



**WATFORD
BOROUGH
COUNCIL**



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1 February 2023

7.00 pm

**Rooms 201 and 202, Annexe, Town Hall,
Watford**

Contact

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For information about attending meetings please visit the [council's website](#).

Publication date: 24 January 2023

Committee Membership

Councillor T Osborn (Chair)

Councillor F Ezeifedi (Vice-Chair)

Councillors S Ahmed, S Feldman, P Kloss, R Martins, K Rodrigues, J Stiff and M Turmaine

Agenda

Part A - Open to the Public

1. Apologies for Absence/Committee Membership

2. Disclosure of interests (if any)

3. Minutes

The [minutes](#) of the meeting held on 13 December 2022 to be submitted and signed.

4. Other scrutiny meetings - minutes

The following scrutiny committees and task groups have met since the last meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- [Finance Scrutiny Committee](#), 9 January 2023

5. Call-in

To consider any executive decisions which have been called in by the requisite number of councillors.

6. Sustainability Strategy Task Group final report (Pages 4 - 17)

To approve the final report of the Sustainability Strategy Task Group.

7. Task group update - Sustainable Transport Strategy (Pages 18 - 21)

To review the update on the recommendations made by the Sustainable Transport Strategy Task Group.

8. Task group update: Electric Vehicles (Pages 22 - 23)

To review the update on the recommendations made by the Electric Vehicles Task Group.

9. Executive Decision Progress Report (Pages 24 - 28)

The Scrutiny Committee is asked to review the latest edition of the Executive Decision Progress Report and consider whether any further information is required.

10. Hertfordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee

There have been no meetings of the Health Scrutiny Committee since the last meeting of Overview and Scrutiny.

11. Work Programme (Pages 29 - 32)

The scrutiny committee is asked to review the current version of the work programme and consider any additional areas councillors wish to scrutinise.

12. Date of Next Meeting

- Wednesday 22 February 2023 at 7.30pm

Please note the changed start time of this meeting.

Agenda Item 6

Part A

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: Wednesday, 1 February 2023

Report author: Senior Democratic Services Officer

Title: Sustainability Strategy Task Group final report

1.0 Summary

1.1 This report provides Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the final report and recommendations of the Sustainability Strategy Task Group. The full report is attached as Appendix 1.

1.2 Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to review the report prior to it being forwarded to Cabinet.

2.0 Risks

2.1 No direct risks to the council have been identified as a result of the task group's recommendations.

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 That the final report and recommendations of the Sustainability Strategy Task Group be agreed and forwarded to Cabinet.

Further information:

Jodie Kloss

jodie.kloss@watford.gov.uk

Report approved by: Carol Chen, Group Head of Democracy and Governance

4.0 Background and overview

4.1 Watford Borough Council has declared a climate emergency and an ecological emergency. The Sustainability Strategy is a pivotal document for the council to ensure its response as an organisation and a place leader meets the urgency of the climate and ecological emergencies.

4.2 The council's existing Sustainability Strategy expires in March 2023. There has been a programme of work to renew this strategy with an updated and refocused document to come into force at that time. The development of the strategy

included an engagement exercise with residents and groups in late 2022 which will help to shape the focus. The work of the task group is intended to feed into the development of the strategy alongside this programme of work.

4.3 Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to establish the task group at its meeting on 22 June 2022 and confirmed the membership and chair in October 2022.

4.4 The task group included the following members:

- Councillor Mark Hofman (Chair)
- Councillor Peter Jeffree
- Councillor Rabi Martins
- Councillor Sara-Jane Trebar

4.5 The task group met virtually on three occasions in November and December 2022. At the outset, it was agreed that the task group would focus on the following areas:

- Targets contained in the strategy
- Governance
- Leading by example
- People power

4.6 During the course of the meetings, the task group received presentations from Watford Borough Council officers on the above areas and discussed the proposals contained within the draft strategy.

5.0 **Implications**

5.1 **Financial**

5.1.1 The Shared Director of Finance comments that there are no financial implications arising directly from the recommendations of the Sustainability Strategy Task Group. Funding for the delivery of the Sustainability Strategy will be approved through the usual budget setting framework, taking into account affordability and available funding.

5.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

5.2.1 The Group Head of Democracy and Governance comments that there are no legal implications in this report.

5.3 **Equalities, Human Rights and Data Protection**

5.3.1 There are no specific implications in this report.

5.4 **Staffing**

5.4.1 There are no staffing implications in this report.

5.5 **Accommodation**

5.5.1 There are no accommodation implications in this report.

5.6 **Community Safety/Crime and Disorder**

5.6.1 There are no community safety implications in this report.

5.7 **Sustainability**

5.7.1 This is captured in the body of the report and appendix.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft Sustainability Strategy Task Group report.

Background papers

No papers were used in the preparation of this report.



**WATFORD
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**Sustainability Strategy
Task Group**

January 2023

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Task group members

Councillor Mark Hofman
Councillor Peter Jeffree
Councillor Rabi Martins
Councillor Sara-Jane Trebar

Chair, Councillor for Nascot Ward
Councillor for Park Ward
Councillor for Central Ward
Councillor for Vicarage Ward

Officer support

Jodie Kloss
Laura MacMillan

Senior Democratic Services Officer
Democratic Services Officer

Witnesses

Susheel Rao
Alan Gough

Sustainability Officer, Watford Borough Council
Director of Partnerships, Watford Borough Council

Proposed recommendations to present to Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1. To increase the target for the number of households who commit to making one change to live more sustainably to be more challenging; potentially to 50% of households.
2. Any off-setting required to meet the targets should be within Watford as much as possible.
3. The delivery plan for the Sustainability Strategy should be brought to Overview and Scrutiny Committee for review and discussion.
4. The Sustainability Strategy's delivery plan and accompanying documentation should include a risk register.
5. The updates on progress against net zero carbon targets should be published with and without the impacts of aviation and shipping.
6. To strengthen the consideration of the sustainability impacts in council decision-making processes, including having regard to the targets in the strategy.
7. A communications plan and behavioural change campaign will be required to ensure residents and businesses engage with the targets and feel part of the solution.

Background to the task group

Watford Borough Council has declared a climate emergency and an ecological emergency. The Sustainability Strategy, known as the Climate Change and Ecological Emergency Strategy, is a pivotal document for the council to ensure its response as an organisation and a place leader meets the urgency of the climate and ecological emergencies.

The council's existing Sustainability Strategy expires in March 2023. There is a programme of work to renew this strategy with an updated and refocused document to come into force at that time. The development of the strategy includes an engagement exercise with residents and groups in late 2022 which will help to shape the focus.

A proposal was made by the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Transport that a scrutiny task group be established to ensure that non-executive councillors could feed into the strategy.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to establish the task group at its meeting on 22 June 2022 and confirmed the membership and chair in October 2022, as set out above.

Overview of the task group's programme of work

The task group met three times in November and December 2022. At the initial meeting, members received a high-level overview of the strategy and the associated programme. It was agreed that the task group would focus on certain key areas within the strategy.

Following the first two meetings, the work of the task group paused while the consultation exercise took place. The task group then reviewed the high-level outcomes of the consultation exercise alongside their conclusions and recommendations. The meetings took the form of presentations from the programme's lead officers at Watford Borough Council followed by discussions, questions and consideration of conclusions and recommendations.

The areas of the strategy that the task group focused on were:

- Targets contained in the strategy
- Governance
- Leading by example
- People power

Additional work was carried out by Democratic Services to inform the task group's work and to produce this report

Conclusion, recommendations and comments

Summary of the task group's response to the Sustainability Strategy

The Sustainability Strategy is an ambitious and vital strategy which will provide the requisite focus to deliver a more sustainable town. The Climate and Ecological Emergencies are urgent issues which require timely action by the council as an organisation and as a place leader.

The targets are largely stretching and will require a whole-organisation and whole-borough commitment to ensure delivery by 2030. It is imperative that Watford contributes to the global response, but it is also clear that there are areas over which the council, as well as local businesses and residents, have no control and where a realistic approach is needed. This interconnectedness is reflected in the requirement for off-setting to be part of the response.

Achieving the targets will be challenging; it is vital that the council continues to work with residents to encourage and enable them to make changes to live more sustainably. Ongoing communication, listening, and engagement will remain fundamental to the success of the strategy.

Recommendations

To increase the target for the number of households who commit to making one change to live more sustainably to be more challenging; potentially to 50% of households.

The target in the strategy is for 25% of Watford households to pledge at least one action towards achieving net zero by 2028. These actions might be making changes to their diet, transportation or energy usage in the home.

The 2021 census demonstrated that Watford is a young town; 55% of residents are aged under 40, compared to 49% across England and Wales¹. Data consistently shows that young people are more likely to be concerned about environmental issues than older people.² There is also evidence that during the Covid 19 pandemic, people were increasingly more likely to make lifestyle changes to reflect these sustainability concerns, which was driven by Generation Z and millennials.³

¹ 2021 ONS census results

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/populationandhouseholdestimatesenglandandwales/census2021>

² 2021 ONS survey on climate anxiety

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/articles/threequartersofadultsingreatbritainworryaboutclimatechange/2021-11-05>

³ Deloitte study on lifestyle changes during the pandemic <https://www2.deloitte.com/uk/en/pages/press-releases/articles/four-out-of-five-uk-consumers-adopt-more-sustainable-lifestyle-choices-during-covid-19-pandemic.html>

The task group also noted that the pandemic had demonstrated how significant behavioural changes across all areas were possible to reflect an urgent issue. The increase in the level of this target, potentially to 50%, would therefore reflect these trends.

Any off-setting required to meet the targets should be within Watford as much as possible.

The strategy notes that 'The Council will seek to offset GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions within the UK, using recognised and accredited providers. It will also ensure that its own tree planting can be recognised as carbon offsetting.'⁴

It is anticipated that by 2030, the council will have reduced its GHG emissions by 75% with the remaining 25% being offset. Off-setting will be achieved through tree-planting and photovoltaic energy generation.

Tree-planting and other off-setting measures have other net benefits to the local environment, such as improving air quality and biodiversity and reducing flooding risks. The aim should therefore be for these measures to be taken within Watford, with a focus on the areas where tree cover is lowest, wherever practicable.

The delivery plan for the Sustainability Strategy should be brought to Overview and Scrutiny Committee for review and discussion.

The strategy is a high-level document setting the context, priorities, targets and governance of the sustainability agenda in Watford. It will be underpinned by a detailed delivery plan which will set out how the targets will be achieved.

The task group has only had sight of the draft strategy and made recommendations on that document. A number of other areas were discussed which related to the delivery of the strategy, and these would benefit from further discussion as part of the scrutiny function.

It is further noted that the Climate Emergency and Sustainability Forum will also retain working oversight of the delivery plan and other routine reporting mechanisms will be followed.

The Sustainability Strategy's delivery plan and accompanying documentation should include a risk register.

The task group understood that the intention was for the strategy documentation to include a risk register. This was strongly supported to ensure that the momentum of delivery was maintained. It was also important that the risks of inaction in the climate and sustainability agendas were well documented and communicated.

⁴ Sustainability Strategy, p. 12

The updates on progress against net zero carbon targets should be published with and without the impacts of aviation and shipping.

Reducing the carbon emissions of the borough as a whole is particularly challenging; the strategy rightly recognises that there are areas that the council has little influence over. With appropriate actions in place, the overall level of emissions in the borough can be reduced by 50%. The methodology used to calculate carbon emissions, used by many local authorities, includes a fair share of aviation and shipping emissions which contribute a huge amount of emissions to the overall total. The result will be that progress against targets will be limited by factors outside of its control.

The task group therefore proposes that progress against the net zero carbon targets be reported including and excluding the impacts of these sectors. This will mean that the council and residents will have a better sense of the progress being made locally and it will demonstrate the impact of flying and other transportation to the overall climate agenda. The task group noted that this could provide an opportunity to produce an education piece around the impact of flying.

To strengthen the consideration of the sustainability impacts in council decision-making processes, including having regard to the targets in the strategy.

Meeting the targets will require a whole-organisation approach including a commitment to ensure that sustainability implications are carefully considered in decision-making. The council's committee reports currently include sustainability implications and it is suggested that this is strengthened to include reference to the targets.

Such consideration should also be made from the outset of any project or policy proposals. Internal consultative bodies who review proposals should provide effective challenge that proposals should be meeting sustainability targets. This is reflected in the strategy.⁵ The economic circumstances that the council is operating in are also recognised, and all factors will need to be taken into account.

A communications plan and behavioural change campaign will be required to ensure residents and businesses engage with the targets and feel part of the solution.

Adapting to living more sustainably is a challenge for the council and local residents and businesses. To this end, the council has a number of roles including leading by example, enabling more sustainable businesses and initiatives to operate in the borough and as a place-leader. Communications around opportunities, initiatives, ideas and funding could provide a useful resource for residents. Equally important will be listening to views and ideas, providing forums for discussions and ensuring that an effective feedback loop is created.

⁵ Sustainability Strategy, p. 24

Bibliography/background papers

- Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee – [New Scrutiny Task Group – Sustainability Strategy](#) – 22 June 2022
- Draft Sustainability Strategy
- Deloitte study on lifestyle changes during the pandemic
<https://www2.deloitte.com/uk/en/pages/press-releases/articles/four-out-of-five-uk-consumers-adopt-more-sustainable-lifestyle-choices-during-covid-19-pandemic.html>
- 2021 ONS census results
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/populationandhouseholdestimatesenglandandwales/census2021>
- ONS report on climate anxiety
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/articles/threequartersofadultsingreatbritainworryaboutclimatechange/2021-11-05>

The task group would like to thank their witnesses who generously gave time to assist with this review.

**Appendix:
Watford Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Scrutiny Task Group Scope and Terms of Reference**

Scrutiny review title	Sustainability Strategy
Scrutiny proposer	Cllr Ian Stotesbury, Portfolio Holder for Sustainability
Details of specific area for review	<p>Watford Borough Council has declared a climate emergency in July 2019 and an ecological emergency in January 2021.</p> <p>The current Sustainability Strategy is due to expire in March 2023. Officers are in the process of developing a new strategy to come into effect at that time. An engagement exercise with residents and groups is planned for summer 2022 which will help to shape the incoming strategy.</p> <p>A scrutiny task group is proposed to feed into the development of the new strategy.</p>
Why this has been proposed for review, including the council priorities it supports	<p>The new strategy will be the foundation to the council’s aim to achieve carbon net zero by 2030 and addressing the ecological emergency. The strategy will set out the roadmap to these goals and provide ways of measuring the council’s progress.</p> <p>The strategy will be fundamental in meeting these sustainability ambitions and is an area of priority for the council. It will be a cross-cutting document which sets out how different parts of the council will work with sustainability at the forefront. Member engagement in the process is crucial as they will be part of the delivery of the strategy as well as having roles as ambassadors to residents.</p> <p>It supports the priority of a creative, thriving and diverse town.</p>
Purpose / objectives of the review, including key questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure the soundness of the strategy in meeting its aims • To consider whether issues that members consider to be a priority are addressed in the documentation • To review the extent to which consultation feedback has been captured by the strategy • To determine whether any other issues raised in the public consultation should be further addressed in the strategy or by other means. • To secure ownership of the strategy by non-executive councillors and the strengthen residents’ understanding and buy-in • To consider the governance and monitoring of the strategy following implementation.

Any areas excluded from the scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raw data from consultation • Existing strategies that are linked to the Sustainability Strategy
Desired outcomes / indicators of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of the aspirations of the strategy. • Secure support for the roadmap to achieving net zero. • An understanding of the key areas for action under the strategy. • To secure wider ownership of the strategy by non-executive Watford councillors. • To review key aspects of the strategy supported by an understanding of the feedback received in the public consultation and of wider residents' views. • To make recommendations to Cabinet that contribute to the success of the strategy. These recommendations would be based on the consultation feedback and members' wider local understanding.
Timescale and key dates, including proposed meeting format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 June 2022 - scrutiny proposal to be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee • Task group to meet 2 to 3 times between July and October • 16 November or 16 December 2022 (TBC) – draft report to be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee • 6 February 2023- Sustainability Strategy to Cabinet
Key departmental lead officer	Susheel Rao, Sustainability Officer
Witnesses	None directly, feedback will be captured through engagement work
What activities need to be taken to achieve the outcomes	<p>Reviewing draft strategy</p> <p>Reviewing engagement feedback</p> <p>Reviewing examples from best practice</p>
Key policies / documentation / baseline information needed	<p>Draft strategy including outline delivery plan and resourcing</p> <p>Engagement feedback summaries</p> <p>Review of best practice examples</p>
Any other sources of evidence (e.g., site visit)	None
Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robust strategy required to meet commitment to achieving net zero and proposed route map • Insufficient response to ecological emergency

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Insufficient engagement with non-executive members and subsequent dissatisfaction with the strategy.• Loss of the opportunity to understand residents' views from the wider perspective held by ward councillors
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Scrutiny task group review update

Title of scrutiny review:	Sustainable Transport Strategy
Chair of scrutiny review:	Councillor Amanda Grimston
Final report published:	31 January 2022
Forwarded to Cabinet:	28 February 2022
Date of review:	1 February 2023

Recommendation:	The priority for the implementation of the strategy should be to reduce the number of short trips (under 2 miles) that are driven in Watford. This should be a determining factor in how actions contained in the strategy are prioritised.
Update:	Active travel, such as walking and cycling, is a good alternative for short trips and this area has been prioritised. Following extensive public consultation the Council have adopted their Local Cycling Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) which identifies priority cycling and walking routes to be delivered. Having an adopted LCWIP provides WBC and HCC with the basis to prepare proposals that can be submitted to government for Active Travel Funding. Work to date has focused on the Green Loop cycle route, also identified in the Council's Delivery Plan, and initial feasibility and validation work has been undertaken on a number of proposed improvement projects which will be used to bid for delivery funding. The school run is also a significant generator of short trip and, as discussed below, we have been working closely with schools and HCC to encourage the uptake of School Travel Plans in order to reduce short journeys by car.

Recommendation:	In recognition of the close geographical relationships with neighbouring districts, ongoing partnership work should continue to be developed with areas that border Watford.
Update:	The Council's LCWIP was produced in collaboration with Three rivers District Council to ensure continuity of key active travel routes across administrative boundaries. The Council have been progressing a feasibility study on alternatives for the disused railway line between Croxley and Watford and this work is being progressed in partnership with TRDC and HCC. The findings of the study are due in Summer 2023. The Council are also progressing the South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan with the five neighbouring authorities and HCC. This work provides a platform for cross-boundary collaboration and planning on the long

	term strategic sustainable transport infrastructure needs of South-west Hertfordshire, include progression of the HCC Hertfordshire-Essex Rapid Transit (HERT) proposals.
Recommendation:	To build on the popularity of the bike share scheme, the council should explore with neighbouring authorities and other stakeholders how the scheme could be expanded beyond the borough's boundaries.
Update:	Beryl continue to explore opportunities with our neighbouring authorities and initial conversations have been held with DBC and TRDC to explore the potential to bring cycle hire schemes to those areas and integrate with the scheme that already operates within Watford. Further discussions are needed and implementation of a cycle hire scheme within neighbouring authority areas would need further consideration from a public sector procurement perspective.
Recommendation:	In considering whether there are any areas in Watford that would benefit from becoming a low-traffic neighbourhood, the highest priority should be working with and listening to residents and local stakeholders. Low traffic neighbourhoods could be considered if they have extensive community support designed to address a defined local issue.
Update:	The recommendation rightly identifies that local support is essential to the successful implementation of low-traffic neighbourhoods and there is no intention to proceed with proposals unless support is established. Initial feasibility work is being undertaken in collaboration with HCC to rule out areas that would not be suitable for a low-traffic neighbourhood and to identify if there are any areas where local engagement could be considered.
Recommendation:	The strategy, or associated documentation, should include a target to have a travel plan in place for every school in the borough and proactively work with schools and Hertfordshire County Council to achieve this.
Update:	In September 2022 WBC officers emailed both primary and secondary schools within Watford as well as local councillors to encourage the uptake of Schools travel plans. (STPs). Two virtual sessions promoting School Travel Plans were held for head teachers and staff on 29th and 30th September chaired by the Mayor, and facilitated by HCC and WBC officers. Over the two sessions the schools that attended included Cherry Tree Primary School, Cassiobury Infant and Nursery School, St Michael's Catholic High School, Beechfield School, Parmiter's School, and West Herts College (the Grove Academy were interested, but were unable to attend meeting). Since the two online sessions HCC Travel Plan officers have

	<p>been following up with the schools who have shown interest and continue to work with schools within Watford.</p> <p>Since the sessions there has been progress on developing and improving school travel plans. This includes Cassiobury Infants who have submitted a Green level School Travel Plan. St Catherine of Siena, Bromet and Orchard hold a Bronze level travel plan. Beechfield School and Parkgate Infants are engaged and working on school travel plans. Alban Wood Primary have a meeting planned due to take place in the New Year with school travel plan officer. Further engagement with schools is be planned for later in the year</p>
Recommendation:	Further work should be undertaken with local businesses and other stakeholders to improve transport links to employment areas that are not easily reached without a car to consider how access could be improved.
Update:	<p>Further work is needed on this recommendation and this will be progressed in partnership with the Economic Development team. The team have prepared a delivery plan for the Council's Economy Growth Strategy which includes a workstream on business engagement, support and communications. It is proposed that as part of this engagement the team will explore with the businesses what improvements should be made to reduce the reliance of businesses on the private car. Work is currently progressing on the procurement of a borough-wide car-club and the opportunity for businesses to benefit from this will be explored. We will also continue to promote corporate memberships to the Beryl Bike scheme and highlight the benefits these can bring to businesses.</p> <p>In terms of less well connected areas outside of central Watford, we are currently looking at how we can progress improvements to local shopping parades which will include the provision of better infrastructure to encourage more short local journeys by walking and cycling.</p>
Recommendation:	Recognising that accepting the need for wider change is different to making personal behavioural change, further work is needed to consider how to grow confidence in the alternatives to travelling by car.
Update:	<p>The strategy recognises the importance of behavioural change and sets out proposals within Theme 5 'Supporting Change'. Initial work has been undertaken to consider the feasibility of a sustainable transport rewards scheme within Watford but in order for this to be successful this needs to be supported by the provision of new infrastructure and attractive alternatives for residents otherwise the incentive of rewards will not be sufficient to change the behaviour of those who do not already use sustainable transport modes. Officers will continue to promote the strategy and the projects within in as part of events such as national Bike Week. We will also continue to build on the work already undertaken with schools outlined above.</p>

	<p>Encouraging behavioural change in response to climate change is also a major theme within the Council's new emerging Sustainability Strategy. The need for 'People Power' is highlighted as an essential component of Watford's response to climate change and the strategy sets clear targets for residents and businesses to commit to making personal and collective change to support our overall response. The strategy has been reviewed by an Overview and Scrutiny task group and the report and recommendations, which include reference to behavioural change, are included on the agenda for this meeting.</p>
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Scrutiny task group review update

Title of scrutiny review:	Electric Vehicles
Chair of scrutiny review:	Councillor Simon Feldman
Final report published:	24 February 2022
Forwarded to Cabinet:	28 February 2022
Date of review:	1 February 2023

Recommendation:	To extend and develop the communications around electric vehicles, including the development of an information hub, with a focus on preparing residents for the shift to electric vehicles and enabling access to clear information for users.
Update:	We have provided a map on the Council website https://www.watford.gov.uk/parking/find-parking-space/4 that shows the location of existing charge points available to residents. We are in the process of producing a list of the locations to accompany the map and will continue to expand the information that is provided to residents. It should be noted that some locations are within the CPZ areas and residents need to have a permit in order to use the infrastructure during the hours that the parking controls operate and we will incorporate this information into the website.

Recommendation:	In order to help the council make the case for funding and to increase understanding of the interest in different areas, an online form should be developed to enable residents to make an expression of interest for a charging unit in their neighbourhood.
Update:	As discussed above this facility is available on the Council's website https://www.watford.gov.uk/parking/find-parking-space/4 where residents can request an electric vehicle charge point to be placed in their road. Requests are looked at individually against criteria set by HCC as Highways Authority to ascertain if - a) there is sufficient footpath width of 1.8m or more in order to site a charging unit, b) No other electrical equipment is within a 2.5m distance of the proposed site, c) there is a suitable UKPN power supply within the area of the site, d) the location is not directly outside the pathway leading to the premises that would impede access. The implementation of requests is also subject to the availability of funding.

Recommendation:	For the public Sustainability Forum to hold a session discussing electric vehicles with residents.
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Update:	We will hold a session on electric vehicles with the Sustainability Forum in the summer when the outcome of the current EV funding bid is known and the new Watford car club has gone live. We will invite representatives from our car club operator and/or other EV experts to present to the forum and invite questions and discussion.
Recommendation:	To continue to work collaboratively with Hertfordshire County Council to increase the charging infrastructure in Watford and to make the case to reinstate the use of lamp columns for that purpose as well as other public highway land.
Update:	Regular meetings continue to happen with HCC and other neighbouring local authorities with a view to highway land being made available for destination charging locations to be created. We have continued to raise this issue with HCC and they have now softened their approach for the use of lamp column charging. In order to use HCC lamp columns the asset needs to be a steel column which must be located at the front edge of the footpath (near the kerb edge/road). This is to deter trailing cables over the footpath.
Recommendation:	To develop an Electric Vehicle Strategy for Watford.
Update:	Through consultation with HCC we have been helping to develop the HCC Electric Vehicle Strategy with a view to adopting the main features to enable Watford to develop an EV strategy that would align with the Transforming Travel in Watford programme. The HCC EV Strategy is currently being finalised following consultation and is expected to be published in March 2023.
Recommendation:	To make further consideration about how the taxi fleet can be enabled to transition to more electric vehicles.
Update:	The 50% subsidised taxi licence fee for electric vehicles remains in place. This was discussed as part of the wider licensing fees and charges report considered at Licensing Committee on 12th January. Further in-house work to assess the feasibility of providing charging infrastructure will be undertaken. The current government funding criteria does not permit making bids for funding the installation of EV charge points to support taxis.



Executive Decision Progress Report

From May 2022

Contact Officer: Jodie Kloss
Senior Democratic Services Officer

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Email: democraticservices@watford.gov.uk

All officer decisions are available on the [Officer Decision Register](#) or on the full [Decision Register](#). Only key decisions are shown below. Further information about [forthcoming decisions](#) is available online.

Date key decision is due to be taken and by whom	Proposed decision published in the Notice of Executive Decisions	Details of the proposed decision	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private and what are the reasons for this?	Status
13 June 2022 Cabinet	28 January 2022	Voluntary Sector Commissioning Framework Lead officer: Chris Fennell	No	Approved by Cabinet on 13 June 2022
13 June 2022 Cabinet	16 May 2022	Shared Services Lead officers: Vivien Holland / Liam Hornsby	Yes part exempt on the grounds that it contains information that may enable the reader to identify an individual.	Approved by Cabinet on 13 June 2022
13 June 2022 Cabinet	16 May 2022	Delivering the Council Plan Lead officer: Donna Nolan	Yes on the grounds that the report contains information enabling readers to identify individuals.	Approved by Cabinet on 13 June 2022
11 July 2022	10 June 2022	South West Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Plan of Community Involvement, and Issues and Options (Regulation 18) Consultation Document Lead officer – Jack Green	No	Approved by Cabinet on 11 July 2022

Date key decision is due to be taken and by whom	Proposed decision published in the Notice of Executive Decisions	Details of the proposed decision	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private and what are the reasons for this?	Status
11 July 2022 Cabinet	10 June 2022	Town Hall and Colosseum Refurbishment – recommendation to appoint a main contractor Lead officer – Kate Harrison and Liam Hornsby	Yes on the grounds that it contains commercially sensitive information	Approved by Cabinet on 11 July 2022
19 July 2022 Cabinet and Council	13 May 2022	Council Plan 2022-26 and Delivery Plan 2022-24 Lead officers: Kathryn Robson and Liam Hornsby	No	Approved by Cabinet on 13 June 2022 and Council on 19 July 2022.
19 July 2022 Cabinet and Council	10 June 2022	Leisure Contract Extension Lead officer – Chris Fennell	Yes on the grounds that it contains commercially sensitive information	Approved by Cabinet on 11 July 2022 and Council on 19 July 2022.
September 2022 Mayoral decision	2 September 2022	Covid 19 Additional Relief Fund Scheme Lead officer – Jane Walker	No	Decision taken under urgency procedures in accordance with Access to Information Procedure Rule 16 of the council’s constitution.

Date key decision is due to be taken and by whom	Proposed decision published in the Notice of Executive Decisions	Details of the proposed decision	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private and what are the reasons for this?	Status
17 October 2022 Council	2 September 2022	Watford Local Plan Lead officer – Jack Green	No	Approved by Council on 17 October 2022
3 October 2022 Cabinet	2 September 2022	Riverwell Business Plan 2022/23 Lead officer – Peter Hall	Yes part exempt on the grounds that it contains information that may enable the reader to identify an individual.	Approved by Cabinet on 3 October 2022
2 November 2022 Mayoral delegated decision	24 October 2022	Introduction of charges for corporate and social responsibility activities within the River Colne programmes Lead officer – Paul Stacey	No	Decision taken under urgency procedures in accordance with Access to Information Procedure Rule 16 of the council's constitution.
28 November 2022 Cabinet	30 September 2022	Customer Experience Strategy 2022-2026 Lead officer – Liam Hornsby	No	Approved by Cabinet on 28 November 2022
28 November 2022 Cabinet	30 September 2022	CIL Spending Report Lead officer – Ben Martin	No	Approved by Cabinet on 28 November 2022

Date key decision is due to be taken and by whom	Proposed decision published in the Notice of Executive Decisions	Details of the proposed decision	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private and what are the reasons for this?	Status
28 November 2022 Cabinet	24 October 2022	Town Hall Quarter – New Neighbourhood – Selection of Preferred Bidder Lead officer – Julian Hart	Part exempt, paragraph 3 – the appendix will contain commercially sensitive information.	Approved by Cabinet on 28 November 2022
16 January 2023 Cabinet	9 December 2022	Woodside Master Plan update Lead officer- Abid Khalil	No	Approved by Cabinet on 16 January 2023
6 February 2023 Cabinet	9 December 2022	Authority Monitoring Report Lead officer – Jack Green	No	-
13 March 2023 Cabinet	6 January 2023	Town Hall and Colosseum Refurbishment - Award of Contract Lead officer – Liam Hornsby	Yes on the grounds that it contains commercially sensitive information	-

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2022/2023 work programme

Date	Publishing	Topics	Speakers
22 June	14 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New task group proposal: Sustainability Strategy OSC work programme 2022/23 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jodie Kloss (Senior Democratic Services Officer) Jodie Kloss (Senior Democratic Services Officer)
29 June	21 June	<i>Call-in only</i>	<i>Cancelled</i>
20 July	12 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on ArrivaClick contract Quarter 4 2021/22 Council Performance Report - to monitor and challenge results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alan Gough (Group Head of Community and Environmental Services), Chris Fennell (Head of Leisure and Environmental Services), Kim Bloomfield (Contract and Relationship Manager - Sustainable Transport) Liam Hornsby (Head of Enterprise Programme Management Office), Claire Dow (Business Intelligence Manager)
27 July	20 July	<i>Call-in only</i>	<i>To be cancelled if no call-in.</i>
21 September	13 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarter 1 2022/23 Council Performance Report - to monitor and challenge results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liam Hornsby (Associate Director of Customer and Corporate Services), Claire Dow (Business Intelligence Manager)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on WBC's Strategic Framework – to review progress achieved on the Council Plan and the Organisation Development Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kathryn Robson (Executive Head of Strategy & Initiatives (Communications, Partnerships & Community)), Liam Hornsby (Associate Director of Customer and Corporate Services), Executive Head of HR and OD
19 October	11 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voluntary Sector Commissioning Framework (End of Year Report – 2021-2022) – to review the end of year report Community Safety Partnership update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul Stacey (Associate Director of Environment), Julietta Federico (Contract and Relationship Manager) Liam Fitzgerald (Community Safety Manager)
16 November	8 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on voluntary sector strategy and W3RT task group 2020/2021 ICT Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul Stacey (Associate Director of Environment), Julietta Federico (Contract and Relationship Manager), representatives from W3RT Emma Tiernan (Associate Director of ICT & Shared Services)
13 December	6 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on WBC's Strategic Framework – to review progress achieved on the Council Plan and Organisation Development Strategy and Quarter 2 2022/23 Council Performance Report - to monitor and challenge results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liam Hornsby (Associate Director of Customer and Corporate Services), Kathryn Robson (Director of Performance), Claire Dow (Business Intelligence Manager)

01 February	24 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Electric Vehicles Task Group • Update on Sustainable Transport Strategy including task group recommendations • Sustainability Strategy Task Group final report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andy Smith (Senior Transport and Infrastructure Projects Officer) • Tom Dobrashian (Executive Director of Place) • Councillor Mark Hofman (Task Group Chair), Susheel Rao (Sustainability Officer)
22 February	14 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Safety Partnership – to review the update on the 2022/23 plan and consider objectives for 2023/24 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liam Fitzgerald (Community Safety Manager)
15 March	7 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on WBC’s Strategic Framework – to review progress achieved on the Council Plan and Organisation Development Strategy and Quarter 2 2022/23 Council Performance Report - to monitor and challenge results • Report it improvements • Customer Experience Strategy – delivery plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liam Hornsby (Associate Director of Customer and Corporate Services), Kathryn Robson (Director of Performance) Claire Dow (Business Intelligence Manager) • Danielle Negrello (Customer Experience Lead) • Danielle Negrello (Customer Experience Lead)

Other items to be scheduled

2023/24

- Update on ArrivaClick service (June/July 2023)
- Update on the waste and recycling service (beginning 23/24)
- Voluntary Sector Commissioning Framework Annual Report (July 2023)
- Parking services - resources and levels of responsiveness to residents' needs (Cllr Hannon suggestion)
- Review of CCTV service following move to new police station.
- Review changes to NLF applications following implementation.
- SLM contract update?