

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:

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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.