

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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • 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