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Telford & Wrekin  
Co-operative Council

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## Borough of Telford and Wrekin

### Environment Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 12 October 2022

6.00 pm

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

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**Democratic Services:** Kieran Robinson 01952 382061

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**Committee Members:** Councillors G C W Reynolds (Chair), M Boylan, G H Cook,  
T L B Janke, T J Nelson and G L Offland

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## **ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday, 26 April 2022 at 6.00 pm in Telford Room, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3 4NT**

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

**Also Present:** Councillor C Healy

**In Attendance:** L Hands (Climate Change & Sustainability Project Support Officer), F Mercer (Director: Communities, Customer & Commercial Services), R Phillips (Service Delivery Manager: Legal & Democracy), K Robinson (Senior Democracy Officer (Scrutiny)), and I Wykes (Team Leader: Climate Change & Sustainability)

**Apologies:** Councillors G H Cook and T J Nelson

### **ENVSC46 Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **ENVSC47 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED** that - the minutes of the meeting 8 March 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

### **ENVSC48 Youth Climate Summit**

The Committee received the presentation of the Climate Change & Sustainability Project Support Officer.

The presentation set out the Council's work on a local Youth Climate Summit scheduled to take place on 6 July 2022. The summit would be the fourth in the country, previous events had been relatively small, this event would be on a larger scale with 210 students from seven of the Borough's schools attending.

The aim of the summit was to educate, empower, and mobilise young people, providing them with the actions and knowledge to combat climate change. It was important to show actual steps that people could take and to connect people with others with the same goals.

Officers from the climate change team, amongst others, would be facilitating the event. Funding had been secured from the National Lottery and this covered the venue costs as well as the price of some of the catering, these were the majority of the associated costs. Speakers were appearing free of charge and represented a number of organisations, such as the University of

Wolverhampton, the University of Birmingham, and Veolia. Between talks, there would be activities and workshops.

A discussion followed with Members posing questions:

*How could feedback from the event be facilitated? In particular, students feeding back into their schools*

The grant funding meant that feedback would be necessary; the Council was, generally, successful in capturing feedback from events. It would be good to have a follow up with students a number of months after the summit to check in.

*How could young people, more broadly, be targeted by the Council's environmental initiatives?*

Social media was often the best way to engage this group and as such, work was being done to create a tailored social media strategy for young people. Younger people were users of TikTok and Instagram, where older groups may perhaps be more active users of Facebook and Twitter.

*How were schools selected for the summit?*

The schools attending were those who had responded to emails seeking interest.

Members also discussed the importance of engaging children and young people for their role as ambassadors, speaking to their parents and encouraging changes in their own homes and communities. Officers noted that one way in which children were being engaged was through holiday activity schemes with an environmental focus.

#### **ENVSC49 Plastic Free Update**

The Committee received an update on the Council's Plastic Free scheme from the Climate Change & Sustainability Project Support Officer.

Telford & Wrekin Council had pledged to become plastic free by 2023; the plastic free taskforce was working towards Plastic Free Community accreditation, through Surfers Against Sewage, by the same date. The taskforce was made up of a number of organisations and businesses.

A number of achievements, since the last update to the Committee, in July 2021, were noted for Members. These included town council's passing resolutions to take steps towards plastic free status, local businesses signing up as partners, and the establishing of town council steering groups.

Updates were also provided on the Ocean Fish Project, the Plastic Free Pledge, and a partnership with a website named Mossy.Life that offered an online 'green' directory. Members were also shown the Mossy.Life website.

A discussion followed the update with Members posing questions:

*Had there been much promotion of Mossy.Life?*

The page had only recently gone live; the Council would be doing work to promote it. The potential benefits in terms of green tourism were noted.

*In terms of school partners, how were they contacted?*

It tended to be through the Educational Visit Coordinators Group. Particularly passionate staff often drove environmental campaigns within schools; it was important to identify these people as contacts as Heads were very busy and as a result could not be as easily reached. Feeding back of any known individuals would be welcomed.

Members noted that importance of education driving the environmental agenda so that children were engaged and aware of issues.

**ENVSC50 Chair's Update**

None.

The meeting ended at 7.05 pm

**Chairman:** .....

**Date:** Date Not Specified

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## Borough of Telford and Wrekin

### Environment Scrutiny Committee

20 September 2022

### Terms of Reference 2022 - 2023

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<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Rae Evans - Cabinet Member: Finance, Governance and Customer Services
<b>Lead Director:</b>	Anthea Lowe - Director: Policy & Governance
<b>Service Area:</b>	Democracy
<b>Report Author:</b>	Kieran Robinson - Democracy Officer (Scrutiny)
<b>Officer Contact Details:</b>	<b>Tel:</b> 01952 382061 <b>Email:</b> kieran.robinson@telford.gov.uk
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	None
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Not Key Decision
<b>Forward Plan:</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Report considered by:</b>	Environment Scrutiny Committee – 20 September 2022

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#### 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 19 May 2022, 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 1) 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 There are no financial implications arising from this report.



## **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.

KF 31.08.2022

## **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 and diversity implications arising from this report.

## **13.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

13.1 This report does not have any climate change or environmental implications.

## **14.0 Background Papers**

14.1 The Council Constitution.

## **15.0 Appendices**

A Environment Scrutiny - Terms of Reference

## **16.0 Report Sign Off**

<b>Signed off by</b>	<b>Date sent</b>	<b>Date signed off</b>	<b>Initials</b>
Legal Services	12/08/2022	31.08.2022	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.

Issue / Topic	Brief Description	Suggest by	Directorate	Comments
Environment				
Climate Change & Plastic Free Telford & Wrekin	Monitoring of progress and implementation of policies in line with the Council's carbon neutral and plastic free targets.	Standing item	Communities, Customer & Commercial Services	
Food and the Environment	An update on Sustainable Food City, food waste, and community composting.	Rolled over	Communities, Customer & Commercial Services	
Grounds & Cleansing - Contract Monitoring	Monitoring of contracts.	Standing item	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	
Waste & Recycling - Contract Monitoring	Monitoring of contracts.	Standing item	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	
Dual-Use Bins – Follow Up	An update on the implementation of the Committee's dual aperture recycling bin recommendation.	New – Committee	Communities, Customer & Commercial Services and Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	November 2022
Partnership Work Update	An update on the Council's environmental partnership work.	New – SMT	Communities, Customer & Commercial Services	2023 Invite partners to meeting
Transport Strategies - Active Travel and EV	Joint workshops with Communities	New – SMT	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	

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