



## **Borough of Telford and Wrekin**

### **Environment Scrutiny Committee**

**Wednesday 2 July 2025**

**6.00 pm**

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

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<b>Democratic Services:</b>	<b>Paige Starkey</b>	<b>01952 380110</b>
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<b>Committee Members:</b>	<b>Councillors M Boylan (Chair), H Morgan (Vice-Chair), S Handley, T L B Janke, L Lewis, H Rhodes, T J Nelson and P Thomas</b>
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	To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 April 2025.	
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	To review and reconfirm the Terms of Reference for the Environment Scrutiny Committee for the 2025/26 municipal year.	
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Environment Scrutiny Work Programme 2025/26</b>	<b>15 - 24</b>
	To approve the work programme for the 2025/26 municipal year.	
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Update on Shropshire and Telford &amp; Wrekin Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)</b>	<b>To Follow</b>
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## **ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday 30 April 2025 at 6.00 pm in Council Chamber, Third Floor, Southwater One, Telford, TF3 4JG**

**Present:** Councillors M Boylan (Chair), G H Cook, T L B Janke, L Lewis, H Morgan and P Thomas

**Also Present:** Councillor C Healy (Cabinet Member: Neighbourhoods, Planning & Sustainability)

**In Attendance:** E Cantillion (Co-Director, Shropshire Good Food Partnership), E Harvey (Lead Lawyer: Property & Commercial), K Kynaston (Director: Housing, Commercial & Customer Services), P Starkey (Senior Democracy Officer (Scrutiny)) and I Wykes (Climate Change & Sustainability Team Leader)

**Apologies:** Councillors H Rhodes and T J Nelson

#### **ENVSC50 Declarations of Interest**

None.

#### **ENVSC51 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2025 be agreed and signed by the Chair.**

#### **ENVSC52 Climate Change Adaptation Update**

The Climate Change & Sustainability Team Leader presented an update to the Committee on the work undertaken by the Council in relation to Climate Change Adaptation.

In 2019, the Council declared a Climate Emergency and set out an ambitious target to ensure its activities and operations were carbon neutral by 2030. At the time of the meeting, the Council had achieved a 60% reduction in emissions since 2018/19 through mitigation strategies.

The report provided a summary of the Council's focused efforts on both mitigation and adaptation and the need for an adaptation plan following an increase in the frequency of extreme weather events. Members heard that the development of an adaptation plan had ensured business continuity, particularly during emergencies and demonstrated a proactive approach taken by the Council to manage future climate risks. A graph presented to the Committee during the meeting showed a rise in average temperatures since the pre-industrial era, with the hottest years occurring since the 1990s. A

further graph illustrated an increase in rainfall intensity and extreme weather events.

Since presenting the last update to Committee in March 2024, the Council had been working on the development of a climate change risk register and the implementation of several new adaptation measures. Members heard that many of the Council's mitigation efforts were already supporting adaptation such as the Council's housing scheme Nuplace which had continued to promote climate resilience through low-carbon housing design with the installation of solar panels, electric vehicle (EV) charging points and high insulation standards.

The Council had also implemented a Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to encourage best design practices to reduce overheating in buildings. The Council's Tree Policy had continued to promote biodiversity through the planting of native and non-native species and the Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs) handbook had helped manage surface water runoff and reduce flood risks.

Members also heard how strategic planning policies had supported adaptation. The Council's Local Plan outlined how developments should reduce water demand, manage flood risk, incorporate sustainable drainage and ensure resilience in public spaces. Developers would be required to submit sustainability statements demonstrating how projects contributed to climate change objectives including net zero targets.

The report highlighted how community engagement had been a key focus. The Annual Climate Change Borough Partnership Conference was held in October 2024 to raise awareness and encourage local organisations to consider adaptation strategies. The current Council Plan also emphasised building community resilience, with support provided through local flood groups, Councillor's pride funding for adaptation projects and signposting to funding sources such as Reaching Communities England.

Looking ahead, Members were informed that the Council had planned to keep the Climate Change Risk register under regular review, with an updated version expected to be presented to Cabinet in October 2025. The update would form part of a broader report of the Council's progress towards reducing emissions. Additionally, the Council would also be exploring how to integrate climate adaptation into its business continuity planning.

In response to questions raised during the meeting, the Climate Change & Sustainability Team Leader confirmed that the Council was well ahead of the curve in respect of climate change adaptation and mitigation and that the proactive approach, including the development of a comprehensive Climate Change Risk Register, integration of sustainability into planning policies, and community engagement initiatives had placed the Council amongst leading local authorities in this area.

The Climate Change & Sustainability Team Leader also advised Members that the Council had a flood plan in place and had already identified and

mapped out areas which were most at risk. It was noted that in order to effectively tackle issues around flooding, the Council would need to continue working closely with national agencies and other stakeholders to share responsibility to manage and reduce flood risks. Whilst the Council had a role in mitigation and resource allocation, long-term solutions would require coordinated efforts across multiple levels.

The Cabinet Member: Neighbourhoods, Planning & Sustainability stated that at the time of the meeting, the Government had also recently announced national funding to help the Severn Trent Drainage Board to address key drainage issues. The Council had promoted the use of sustainable drainage systems to manage water on-site in a more controlled and environmentally friendly manner. Whilst some systems had been seen as unattractive, the Council had continued to work to create spaces that were both functional and aesthetically pleasing such as pond areas.

In response to a question raised around processes for testing and reviewing business continuity plans, the Climate Change & Sustainability Team Leader advised that business continuity plans were not only about identifying why floods had occurred but were also in place to ensure that critical services could continue to operate despite the disruption. There had been a significant overlap between the emergency response process and business continuity, and it was noted that the continuity framework had remained active and relevant. The Council had conducted several drills and simulations as part of the testing process and whilst many were not specifically focused on climate change, they did address scenarios which would have been exacerbated as a result of climate change.

The Cabinet Member: Neighbourhoods, Planning & Sustainability commented how in places such as Ironbridge, the response system had become a well-oiled machine out of necessity and that, that model had been later adopted in other parts of the Borough. The same approach had also been applied to trees following a significant number of trees coming down during storms. Although all trees had been surveyed and assessed by the Council, trees which were healthy were brought down as a result of the weather, highlighting how difficult it had been to predict outcomes and the balance between managing risk and preserving the environment.

### **ENVSC53 Shropshire Good Food Partnership**

The Committee received an update from the Co-Director of the Shropshire Good Food Partnership.

The presentation set out the work of the Partnership over the last 12 months, which highlighted an increase in engagement from partner organisations and the local community. The Partnership had remained project-funded and had continued to seek core financial support.

The Partnership had expanded into the Marches Food Network, engaging stakeholders at multiple levels and embedding resilience planning into their

strategies, focusing on infrastructure, market access, branding and support from producers. The Partnership had been supported by initiatives such as Food Loops Planning and funding bids to the UK Lottery. These efforts had been aimed at driving system change, supporting cooperative development and localising food networks.

The Partnership had strengthened multi-level stakeholder engagement, working with farmers, local councils, training centres and national networks. It had supported farmer clusters, delivering grassroots training and hosting webinars, talks and field sessions. The Partnership had also contributed to national Sustainable Food Places (SFP) working groups and this collaborative approach had helped fostered strong relationships with partners and communities across the region.

A major focus for the Partnership had been placed on schools, with a £100,000 project launched to support food education and sustainability. The Partnership had at the time of the meeting engaged with 20 primary schools and 10 partner organisations through the School Food Web project. Activities had included food audits, tailored sustainability roadmaps, CPD events and Citizen Science Projects which had helped to empower pupils to explore the nutritional value of food and its environmental impact. Ten schools had participated in nutritional monitoring, comparing supermarket produce with freshly grown alternatives. Hollinswood Primary School had taken part in a pilot for surplus food initiatives which included cookery clubs and partnerships with local food hubs. Composting efforts had been scaled up, with 16 schools receiving grants and hot bin composters to become food-waste free. Members heard that the Smoothie Bike initiative alone had saved 250kg of frozen fruit waste and six schools had also joined the Let's Go Zero programme, committing to achieve net zero by 2030.

The Partnership had continued to actively engage the public through storytelling, newsletters, blogs, press, and events. The Good Food Movement continued to grow, with over 350 members and partners. Seasonal learning circles and webinars had provided platforms for dialogue on food quality, sustainability and local food systems. These efforts had helped raise the visibility of the Partnership's work both locally and nationally, with other regions reaching out to learn from their approach.

In response to questions raised during the meeting, the Co-Director advised that the Partnership were exploring a new petition to Government to request farming to be formally included in the national curriculum. One of the key challenges for the Partnership had been around supporting teaching staff with the resources and time they need to embed food education into lesson plans.

The Cabinet Member: Neighbourhoods, Planning & Sustainability stated that there had been a noticeable increase in demand for allotment spaces across the Borough and in response to this, a number of new allotment sites had been established, particularly within more recent housing developments. The Council had also worked to ensure that allotments were included in planning

policies, helping to embed access to growing spaces as a standard part of community infrastructure moving forward.

The Co-Director commented that the Partnership had worked with a wide range of schools, including the Grove School, where an after-school club had been arranged for SEND students which focused on using surplus food and community kitchens. The aim of the activity was to create a hands-on, inclusive environment that supports both practical skills and confidence-building for children.

The Co-Director confirmed that the Partnership had worked with a mix of schools across Shropshire. Whilst there had been high levels of engagement at primary level, the Partnership had faced challenges with secondary schools. At the time of the meeting, the Partnership had piloted a canteen-style initiative using school kitchen spaces as community kitchens. Pupils had been actively involved in planning and delivering events, which catered for 67 family members using surplus food.

#### **ENVSC54 Work Programme Review**

#### **ENVSC55 Chair's Update**

The Chair indicated that this was the last meeting of the Committee for the 2024/25 municipal year and thanked Members for their contributions, particularly their recent involvement in the Green Pledge workshop.

The Chair reminded Members to put forward items for consideration for the next work programme.

The meeting ended at 7.08 pm

**Chairman:** .....

**Date:** Wednesday 2 July 2025

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## Borough of Telford and Wrekin

### Environment Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 2 July 2025

Terms of Reference 2025/26

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<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Zona Hannington - Cabinet Member: Finance, Governance and Customer Services.
<b>Lead Director:</b>	Anthea Lowe - Director: Policy & Governance
<b>Service Area:</b>	Policy & Governance
<b>Report Author:</b>	Ashley Hickman – Democracy & Scrutiny Assistant
<b>Officer Contact Details:</b>	<b>Tel:</b> 01952 382589 <b>Email:</b> ashley.hickman1@telford.gov.uk
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Not Key Decision
<b>Forward Plan:</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Report considered by:</b>	Environment Scrutiny Committee – 2 July 2025

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#### 1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

It is recommended that the Environment Scrutiny Committee:

- 1.1 Agree and reconfirm the Terms of Reference set out at Appendix A.

#### 2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To set out for review and agreement the Terms of Reference for the Environment Scrutiny Committee outlined at Appendix A of the report.

#### 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 15 May 2025, Full Council delegated authority to each Committee to review its own Terms of Reference.

#### **4.0 Summary of main proposals**

- 4.1 For the Environment Scrutiny Committee to review its Terms of Reference as set out in **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-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 the Committee's Terms of Reference should be reviewed annually. This report provides the basis for that review.

#### **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, Biodiversity and Environmental Implications**

- 13.1 There are no Climate Change, Biodiversity or Environmental implications arising from this report.

**14.0 Background Papers**

- 1 [Council Constitution](#)

**15.0 Appendices**

- A Environment Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference 2025/26

**16.0 Report Sign Off**

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Legal Services	30/05/2025	02/06/2025	EH
Finance	30/05/2025	30/05/2025	ER

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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

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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## Borough of Telford and Wrekin

### Environment Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 2 July 2025

### Environment Scrutiny Work Programme 2025/26

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<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Zona Hannington – Cabinet Member: Finance, Governance & Customer Services
<b>Lead Director:</b>	Anthea Lowe – Director: Policy & Governance
<b>Service Area:</b>	Policy & Governance
<b>Report Author:</b>	Paige Starkey – Senior Democracy Officer (Scrutiny)
<b>Officer Contact Details:</b>	<b>Tel:</b> 01952 380110 <b>Email:</b> Paige.Starkey@telford.gov.uk
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Not Key Decision
<b>Forward Plan:</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Report considered by:</b>	Environment Scrutiny Committee – 2 July 2025

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#### 1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

1.1 It is recommended that the Environment Scrutiny Committee:

a) Review and agree the work programme as outlined at Appendix A.

#### 2.0 Purpose of Report

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

#### 3.0 Background

3.1 Scrutiny now operates a two-year work programme to allow for Committees to undertake in-depth work over a longer period of time.

## Environment Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 Following the consultation period, a draft work programme is taken to Scrutiny Management Board for comment before being sent onto individual committees for final approval.
- 3.4 The Constitution states that Scrutiny committees are to set and undertake their own programme of work, meeting as required to deliver the work programme.
- 3.5 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 draft work programme as outlined 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, any costs associated with the review and work programme will be funded from within existing budgets.

### **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, Biodiversity and Environmental Implications**

13.1 There are no climate change, biodiversity and environmental implications arising from this report.

## **14.0 Background Papers**

1 Council Constitution

## **15.0 Appendices**

A Environment Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2025/26

## **16.0 Report Sign Off**

<b>Signed off by</b>	<b>Date sent</b>	<b>Date signed off</b>	<b>Initials</b>
Legal	18/06/2025	13/06/2025	RP
Finance	18/06/2025	18/06/2025	AEM

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Issue / Topic	Brief Description	Directorate	Council Values/Priorities	Format	Meeting Comments
2 July 2025 – Committee Meeting					
Terms of Reference	For the Committee to agree the Terms of Reference for 2025/26.	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 2025/26.	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 19 June 2025.
	Outcomes:				
Local Nature Recovery Strategy	For the Committee to receive an update on the Telford & Wrekin Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	Prosperity & Investment	<p>All neighbourhoods are a great place to live.</p> <p>Our natural environment is protected, and the Council is taking a leading role in tackling the climate emergency.</p> <p>A community-focused, innovative council providing efficient, effective, and quality services.</p>	Committee Agenda Item	New suggestion received for the work programme.
	Outcomes:				

Issue / Topic	Brief Description	Directorate	Council Values/Priorities	Format	Meeting Comments
22 October 2025 – Committee Meeting					
Contaminated Land Strategy 2025/26	For the Committee to review how the Council identifies and manages contaminated land sites in the Borough.	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	<p>All neighbourhoods are a great place to live.</p> <p>Our natural environment is protected, and the Council is taking a leading role in tackling the climate emergency.</p> <p>A community-focused, innovative council providing efficient, effective, and quality services.</p>	Committee Agenda Item	New suggestion received for the work programme.
	Outcomes:				

Issue / Topic	Brief Description	Directorate	Council Values/Priorities	Format	Meeting Comments
4 March 2026 – Committee Meeting					
Shropshire Good Food – 12 month Review	For the Committee to receive an annual update on the Shropshire Good Food Project.	Communities, Customer & Commercial Services	<p>A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.</p> <p>Our natural environment is protected – we take a leading role in addressing the climate emergency.</p>	Committee Agenda Item	Standing Item.
	Outcomes:				

Issue / Topic	Brief Description	Directorate	Council Values/Priorities	Format	Meeting Comments
29 April 2026 – Committee Meeting					
Climate Change and Adaptation	For the Committee to receive an annual update on the Council's Climate Change agenda.	Communities, Customer & Commercial Services	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
To be scheduled					
Surface Water Flooding Strategy	For the Committee to assess the risks and causes of surface water flooding in the Borough, review current mitigation measures and review how well agencies worked together to address issues.	Neighbourhood & Enforcement External	<p>All neighbourhoods are a great place to live.</p> <p>Our natural environment is protected, and the Council is taking a leading role in tackling the climate emergency.</p> <p>A community-focused, innovative council providing efficient, effective, and quality services.</p>	Task and Finish Group	<p>New suggestion received for the work programme.</p> <p>Cross-cutting to include members from Communities Scrutiny.</p>
	Outcomes:				
Street Waste	For the Committee to receive an update on the Council's process for managing street waste following the pilot of the dual-recycling bins.	Neighbourhood & Enforcement	<p>All neighbourhoods are a great place to live.</p> <p>Our natural environment is protected, and the Council is taking a leading role in tackling the climate emergency.</p> <p>A community-focused, innovative council providing efficient, effective, and quality services.</p>	Committee Agenda Item	New suggestion received for the work programme.
	Outcomes:				

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