

Part A

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: Thursday, 21 October 2021

Report author: Senior Democratic Services Officer

Title: New scrutiny task group - Sustainable Transport Strategy

1.0 Summary

1.1 The Sustainable Transport Strategy will be a significant document for Watford providing a foundation for transport locally over the next 20 years.

1.2 Councillor Amanda Grimston has proposed that a scrutiny task group be established to review the draft strategy.

1.3 The scrutiny committee is asked to consider the scrutiny suggestion and, if approved, agree the membership and chair from amongst the nominations received.

2.0 Risks

2.1

Nature of risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response (treat, tolerate, terminate or transfer)	Risk Rating (combination of severity and likelihood)
The scrutiny committee does not agree to the suggestion.	Non-executive members will have less opportunity to shape the strategy prior to its consideration by Cabinet.	None	Tolerate	2

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 That Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the scrutiny proposal to review the Sustainable Transport Strategy.

- 3.2 If the scrutiny proposal is approved, that Overview and Scrutiny Committee agrees the task group's membership and chair.

Further information:

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

4.0 Detailed proposal

- 4.1 In recognition of the Climate Emergency, the borough's growing economy and the pressures on local infrastructure, Watford Borough Council and Hertfordshire County Council are jointly developing a Sustainable Transport Strategy.

- 4.2 The strategy has six objectives:

1. Cutting congestion
2. Providing for future journeys
3. Boosting health and wellbeing
4. Ensuring all our community benefits
5. Making best use of new technology
6. Delivering a great customer experience

- 4.3 The strategy went out for public consultation between 18 August 2021 and 13 October 2021. There were also a number of briefings for Watford councillors and local county councillors.

- 4.4 The draft Sustainable Transport Strategy sets out key actions to make travel more sustainable which include proposals on:

1. Active travel
2. Longer journeys
3. Alternatives to car ownership
4. Town centre
5. Supporting change
6. Moving goods

- 4.5 It is proposed that the task group:

- Review a summary of the key feedback from the public consultation.
- Review a number of key areas in the strategy which would most benefit from further member engagement.
- Produce a report to be presented to Cabinet alongside the strategy with any recommendations.

- 4.6 If agreed, the task group would take the form of a number of meetings with officers from both Watford Borough Council and Hertfordshire County Council during

November and December 2021. The task group would need to agree a schedule of meetings with relevant officers and may include some daytime meetings, subject to availability.

- 4.7 The task group's final report would be presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3 February 2022.
- 4.8 The strategy is due to be considered by Cabinet at their meeting on 28 February 2022.
- 4.9 The scrutiny committee is asked to approve the task group's membership and appoint a chair. Committee members are reminded that a task group should comprise between three and five non-executive councillors. A list of councillors who would like to be on the task group will be circulated to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to the meeting. This will also include details of those who have indicated that they are interested in chairing the task group.

5.0 **Implications**

5.1 **Financial**

- 5.1.1 The Shared Director of Finance comments that there are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

5.2 **Legal Issues (Monitoring Officer)**

- 5.2.1 The Group Head of Democracy and Governance comments that there are no legal implication arising directly from this report.

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

- 5.3.1 Having had regard to the council's obligations under s149, it is considered that any task group would need to take equalities obligations into account when making recommendations.
- 5.3.2 Having had regard to the council's obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018, it is considered that officers are not required to undertake a Data Processing Impact Assessment for this report.

5.4 **Staffing**

- 5.4.1 The task group will be managed by Democratic Services.

5.5 **Accommodation**

- 5.5.1 There are no accommodation implications as a result of this report.

5.6 **Community Safety/Crime and Disorder**

5.6.1 There are no community safety or crime and disorder implications as a result of this report.

5.7 **Sustainability**

5.7.1 Considering the sustainability implications will form a core part of the review of the strategy.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny task group proposal form

Appendix 2 – List of councillors interested in participating and supporting statements for the role of Chair (to follow)

Background papers

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report. If you wish to inspect or take copies of the background papers, please contact the officer named on the front page of the report.

- Emails from those councillors interested in taking part in the proposed task group.