



Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Environment Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 9 October 2024

6.00 pm

Council Chamber, Third Floor, Southwater One, Telford, TF3 4JG

Democratic Services: Sam Yarnall 01952 382193

Media Enquiries: Corporate Communications 01952 382406

Committee Members: Councillors M Boylan (Chair), H Rhodes (Vice-Chair), G H Cook, T L B Janke, L Lewis, H Morgan, T J Nelson and P Thomas

	Agenda	Page
1.0	Apologies for Absence	
2.0	Declarations of Interest	
3.0	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	3 - 8
	To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 March 2024.	
4.0	Environment Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference 2024/25	9 - 14
	To review and reconfirm the Terms of Reference for the Environment Scrutiny Committee for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.	
5.0	Work Programme 2024/25 - Environment Scrutiny Committee	15 - 24
	To review and confirm the proposed Work Programme for the Environment Scrutiny Committee for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.	
6.0	Chair's Update	

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ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday 20 March 2024 at 6.00 pm in Council Chamber, Third Floor, Southwater One, Telford, TF3 4JG

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

Also Present: Councillor C Healy (Cabinet Member: Climate Action, Green Spaces, Heritage & Leisure)

In Attendance: E Cantillion (Project Co-Ordinator, Shropshire Good Food Partnership), E Harvey (Lead Lawyer: Property and Commercial, Telford & Wrekin Council), I Wykes (Team Leader: Climate Change and Sustainability, Telford & Wrekin Council), P Starkey (Senior Democracy Officer (Scrutiny), Telford & Wrekin Council) and S Yarnall (Democracy Officer (Scrutiny), Telford & Wrekin Council).

ENVSC24 Declarations of Interest

None.

ENVSC25 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

ENVSC26 Telford and Wrekin Council Becoming Carbon Neutral and Plastic Free Update

The Climate Change & Sustainability Team Leader presented Members with an update on the Council's efforts to becoming Carbon Neutral and Plastic Free. The report which was presented to Cabinet on 19 October 2023 highlighted the Council's decision to declare a climate emergency in 2019 and that by 2030 the Council would be Carbon Neutral and Plastic Free. The report also outlined that the Council was on target to have a 70% reduction in carbon emissions and plastic use by 2027. Members were presented with a number of examples of work that the Council had recently undertaken to reduce carbon emissions including decarbonising Oakengates leisure centre, the installation of 140 electric vehicle charging points and retrofit of facilities such as the swimming pool in Newport which had reduced gas usage by 40%.



Members were informed of future projects including work to secure funding to support the retrofit of sites across Wellington. Officers were also supporting residents across the Borough to cut down their carbon emissions through the provision of LED lightbulbs. The report also highlighted that this goal was beyond just the Council's emissions but also aimed to support residents across the Borough to reduce their emissions and would further supports the Climate Change Adaptation Plan due to be presented at a meeting of Full Council in late2024 and the Corporate Risk Register to support with both adaptation and mitigation.

Following the presentation of the report, Members posed the following questions:

Were residents, Ward Members and Parish/Town Councils consulted on the development of the 140 electric vehicle charging spaces across the Borough?

Officers noted Members comments on the difficulties that the planned charging locations had presented and advised that further discussions with Members could take place to find the best solution.

How much engagement has there been with Town and Parish Councils regarding the plastic free agenda?

Officers were unable to provide full details at the time of the meeting but that they were still actively working on the plastic free agenda. Work was ongoing to support Town and Parish Councils to be accredited and there were currently three Councils with the accreditation. The Cabinet Member: Climate Action, Green Spaces, Heritage & Leisure said that the Council had been one of the first to declare the ambition to be plastic free and work was being undertaken to provide information to Town and Parish Councils on how to reduce plastic usage.

Could plans be implemented to include electric charging points at leisure centres?

Members were informed that the funding application required the charging points to be near residential areas.

Members commented on the positive work that had taken place with electric vehicle charging points and the work undertaken so far to reduce the level of carbon emissions within the Borough.

What were the costs for installing electric vehicle charging points?

The 140 charging points were out for tender and Officers would work with suppliers to share the cost information.



Following the discussion, Members voted on the recommendation outlined in the report.

RESOLVED – that the update on Telford and Wrekin Council Becoming Carbon Neutral and Plastic Free, be noted and reviewed by the Environment Scrutiny Committee.

Councillors T J Nelson and I Preece left the meeting at 6:36pm.

ENVSC27 Shropshire Good Food - 12 Month Review

Members received an update from Emma Cantillion, Project Co-ordinator of the Shropshire Good Food Partnership. This followed a request from the Committee to receive a 12 month update on the work of the Partnership, following the Committee's last briefing on 28 February 2023.

The presentation set out the work of the Partnership, discussed Food Systems Thinking and actions taken locally and next steps for the Partnership and the Council. Members were informed of the ongoing work of the partnership which included work with Food Banks and Food Hubs across Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin. Work had been ongoing with Harper Adams University to support 'Freshers', first year students, to use local produce and to provide them with the skills needed to cook good quality food for £2.50. One of the largest projects highlighted to Members was the Shropshire Food Trail. This project to helped support local businesses that produce high quality and sustainable food goods across the county. Recently, a £100,000 grant had been made available under the Let's Go Zero Scheme to support local schools to be mentors in reducing levels of carbon emissions and a school in Hollinswood was identified as a flagship school to pilot the project.

Following the presentation, Members posed the following questions and comments.

A local resident discussed setting up a community space to grow local produce and to get the community involved, what was the best way to support them and provide further information?

Currently, there was no policy in Telford & Wrekin Council to set up schemes as described but rather to support on a case by case basis. The Partnership was able to offer support to those residents who had contacted them.

Does the Partnership engage with Town and Parish Councils?



The representative from the Partnership said that they would share the information about the upcoming Food Trail with Members along with the information for Town and Parish Councils to be involved.

There had been a request from the Vegetarian Society to promote the National Vegetarian week in October and this was being discussed with Officers. Members highlighted the positive work regarding this but discussed caution to avoid misinterpretation of the message put out on social media channels.

The Project Co-ordinator highlighted that it was previously requested that there would be representation from the Council on the Partnership's Board. The Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) informed the Project Co-ordinator that this had been feedback to the relevant Officers and the Partnership would be contacted in due course.

Members commended the work of the Partnership to promote sustainable food, local businesses and reducing carbon emissions across the county.

Following this, Members moved and voted on the following recommendation regarding a standing item to be added to invite the Partnership for a regular update.

RESOLVED – that a regular update from the Shropshire Good Food Partnership as a standing item for future work programmes of the Committee be included.

ENVSC28 Work Programme Review

The Democracy Officer (Scrutiny) informed the Committee that this was the last meeting of the 2023/24 municipal year. Scrutiny now operates with two-year work programme to allow for more in-depth work to take place. Members were informed that some items had been programmed to go forward into the next municipal year including an update on electric vehicle charging points. Proposed changes to the work programme would be discussed at the next Keeping in Touch meeting with the Chair and Officers and the Committee would be updated in due course.

ENVSC29 Chair's Update

The Chair wanted to thank Officers and Members for their work over the past year. The Chair reminded the Committee of the upcoming site visit to the Severn Trent Treatment Plant and highlighted the hard work of Members at the recent Climate Change Adaptation workshop.

The meeting ended at 7.17 pm



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Chairman:

Date: Wednesday 9 October 2024

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Environment Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 9 October 2024

Terms of Reference 2024 / 2025

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Zona Hannington - Cabinet Member: Finance, Governance & Customer Services.
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 – 9 October 2024

1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

It is recommended that the Environment Scrutiny Committee:

- 1.1 Review and agree the 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 23 May 2024, Full Council delegated authority to each Committee to review its own Terms of Reference.

3.3 The Terms of Reference forms part of the Consitution and approved by Full Council in that context on 3 March 2022.

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 no alternative options arising from this report.

6.0 Key Risks

6.1 There are no key risks arising from this report.

7.0 Council Priorities

7.1 A community-focused, 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 Terms of Reference should be reviewed on an annual basis. The terms of reference should provide clarity on the election of the chair and Vice-Chair and once confirmed, the Monitoring Officer will update the Constitution. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

10.0 Ward Implications

10.1 There are no ward implications arising from this report.

11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

11.1 There are no Health, Social and Economic Implications arising from this report.

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 Environment Scrutiny Committee – Terms of Reference

16.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Legal Services	27/08/2024	28/08/2024	SH
Finance	27/08/2024	28/08/2024	AEM

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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, Full Council or other relevant organisations when necessary.



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Environment Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 9 October 2024

Environment Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Zona Hannington - Cabinet Member: Finance, Governance & Customer Services
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 – 9 October 2024

1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

It is recommended that the Environment Scrutiny Committee:-

- 1.1 Review and agree the work programme as shown at Appendix A.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To set the work programme for the Environment Scrutiny Committee as outlined in Appendix A.

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

Environment Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

suggestions for inclusion on the coming year's work programme.

3.2 Following the consultation period, a draft work programme is taken to 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 the 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 For the Environment Scrutiny Committee to review and approve the attached draft work programme as shown at Appendix A.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 There are no alternative options arising from this report.

6.0 Key Risks

6.1 There are no key risks arising 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 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 arising from this report.

11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

11.1 There are no health, social and economic implications arising from this report.

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 and 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	27/08/2024	05/09/2024	EH
Finance	27/08/2024	28/08/2024	AEM

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Environment Scrutiny Work Programme 2024/25

Issue / Topic	Brief Description	Directorate	Council Values/Priorities	Format	Meeting Comments
9 October 2024 – Committee Meeting					
Terms of Reference	For the Committee to agree the Terms of Reference for 2024/25.	Policy & Governance	A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.	Committee Agenda Item	Constitutional Function.
	Outcomes:				
Work Programme	For the Committee to agree the proposed work programme for 2024/25.	Policy & Governance	A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.	Committee Agenda Item	Draft work programme delegated to each scrutiny committee by SMB on 3 September 2024.
	Outcomes:				



Issue / Topic	Brief Description	Directorate	Council Values/Priorities	Format	Meeting Comments
4 December 2024 – Committee Meeting					
Climate Change Adaptation	For the Committee to review the Council's plan for Climate Change Adaptation.	Housing, Customer Services & Commercial	Our natural environment is protected – we take a leading role in addressing the climate emergency.	Committee Agenda Item	Standing Item.
	Outcomes:				
Biodiversity Duty Page 20	For the Committee to receive an update on the Council's Biodiversity Duty.	Prosperity & Investment	Our natural environment is protected – we take a leading role in addressing the climate emergency.	Committee Agenda Item	New suggestion for 2024/25 work programme.
	Outcomes:				



Issue / Topic	Brief Description	Directorate	Council Values/Priorities	Format	Meeting Comments
12 February 2025 – Committee Meeting					
Local Nature Recovery Strategy	For the Committee to receive an update on the Telford & Wrekin Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	Prosperity & Investment	Our natural environment is protected – we take a leading role in addressing the climate emergency.	Committee Agenda Item	New suggestion received for 2024/25 work programme.
Outcomes:					
The Green Pledge	For the Committee to receive an update on the Green Pledge.	Prosperity & Investment	Our natural environment is protected – we take a leading role in addressing the climate emergency.	Committee Agenda Item	New suggestion received for 2024/25 work programme.
Outcomes:					



Issue / Topic	Brief Description	Directorate	Council Values/Priorities	Format	Meeting Comments
2 April 2025 – Committee Meeting					
Climate Change and Plastic Free Telford & Wrekin	For the Committee to receive an annual update on the Council's Climate Change agenda.	Housing, Customer Services & Commercial	Our natural environment is protected – we take a leading role in addressing the climate emergency.	Committee Agenda Item	Standing Item.
	Outcomes:				



Issue / Topic	Brief Description	Directorate	Council Values/Priorities	Format	Meeting Comments
30 April 2025 – Committee Meeting					
Shropshire Good Food – 12 month Review	For the Committee to receive an annual update on the Shropshire Good Food Project.	Housing, Customer Services & Commercial	A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.	Committee Agenda Item	Standing Item.
Outcomes:					



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