee meetings will be held in public, unless exempt information is being considered or discussed. Scrutiny Committees may appoint sub-groups to carry out investigative work as part of a review and these sub-groups may hold informal meetings but will report back their findings to the Scrutiny Committee.
14. The meetings will be administered by Scrutiny Services and Democratic Services. Frequency of meetings will be agreed by the Committee as necessary to carry out the work programme.
15. Relevant Cabinet Members, Executive Directors, Directors and Service Delivery Managers will attend the Committee at the request of the Chair. Representatives from other organisations may be invited to attend.

Sensitive and Confidential Information

16. From time to time members may become privy to information of a confidential nature. If this happens, members must maintain this confidence. Members are unable to request personal/confidential information from Officers about an individual or family.

Reporting Arrangements

17. The Chair will provide regular updates to meetings of the Scrutiny Management Board to inform the other Scrutiny Chairs of performance and budget issues relating to the remit of their Committees.
18. The Chair of the Committee, or his/her representative, will provide and present reports and recommendations of the Committee to the Council's Cabinet, Fully Council or other relevant organisations when necessary.