

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT (1)

Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Online Meeting: [Access the online meeting here](#)

Date: Wednesday 8 July 2020

Time: 12.30 pm

The Agenda for the above meeting was published on 30 June 2020. Additional documents are now available and are attached to this Agenda Supplement.

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Kieran Elliott, of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line (01225) 718504 or email kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225)713114/713115.

This Agenda and all the documents referred to within it are available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

8 **Wiltshire Covid-19 Response Task Group Update** *(Pages 3 - 6)*

An update report from the Task Group is attached.

9 **Business Plan 2017-27: Climate Emergency Addendum and Update** *(Pages 7 - 8)*

At its meeting on 26 November 2019, Full Council received a motion to amend the council's Business Plan 2017-27 and the Leader committed to give prominence on the climate emergency in the plan.

The council's Business Plan will need to undergo a thorough review due to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and the upcoming elections in May 2021. To ensure that the plan gives prominence to the climate emergency it has therefore been proposed that a new section is added as an addendum to the current plan, pending the development of a new Business Plan for 2021 onwards. The council has considered amending the main body of the Business Plan as requested in the motion to Full Council on 26 November 2019. However, due to the necessity to thoroughly review the Business Plan in the coming 12 months it was felt more appropriate to insert a climate emergency addendum at this time.

The proposed addendum is attached here (as Environment Select Committee is not currently meeting). It has already been discussed by the Global Warming &

Climate Change Task Group and comments from the Task Group have been taken on board in the addendum's development. The final version will be brought to Full Council for adoption on 21 July 2020

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 7 July 2020

Wiltshire Council

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

8 July 2020

Wiltshire COVID-19 Response Task Group: Update on the meeting held on 7 July 2020

Purpose

1. To provide an update on the meeting of the Wiltshire COVID-19 Response Task Group held on 7 July 2020.

Recent activity

2. On 7 July 2020, the task group met to consider the following reports (links provided), which will be considered by Cabinet on 14 July 2020:

COVID-19 Update and Steps to Recovery

[Covid 19 and Recovery Cabinet Report FINAL](#)
[COVID-19 Recovery Plan v200702](#)

COVID-19 Financial Update and Period 2 Budget Monitoring

[Covid Update and Budget Monitoring Report Cabinet \(Period 2\)](#)
[Appendix A Annual TM Report 2019-2020](#)

3. The task group also considered an [individual Cabinet member decision](#) setting out options for the reopening of libraries within the Wiltshire Council during the COVID19 pandemic and seeking agreement of:
 - The consultation approach and timeline for reopening Wiltshire Libraries
 - The options for reopening during the pandemic to be consulted upon
 - A single member decision to be taken on the outcome of the consultation and final approach for reopening during the pandemic
4. Members were joined by the following guests:

Cllr Philip Whitehead	Leader of the Council
Cllr Richard Clewer	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Heritage, Arts & Tourism, Housing Communities
Cllr Pauline Church	Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement Commercial investment
Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling	Cabinet Member for ICT, Digitalisation, Operational Assets, Leisure & Libraries
Terence Herbert	Chief Executive Officer

Andy Brown	Interim Corporate Director for Resources and Section 151 Officer
Allison Elliot	Director for Adult Social Care
Sam Fox	Director for Economic Development and Planning
Ian Gibbons	Director for Legal and Governance
Jo Pitt	Director for HR and Organisational Design
David Redfern	Head of Communities
Lucy Townsend	Interim Corporate Director for People
Kartar Singh	Executive Officer
Henry Powell	Democracy Manager (Scrutiny)

Covid-19 Update, Recovery and Financial Update

5. The task group asked questions on the reports to Cabinet, covering following topics:
6. How to capture the energy shown by the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in responding to covid-19 will be carefully considered under the Community Resilience theme of the Recovery Plan.
7. The Economic Partnership Forum (which falls under the Economy theme of the Recover Plan) draws together a number of groups representing the Wiltshire business community e.g. Visit Wiltshire, the Federation for Small Business, Chambers of Commerce and Salisbury Business Improvement District (BID). The views of businesses are sought through these representative groups on issues such as the design of the discretionary grant scheme.
8. It was clarified that the Recovery Coordinating Group (RCG) is a multi-agency coordinating group populated by officers. Councillors form the stakeholder group and also undertake their scrutiny and decision-making roles in the normal way i.e. through overview and scrutiny, Cabinet and Full Council.
9. It was confirmed that the registrations service is now operational. Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) will continue to operate a booking system whilst social distancing is in place to limit the number of people on site for safety reasons. There has been a positive response to the booking system currently in place.
10. Clarity is being sought from Government on end-dates for schemes like the Business Support Grant scheme.
11. All Covid-19 patient discharges from hospital were funded by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). The council is now ensuring these patients are assessed in terms of care need and financial status to ensure the appropriate care arrangements are in place.
12. A significant backlog of medical procedures due to covid-19 is expected, along with an associated impact on adult social care demand. For example, someone

who's hip replacement has been delayed and needs some care support as a consequence.

13. Until further announcements from Central Government emerge, the council's funding gap cannot be accurately projected. It is therefore prudent to put in place financial controls in order to manage council spend.
14. Despite covid-19, results from a recent internal staff survey were more positive than those from the previous annual staff survey. Staff are being supported to maintain their wellbeing while working remotely through a package that includes a variety of online groups, activities and communication channels.

Re-opening of Libraries

15. Over 4000 responses to the consultation have already been received, suggesting a strong public interest in the libraries service. Rather than just lending books, all aspects of the modern library service are being considered, for example, providing internet access.

Proposal

16. To note the update on the meeting of the Wiltshire COVID-19 Response Task Group held on 7 July 2020.

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8 July 2020

Business Plan 2017-27: Climate Emergency Addendum

From its inception in 2009, Wiltshire Council committed to tackling carbon emissions by signing the Nottingham Declaration on climate change. The council produced an ECO Strategy in 2011 and signed up to Climate Local, the successor to the Nottingham Declaration, in 2014. In October 2019, the council was named the most climate-friendly council in England and Wales by Friends of the Earth having been assessed in different categories including renewable energy, public transport, lift-sharing, energy efficiency at home, waste recycling, and tree cover.

In February 2019 Wiltshire Council resolved to acknowledge the climate emergency and to seek to make the county of Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030. A Climate Emergency Task Group was set up to gather evidence and come up with recommendations on achieving net zero. Wiltshire Council's Cabinet subsequently committed to make the council carbon neutral by 2030.

A new carbon reduction strategy will be prepared to enable the council to meet these commitments. The plan will be evidence and data led and a baseline assessment will be undertaken to assist in identifying need and determining priorities. It is proposed that the plan will include a community led approach which engages, empowers, enables and communicates with Wiltshire communities and businesses.

Since the climate emergency was confirmed in Wiltshire, the council has progressed the following areas, recognising that this is the start of a journey:

- Committed to invest £5.2m to make its buildings more energy efficient
- Hosted a number of well-attended special climate change-themed area board meetings
- Secured all the electricity on its corporate contract from a green tariff from April 2020
- Supported the bid and invested to bring electric buses to Salisbury
- Bid for significant funding to improve public transport and cycle networks
- Set up Stone Circle Energy Company and committed to invest £3.5 million in sustainable energy projects across the county
- Committed to develop 1000 new council homes to a zero-carbon standard
- Funded a climate change team in the 2020/21 budget and appointed a Head of Carbon Reduction
- Committed to invest £12m on a major public highway LED light replacement project which is projected to reduce carbon emissions by 83% compared with 2013/14
- Joined forces with other councils through the Countryside Climate Network to ensure that the rural voice on climate action is listened to in Westminster

- Established that climate change and renewable energy is the top priority for residents surveyed in 2019
- Worked with partners to develop the vision for a green infrastructure network in Wiltshire
- Encouraged the public to make a Green Pledge

Carbon reduction will be a key theme in the council's recovery from Covid-19. As well as developing a new carbon reduction strategy, the council is carrying out a review of its Local Plan and developing its fourth Local Transport Plan. Carbon reduction will be an integral theme within these documents. The council is currently developing a Green Infrastructure Strategy. From this we will develop a woodland and tree planting policy.

The council is engaging with other public sector organisations through the Wiltshire Public Service Board and with businesses through the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP). The SWLEP has published its emerging Local Industrial Strategy which includes commitments to improving the strategic energy infrastructure, decarbonising our economy and helping to deliver the national climate change targets. The council will continue to engage with communities to work collaboratively towards achieving the country's decarbonisation goal.