



Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Environment Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 21 June 2023

6.00 pm

The Telford Room, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way,
Telford, TF3 4NT

Democratic Services: Sam Yarnall 01952 382193

Media Enquiries: Corporate Communications 01952 382406

Committee Members: Councillors M Boylan (Chair), P Davis (Vice-Chair),
T L B Janke, I Preece, H Morgan, T J Nelson and H Rhodes

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	To approve the Committee's Work Programme for the municipal year 2023-24.	

6.0 Review of the Annual Scrutiny Report - Environment Scrutiny Committee

19 - 24

To review the Annual Scrutiny Report for 2022-23 in relation to the work of the Environment Scrutiny Committee.

7.0 Chair's Update

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*Based on average agenda printing costs for the 2022/23 municipal year

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday 28 February 2023 at 6.00 pm in The Telford Room, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3 4NT

Present: Councillors G C W Latham-Reynolds (Chair), M Boylan and T L B Janke.

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

In Attendance: E Cantillion (Shropshire Good Food Partnership)
F Mercer (Director: Communities, Customer and Commercial Services)
R Phillips (Service Delivery Manager: Legal & Democracy)
K Robinson (Democracy Officer (Scrutiny))
J Roquette (Shropshire Good Food Partnership)
I Wykes (Team Leader: Climate Change & Sustainability)

Apologies: Councillors G H Cook, T J Nelson and G L Offland

ENVSC61 Declarations of Interest

None.

ENVSC62 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

ENVSC63 Shropshire Good Food Partnership Briefing

Members received a presentation from Jenny Roquette of the Shropshire Good Food Partnership.

The presentation set out the work of the Partnership, discussed Food Systems Thinking and actions taken locally, and next steps for the Partnership and Council.

The Partnership's mission was to bring together people, groups, and organisation to create a food system that was good for people, place, and planet, improving access to affordable nutritious food, creating lively communities, and aiding the shift to net-zero.

Established at the end of 2021, the Partnership had started out scoping the existing situation and considering how it could add value to discussions and

policy around food. It was comprised of a small team but was growing thanks to project specific funding; an example given was that resources from the Telford and Wrekin Climate Fund had allowed the organisation to grow.

There were a number of working groups led by the Partnership, these engaged people on various specific areas within food systems such as growing local, sustainable food economies, wise land stewardship, and reducing food waste. As a whole, the working groups were made up of over 60 organisations and in excess of 120 individuals.

Shropshire Good Food Partnership took a systems- and place- based approach to its work to encourage farm to fork eating. The Partnership viewed issues through a food system lens, considering how food was enmeshed with society and culture and seeking to find how best to engage people and for what impact. With around 30% of greenhouse gas emissions coming from the food system, this was one of the key areas for adaptation and mitigation of climate change in.

The Partnership outlined a number of pieces of their project areas. These included local actions such as a Good Food Charter; work on the local food economy and land stewardship, reducing food waste, and healthy food for all including growing local and boosting peoples' connection to nature.

In addition, the organisation undertook partnership work with a variety of partners including Telford & Wrekin Council.

Future actions included, the Good Food Trail, Good to Grow Day, and the Marches Real Food & Farming Conference with Harper Adams University.

A discussion followed the presentation.

Members noted the importance of education in driving positive change in terms of the climate agenda, both for children and adults. Discussion focussed on teaching, enabling, and supporting people to grow their own food. The Committee also spoke of the need to show the cycle of food through to their plates.

Following on from this, Members discussed access to growing spaces across the Borough and how these can be improved and formalised – from allotments to small patches on public land.

It was suggested that Members could be appointed to the Shropshire Good Food Partnerships advisory group. This was to be investigated.

Members requested an update from the Partnership in twelve months' time. The Committee also wished to receive an item focussing on the Council's catering team and their procurement practices.

ENVSC64 Chair's Update

None.

The meeting ended at 7.09 pm

Chairman:

Date: Wednesday 21 June 2023

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Environment Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 21 June 2023

Terms of Reference 2023 / 2024

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Nathan England - Cabinet Member: Finance, Customer Services & Governance	
Lead Director:	Anthea Lowe - Director: Policy & Governance	
Service Area:	Policy & Governance	
Report Author:	Kieran Robinson - Democracy Officer (Scrutiny)	
Officer Contact Details:	Tel: 01952 382061	Email: Kieran.Robinson@telford.gov.uk
Wards Affected:	All Wards	
Key Decision:	Not Key Decision	
Forward Plan:	Not Applicable	
Report considered by:	SMT – 13 June 2023 Environment Scrutiny Committee – 21 June 2023	

1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

It is recommended that the Environment Scrutiny Committee

- 1.1 Review and agree the amended Terms of Reference set out at Appendix A.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To set out the terms of reference for the Environment Scrutiny Committee outlined at Appendix A.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 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.

- 3.2 At the Annual Meeting of the Council on 25 May 2023, Full Council delegated authority to each Committee to review its own Terms of Reference.
- 3.3 The Terms of Reference forms part of the Constitution and was approved by Full Council in that context on 3 March 2022.
- 3.4 There is one minor change suggested to the Terms of Reference (shown in red on Appendix A) to provide clarity around the process for appointment of a Chair for the Committee. It notes that the Chair is appointed by Full Council (in line with the Constitution) but sets out that a Vice-Chair may be appointed by a majority decision of the Committee.

4.0 Summary of main proposals

- 4.1 For the Committee to review its terms of reference.

5.0 Alternative Options

- 5.1 There are none.

6.0 Key Risks

- 6.1 No key risks arise from this report.

7.0 Council Priorities

- 7.1 A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.

8.0 Financial Implications

- 8.1 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.

9.0 Legal and HR Implications

- 9.1 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.

10.0 Ward Implications

10.1 There are no ward implications.

11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

11.1 None.

12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

12.1 There are no equality or diversity implications arising from this report.

13.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications

13.1 This report does not have any implications in terms of climate change or the environment.

14.0 Background Papers

1 Council Constitution

15.0 Appendices

A Terms of Reference – Environment Scrutiny Committee

16.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Finance	10/05/2023	10/05/2023	AEM
Legal Services	22/02/2023	22/05/2023	KF

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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

Appendix A

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.



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Environment Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 21 June 2023

Environment Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Nathan England – Cabinet Member: Finance, Customer Services & Governance.	
Lead Director:	Anthea Lowe - Director: Policy & Governance	
Service Area:	Policy & Governance	
Report Author:	Kieran Robinson - Democracy Officer (Scrutiny)	
Officer Contact Details:	Tel: 01952 382061	Email: Kieran.Robinson@telford.gov.uk
Wards Affected:	All Wards	
Key Decision:	Not Key Decision	
Forward Plan:	Not Applicable	
Report considered by:	SMT – 13 June 2023 Environment Scrutiny Committee – 21 June 2023	

1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

It is recommended that the Environment Scrutiny Committee:

- 1.1 Review and agree the work programme set out at Appendix A.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To set the work programme for the Environment Scrutiny Committee.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 Work programmes for scrutiny committees are reviewed annually, with a period of consultation taking place in the months running up to a new municipal year. The public, key stakeholders, and Council officers are asked to put forward scrutiny suggestions for inclusion on the coming year's work programme.

Environment Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

3.2 Following the consultation period, a draft work programme is presented to the Scrutiny Management Board and the Scrutiny Assembly for comment before being sent on to individual committees for final approval.

3.3 The Constitution states that scrutiny committees are to set and undertake their own programme of work, meeting as required to deliver their work programme.

3.4 Work programmes can be amended throughout the year if the committee or Scrutiny Assembly deem it necessary.

4.0 Summary of main proposals

4.1 The Environment Scrutiny Committee review and approve the attached work programme.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 There are no alternative options presented.

6.0 Key Risks

6.1 There are no key risks arising from this report.

7.0 Council Priorities

7.1 This report aligns with the authority's priorities to be a community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective, and quality services.

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 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.

9.0 Legal and HR Implications

9.1 In accordance with the Committee's Terms of Reference, the Committee will set its own work programme for the municipal year, will consider matters referred to it by the Scrutiny Management Board, and may make recommendations to Cabinet and Full Council following scrutiny.

10.0 Ward Implications

10.1 There are no ward implications.

11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

Environment Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

11.1 This report does not have any health, social, or economic implications.

12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

12.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

13.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications

13.1 There are no climate change or environmental implications arising from this report.

14.0 Background Papers

1 Council Constitution

15.0 Appendices

A Work Programme – Environment Scrutiny Committee

16.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Legal Services	22/03/2023	23/05/2023	KF
Finance	22/03/2023	08/06/2023	PT

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Environment Scrutiny Work Programme

Yellow = New Suggestions

Issue / Topic	Brief Description	Suggest by	Directorate	Comments
Environment				
River Sewage	Review of the current river sewage position	NEW – Members	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Committee Agenda Item November 2023
Shropshire Good Food – 12 month review	Update on the Shropshire Good Food Project following the presentation to Members in the precious year	Standing Item	Communities, Customer & Commercial Services	Committee Agenda Item March 2024
Climate Change and Plastic Free Telford & Wrekin	Annual Update on the Council's Climate Change agenda	Standing Item	Communities, Customer & Commercial Services	Committee Agenda Item March 2024
Biodiversity Net Gain	Review of the biodiversity net gain strategy following changes in legislation	New – SMT	Prosperity & Investment	Task and Finish Group New legislation must be in place before this review can take place, expected 2024
Corporate Catering	To review the role in net zero of the Council's Corporate Catering function, particularly in relation to procurement	New – SMT	Communities, Customer & Commercial Services	Task and Finish Group June 2023

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Environment Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 21 June 2023

Review of the Annual Scrutiny Report - Environment Scrutiny Committee

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Nathan England – Cabinet Member: Finance, Customer Services & Governance.	
Lead Director:	Anthea Lowe - Director: Policy & Governance	
Service Area:	Policy & Governance	
Report Author:	Sam Yarnall - Democracy Officer (Scrutiny)	
Officer Contact Details:	Tel: 01952 382193	Email: Sam.Yarnall@telford.gov.uk
Wards Affected:	All Wards	
Key Decision:	Not Key Decision	
Forward Plan:	Not Applicable	
Report considered by:	Environment Scrutiny Committee – 21 June 2023	

1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

It is recommended that the Environment Scrutiny Committee:

- 1.1 Review and provide comment on the Environment Scrutiny Committee portion of the Annual Scrutiny Report from the 2022-23 municipal year.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 For the committee to review and make comment on the Annual Scrutiny Report in relation to the previous work of the environment scrutiny committee.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The Annual Scrutiny report provides an overview of what has been accomplished by each individual scrutiny committee during the municipal year.

3.2 Following the consultation period, a draft Annual Scrutiny report is presented to the Scrutiny Management Board and the Scrutiny Assembly for comment before being sent on to Full Council for agreement.

4.0 Summary of main proposals

4.1 At the request of the Chair, Members are asked to review and comment on the Annual Scrutiny Report of the previous municipal year.

4.2 Members are asked to note the work that the Committee had previously undertaken.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 There are no alternative options presented.

6.0 Key Risks

6.1 There are no key risks arising from this report.

7.0 Council Priorities

7.1 This report aligns with the authority's priorities to be a community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective, and quality services.

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 There are no direct financial implications.

9.0 Legal and HR Implications

9.1 There are no direct legal and HR implications.

10.0 Ward Implications

10.1 There are no direct ward implications.

11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

11.1 This report does not have any direct health, social, or economic implications.

12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

12.1 There are no direct equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

13.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications

13.1 There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from this report.

14.0 Background Papers

1 Council Constitution

15.0 Appendices

A Environment Section of the Annual Scrutiny Report 2022-23

16.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Legal	13/06/2023	13/06/2023	RP

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Environment Scrutiny Committee

Members for the 2022/23 Municipal Year:

Councillors Gilly Latham-Reynolds (Chair), Mark Boylan, Graham Cook, Thomas Janke, Tim Nelson and Gemma Offland



Chair's Summary:

The role of the Environment Scrutiny Committee is to scrutinise and monitor the Council's environmental impact and policies. The Committee is also the designated body for scrutiny of Flood and Water Management. Some of the highlights of our work during the last year are set out below.

Telford and Wrekin Council Becoming Carbon Neutral and Plastic Free Update

In November 2022, the Committee received an update on the Council's progress towards its carbon neutral and plastic free goals. Members heard a number of positive steps that the Authority had taken since the last update, including the impact of retrofitting works at Newport Leisure Centre. The Committee was supportive of the progress being made and expressed specific support for the retrofitting work and any future schemes of a similar nature.

Members were keen to see the Council promote its successes in its effort to become carbon neutral and to utilise its unique position to act as a leader and convenor of businesses and other organisation within the Borough in their own efforts to become more environmentally responsible.

Active Travel & Electric Vehicles – Workstream Update

The Committee heard an update on active travel and electric vehicle (EV) policies in Telford & Wrekin. The update detailed a number of initiatives and the work that had been undertaken to date as well as next steps. The Committee was supportive of the work but noted the need for accessibility to be considered when planning for EVs. The Committee also noted the current prohibitive cost of EVs for many residents and the problems posed by the evolving technology of EVs potentially putting people off investing in an electric vehicle for personal use.

Shropshire Good Food Partnership

The Committee received a presentation on the work and priorities of the Shropshire Good Food Partnership. Food and the environment had been a subject of interest for the Committee for a number of years and Members were pleased to receive the Partnership to discuss these matters. The meeting came as the Partnership and the Council were embarking on joint work, as a result, the Committee requested a further meeting with the organisation in the next municipal year to review the outcomes of the collaboration.

Expected work to come:

The Committee plan to examine the following topics further:

River Sewage

There is a planned item focussing on the issue of river sewage in the Borough, this item will involve the Council's partners and look at how, when, and why sewage is released into rivers.