

# 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.