

Part A

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: Wednesday, 22 June 2022

Report author: Senior Democratic Services Officer

Title: New scrutiny task group - Sustainability Strategy

1.0 Summary

1.1 The council is renewing its Sustainability Strategy which will be the foundation to the council's aim to achieve carbon net zero by 2030 and addressing the ecological emergency.

1.2 Councillor Ian Stotesbury, Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Transport, has proposed a task group to contribute to the new strategy.

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 Sustainability 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 The council's 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.
- 4.2 The new strategy will set out the roadmap to achieving the council's sustainability goals and provide ways of measuring the council's progress. It will be a cross-cutting document which sets out how different parts of the council will work with sustainability at the forefront
- 4.3 Member engagement with the strategy at an early stage in the process will be invaluable to ensure it meets the needs of the council and residents from across the town. A task group is therefore being proposed to contribute to the process before the strategy goes to Cabinet for approval.
- 4.4 The aims of the task group will include:
- 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 consider the governance and monitoring of the strategy following implementation.
- 4.5 If agreed, the task group will take the form of a number of meetings to coincide with the wider project timeline. It is anticipated that the group will need at least one session before and after the public consultation. As much as possible, undertaking the work in condensed daytime sessions will be pursued as an effective way of working.
- 4.6 Subject to member availability, the final report will be presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee in November or December 2022. The strategy will go to Cabinet in February 2023.

4.7 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 is attached at appendix 2. This also includes 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 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 implications in 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 There are no staffing implications.

5.5 **Accommodation**

5.5.1 There are no accommodation implications.

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 Focusing on sustainability is central to this piece of work.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny task group proposal form

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

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.