

## **Wiltshire Council**

### **Environment Select Committee**

**3 March 2021**

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#### **Review of the work of the Environment Select Committee**

##### **Purpose**

1. To highlight key aspects of the work undertaken by the Select Committee during the 2017-21 council and to recommend topics as legacy items to the Management Committee for possible inclusion in a new overview and scrutiny work programme after the elections in May.

##### **Background**

2. An opportunity for Overview and Scrutiny (OS) to look back on its activity during the outgoing council is an important part of its learning and improvement journey. It allows councillors to:
  - a) review the key pieces of OS work undertaken over the past four years;
  - b) agree recommendations to OS under the next council in terms of work priorities;
  - c) agree recommendations to OS under the next council in terms of its approach (identifying strengths to retain and improvements to implement).
3. The legacy process allows members to consider OS's successes and challenges during the past four years, including the key scrutiny reviews and their impact on the council's agreed priorities. With the benefit of this experience it can then submit suggestions for OS under the 2017-21 council to consider maximising the impact of the work it will undertake.

##### **Key Activities and Achievements**

4. The following is a list of some of the Environment Select Committee's key past activities and achievements which demonstrates the contribution it has made to decision-making, policy development and good governance of the Council:

Please note that the public, formal activity of the Select Committee was suspended between March 2020 and January 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Activity	Date	Brief Explanation	Outcome
<b>Task Groups, Rapid Scrutiny Exercises and other ad hoc exercises</b>			
<b>Task Groups:</b>			
Highways and Street Scene	June 2016 – Nov 2017	Established to focus on the implementation of the new highways contract, including the proposed KPI's, performance framework, and monitoring.	Recommended, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• implement on-going scrutiny of the Annual National Highways and Transport Network Survey Report;</li> <li>• develop the public satisfaction survey;</li> <li>• improve co-ordination of road works with relevant bodies.</li> </ul>
Waste Contract	Feb 2018 – Jan 2019	Established to provide scrutiny and support for policies and programmes to increase recycling rates and reduce litter through the council's waste contracts (post-2017).	Recommended, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• better communications about good recycling and disposal practices;</li> <li>• greater use of fixed penalty notices (FPN) and easier reporting of fly-tipping.</li> </ul>
Late Night Taxi Fares	June 2018 – Jan 2019	Established to review the schedule of late-night tariffs for Hackney Carriages as adopted by the Licensing Committee in 2014.	Recommended, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a review of Wiltshire's late-night tariffs to support the county's late-night economy;</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an increase in the number of licensed vehicles with disabled access;</li> <li>• further safeguarding training for drivers.</li> </ul>
Homelessness Strategy	Dec 2018 – Sep 2019	Established to add value to the development and shaping of the council's homelessness policies, through the work around the council's Homelessness Strategy. Particularly focusing upon how the council could take preventative measures to reduce homelessness.	Recommended, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• early intervention by agencies to prevent homelessness;</li> <li>• emergency accommodation and the Rough Sleeper Outreach Team be prioritised;</li> <li>• improve information regarding homelessness on the council website.</li> </ul>
Housing Aids & Adaptations	Sep 2019 – March 2021	Established to review the council's, and its partners', approaches to meeting the requirements of households who live in a home adapted to meet their needs.	Recommended, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an adaptable affordable homes policy; to improve the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) process;</li> <li>• a reduction in the number of delayed transfer of care;</li> <li>• improved access to affordable housing for disabled people.</li> </ul>
Global Warming & Climate Emergency	June 2019 – to date	Established to make recommendations to achieve the council's target of a carbon neutral Wiltshire by 2030.	Detailed recommendations were set out in two reports covering energy, transport, air quality and planning.

<b>Rapid Scrutiny exercises:</b>			
Re-Commissioning of Housing Services Support Contract	June 2017	Established to discuss the approach when procuring new services and to help shape the outcomes required and the substance of what to commission.	Recommended, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• implement a system of monitoring and management of housing support contracts;</li> <li>• investigate incentives to move people on from Housing Support Services; to reduce the amount of temporary accommodation;</li> <li>• re-commission domestic abuse services.</li> </ul>
Plastic Waste for Roads	June 2018	Established to look at the feasibility of using waste plastics in road repair, resurfacing, and road building programmes.	Recommended, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• small-scale tests, using recyclable material on roads;</li> <li>• monitoring the development and application of other such initiatives in the UK.</li> </ul>
<b>Select Committee agenda items</b>			
Household Waste Management Strategy	Sep 2017 and further updates	Received updates on work undertaken, service performance and progress of the action plan.	Updates gave assurance on the progress of the Waste Management Strategy
Housing Board	Sep 2017 and further updates	Received updates on governance, work undertaken, current work and future developments.	Updates gave assurance on progress and performance management.

Highways Annual Review of Service	Nov 2017 and further updates	Received updates on work undertaken, current work and future developments.	Updates gave assurance on progress and performance management.
Local Transport Plan – Car Parking Strategy	Jan 2018	Received draft strategy options following a consultation process.	Supported cashless parking and recommended that resident parking zones be considered in the strategy.
Travellers Reference Group	Sep 2018 to date	Received updates on progress from the Reference Group and on the Traveller Strategy	Gave assurance on progress with the implementation of the Travellers' Strategy.
LED Lighting	Nov 2018	Report on proposal to replace current streetlighting with LED units.	Proposed dimming lights late at night and extending the scheme to other council owned areas e.g. car parks.
Salisbury Recovery Operation	Jan 2019	Presentation on economic impacts and recovery following Novichok nerve agent attack (March 2018)	Gave assurance on progress of the recovery programme.
Air Quality Strategy	April 2019	Report on the draft strategy to improve air quality in Wiltshire.	Raised challenge of improving air quality and the link between air quality and traffic congestion. Council should lobby Government for further legislation.
COVID-19 update	March 2021 to date	Received updates as to the council's COVID-19 response including areas within the remit of the committee	Raised issues with on-going support for businesses, creating safe spaces and supporting the homeless.

### Ongoing work

- The following is a list of activities and reviews which the Select Committee considers important to include as ongoing pieces of work in any new overview and scrutiny work programme. Every effort has been made to bring reviews to a conclusion in

time for the end of the current Council but clearly some things remain ongoing due to the significance or long-term nature of the topic.

Activity	Date	Brief Explanation	Reason for inclusion
<b>Task Group</b>			
Global Warming & Climate Emergency	June 2019 – to date	To continue to focus upon the development of a carbon neutral Wiltshire.	To reply to the Executive responses to its recommendations and to review the development of the climate strategy, including the consultation process.
<b>Select Committee items</b>			
COVID-19 updates	On going	To receive updates on the local response to the pandemic relevant to its remit	To monitor council's on-going response to the pandemic.
Business Plan	tbc	To review the any changes to the areas of the business plan covered by the Environment Select Committee	To ensure that the work of the committee is aligned with the council's Business Plan.
Climate change	tbc	To receive a draft strategy and action plans and to monitor progress.	To ensure that the county is on track to be carbon neutral by 2030.
Natural environment and the 'ecological crisis'	tbc	To receive plans and reports concerning the council's approach to protecting and preserving biodiversity, eco-systems and the ecology of the county.	To monitor how the council is working to protect and preserve the natural environment.

Local Plan Review	tbc	To receive updates on the development of the new Local Plan.	To consider areas of scrutiny involvement in the updated plan's development.
Local Transport Plan	tbc	To receive updates on the development of the new Local Transport Plan.	To consider areas of scrutiny involvement in the updated plan's development.
Waste	tbc	To receive updates on the household waste management strategy.	To monitor the delivery of the council's waste contracts and waste management strategy.
Highways	tbc	To receive updates on highways management.	To monitor the delivery of council's highways contracts and highways management.
Leisure Services	tbc	To receive regular updates on the new model for leisure services.	To consider areas of scrutiny involvement in the development and delivery of the new service model.
Library Service	tbc	To receive updates on the development of the library service.	To consider areas of scrutiny involvement during the recovery from the effects of the pandemic and changing service use.
Culture (arts, heritage)	tbc	To consider how council can support the development of the arts, heritage and cultural offer.	To consider areas of scrutiny involvement during the recovery from the effects of the pandemic. Also how to support the promotion of and access to culture and to strengthen links with tourism and local regeneration.

6. In considering which areas to recommend for future work, the Committee is asked to be mindful that the Management Committee will need to leave space and capacity for those leading the function after the election to develop their own work programme based of issues resulting from public views expressed during the election period and following early engagement with any new Executive.

### **Next Steps**

7. The Management Committee meets on 9 March 2021 and will receive the reports from the three select committees. It will also consider a similar report based on its activities primarily in the corporate arena. The members of the Management Committee will give their views on what should be included in a final legacy report which will be written by Scrutiny officers in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Following the elections this will then be made available to the new Management Committee, appointed by Council.

### **Recommendations**

8. To agree which topics to recommend to the Management Committee as requiring further work in the new Council, including reasons.
9. To note the next steps.

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Report author:

Simon Bennett, Senior Scrutiny Officer, 01225 718709 [simon.bennett@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:simon.bennett@wiltshire.gov.uk)