

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT ONLINE MEETING.

Present:

Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Christine Crisp, Cllr Kevin Daley, Cllr Stewart Dobson, Cllr Howard Greenman, Cllr Alan Hill (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Ruth Hopkinson, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Jo Trigg, Cllr Tony Trotman, Cllr John Walsh, Cllr Stuart Wheeler and Cllr Graham Wright (Chairman)

Also Present:

Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Pauline Church, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Tony Jackson, Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cllr Nick Murry, Cllr Bridget Wayman and Cllr Philip Whitehead

58 **Apologies**

There were no apologies.

59 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 August 2020 were presented, and it was,

Resolved:

To approve and sign the minutes as a true and correct record.

60 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations.

61 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman drew attention to Agenda Item 8, Forward Work Programme, and that a decision would be made on the operation of the Select Committees.

62 **Public Participation**

Questions from Members of the Public together with responses were included with the agenda supplement.

Mr Bill Jarvis provided a statement in relation to Agenda Item 7 - Report of the Global Warming and Climate Emergency Task Group – thanking the Task Group for its work, and also asking for additional clarity on policy, and highlighting the level of work that was needed to delivery on the recommendations. In particular he also focused on the need for an integrated travel and transport plan.

63 **Task Group Update**

A written update was provided on the Wiltshire Covid-19 Response Task Group. An update was also made regarding the membership of the Financial Planning Task Group.

It was,

Resolved:

- 1) **To note the update on Task Group activity provided.**
- 2) **To remove Councillor Tony Trotman from the Financial Planning Task Group membership, following his request to stand down.**
- 3) **To add Councillor Ruth Hopkinson and Stewart Dobson to the Financial Planning Task Group membership.**

64 **Report of the Global Warming & Climate Emergency Task Group (Part One)**

Following approval of a motion at Full Council in February 2019 to seek to make the council area carbon neutral by 2030 and acknowledgement of a climate emergency, and following a period of preparatory work by a Task Group since April 2019, the Environment Select Committee endorsed terms of reference for the Global Warming and Climate Emergency Task Group on 3 September 2019.

Among other details, the terms of reference had identified six core areas for investigation, being Renewable energy generation, energy use and efficiency; Planning; Transport and Air Quality; Waste; Land Use; Business and Industry. The first report of the Task Group, presented to the Committee by Councillor Graham Wright, Chairman of the Task Group, was focused upon the Energy and Transport and Air Quality workstreams, with the others to be addressed in further reports.

The Chairman of the Task Group presented the report, setting out the background and focus of the work, which had been extremely detailed and technically complex. He noted that the recommendations made presented difficult choices to be made around priorities and implementation.

In relation to energy, reducing energy demand, making new housing net carbon zero, updating existing council properties, providing support to homeowners, and investment in renewable energy were among the topics raised. In relation to transport and air quality it was raised that electric vehicles and investing in charging infrastructure would be key, along with encouraging the use of public transport, cycling and walking, and influencing public transport service providers to switch to low emission vehicles, and switching to investing in active travel infrastructure were among the topics raised.

Prior to statements and debate, the Chairman thanked all the witnesses listed in the report, including the many groups who had engaged with the Task Group across dozens of meetings. He thanked Simon Bennett, Senior Scrutiny Officer, for his work coordinating the work of the Task Group. He noted that there were lots of recommendations, and they could not all be delivered simultaneously, but were considered an ambitious target.

During debate, there was discussion with which groups had been engaged with by the Task Group. Several members praised the Task Group for engaging with such a wide variety of groups, which demonstrated the council's willingness to take action of interest to those groups, but a comment was made criticising in particular engagement with Extinction Rebellion as a result of their civil disobedience campaign. However, other members noted positive change could take place where groups considered that they were genuinely engaged with by decision makers.

The emphasis on cycle transport in the report was debated, with several members raising that as a large rural county with limited public transport networks, whilst cycling was an important activity to focus upon, there needed to be continued acknowledgement of the continued personal transport via car that would inevitably take place, and there would need to be infrastructure for non-pollutant vehicle options. Some comments were made regarding cycle friendly roads involved repairing edges of roads, which would also aid car transport. Seeking to prioritise school and work transport where possible to include cycling was raised.

The impact of housing development for carbon reduction was noted, and the extent to which the council could seek to influence developers was discussed.

The importance of plans for delivery of targets and recommendations was discussed

Councillor Philip Whitehead, Leader of the Council, also contributed to the debate, noting the large amount of work that had been undertaken. He noted the council's motion, which was to seek to make the council area carbon neutral by 2030, and in some areas felt that the council was already taking action or even exceeding recommendations, though in other areas was not yet taking the recommended action. The importance of prioritisation, particularly as the report covered only two of the six workstreams, was very important. Cost effectiveness and extent of carbon reduction achieved would be carefully assessed. He noted

upgrading of council housing, and the need to work with existing housing infrastructure specialists on electrification and hydrogen use.

Councillor Richard Clewer, Deputy Leader of the Council, also contributed by providing responses to questions submitted by the public, including not currently considering workplace parking levies might not be appropriate for Wiltshire, that emitting vehicles were a larger issue than road building itself. How the council could assist the take up of the green home initiative was being assessed, and it was noted the council had joined with other councils in a Countryside Climate Network for a focus on climate change and carbon reduction from a rural perspective. He also discussed options for monitoring of air quality, upgrading council housing to significantly their net carbon.

A full executive response would be provided on all the recommendations of the Task Group, but there would be discussion on responding between meetings as well. It was also noted that projects such as retrofitting council buildings were taking place to achieve carbon reduction targets without simply waiting for proposals from the Task Group, where this was possible.

During debate the Committee also heard from Bill Jarvis, Brig Oubridge and Shelley McCarthy, and received a presentation from Ariane Crampton, Head of Carbon Reduction, which is attached to the minutes.

At the conclusion of debate, it was,

Resolved:

- 1) **To endorse the first report of the Global Warming and Climate Change Task Group and refer it to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Climate Change, Corporate Services, Asset Transfer, Arts, Heritage and Tourism, and the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste for response at the next meeting of the Environment Select Committee or Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee as appropriate.**
- 2) **And for the Task Group to take consideration of the comments made by the Committee during its debate.**

65 **Forward Work Programme**

The Committee received the Forward Work Programmes for Overview and Scrutiny and considered whether it was appropriate to resume operation of the Select Committees, which had not met formally since April 2020 as a result of Covid-19. It was stated each Select Committee would need to review any historical plan items in light of the changed council situation, and the availability of partner bodies.

Resolved:

- 1) **The select committees to resume formal meetings in November, focusing on the COVID-19 response and recovery.**

- 2) **The select committee chairmen, Executive and Corporate Leadership Team to discuss the operation of these meetings in order to make them as efficient and effective as possible.**
- 3) **The COVID-19 Response Task Group to be stood down and the Financial Planning Task Group to resume formal meetings and lead finance scrutiny.**

66 **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 18 November 2020.

67 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 12.10 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Kieran Elliott of Democratic Services, direct line (01225) 718504, e-mail kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk

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Climate Programme

Ariane Crampton, Head of Carbon Reduction

What is our Climate Agenda for Wiltshire?

1. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions rapidly across the county. The council has stated an ambition to seek to make Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030 which will require large scale, coordinated change across all sectors of the economy, homes and transport.
2. Improving our resilience to the changes in climate Wiltshire will face, such as hotter drier summers, warmer wetter winters, increased frequency of extreme weather and flooding.

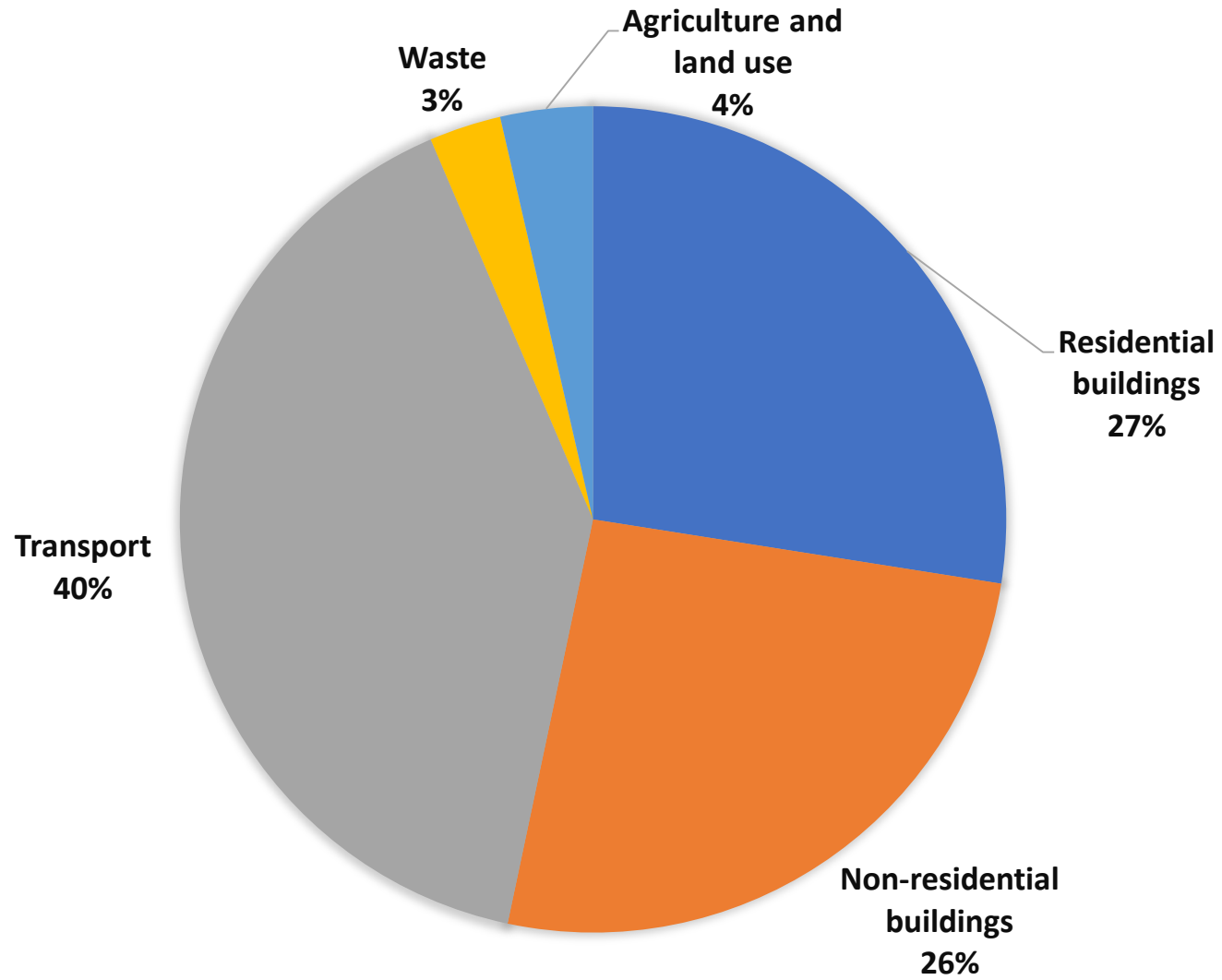


Wiltshire's carbon footprint

- Current footprint estimated in 2019 using the SCATTER tool for local authorities (Setting City Area Targets and Trajectories for Emissions Reduction)
- The total level of emissions is 3.465m tCO₂e per annum. Based on a population of 498,000 this gives emissions per head of 7 tCO₂e per annum.
- NB the tool does not include emissions from imported goods, as SCATTER provides a location based rather than a consumption based emissions profile.
- The sources of emissions are...

WILTS GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS - SCATTER ANALYSIS

2019



Stakeholders include...

- Public sector partners – Wiltshire Public Service Board, schools
- Businesses – Local Enterprise Partnership, Chambers of Commerce, trade bodies
- Voluntary and community sector
- Local residents

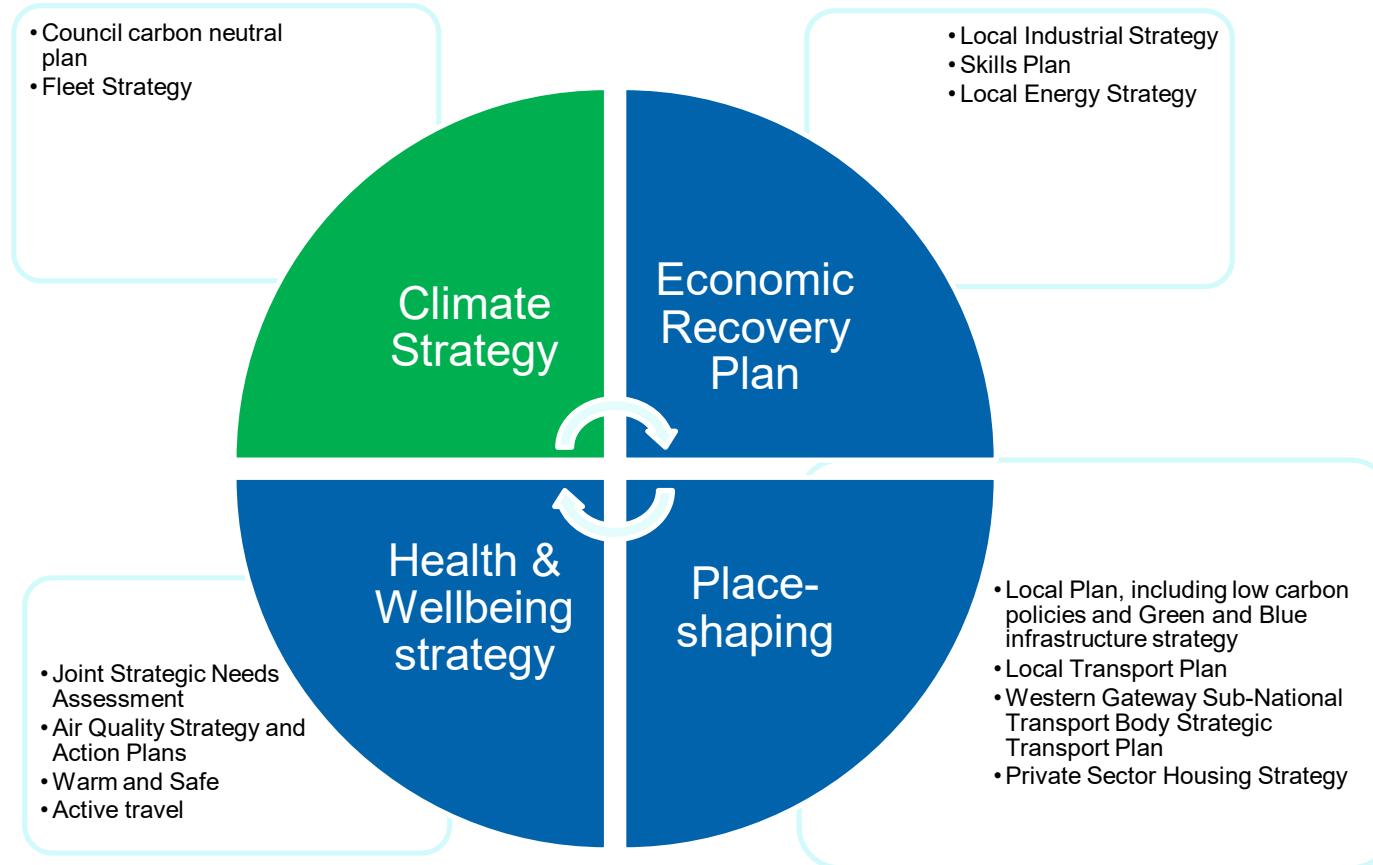


Swindon & Wiltshire
LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

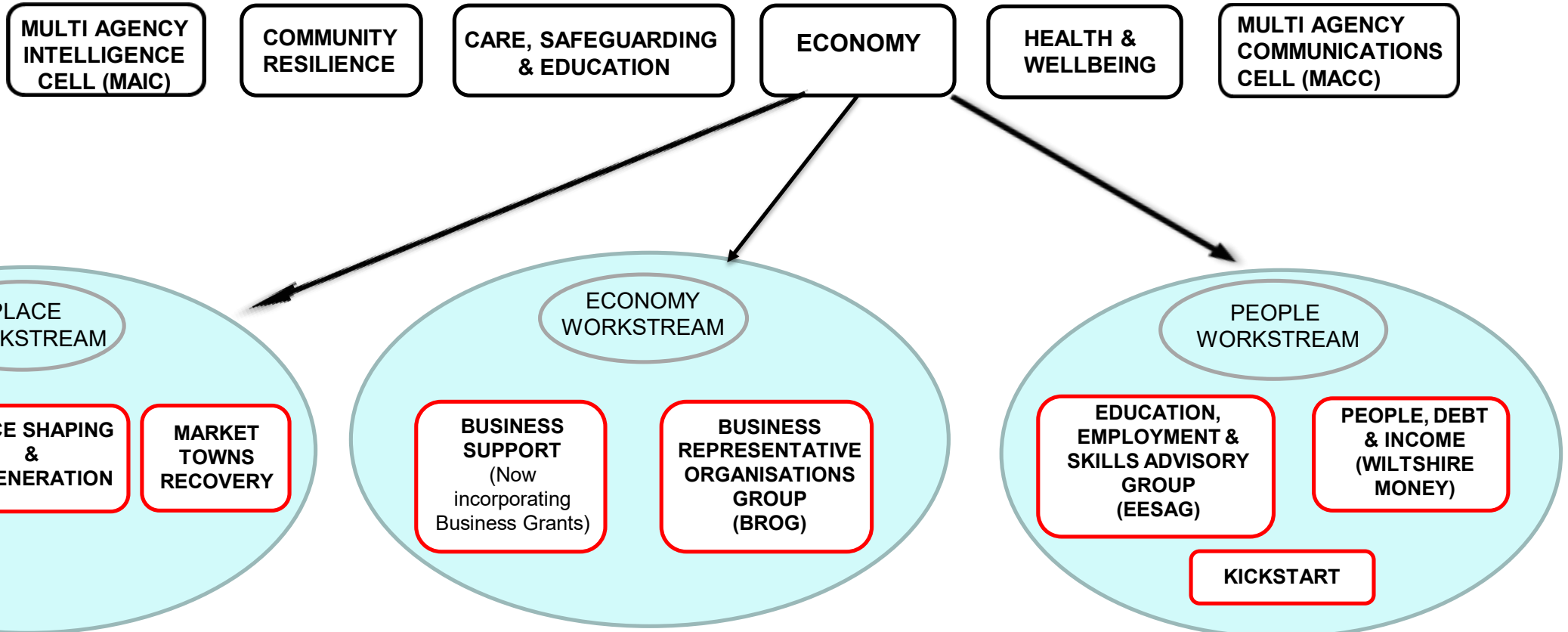



Wiltshire College
& University Centre

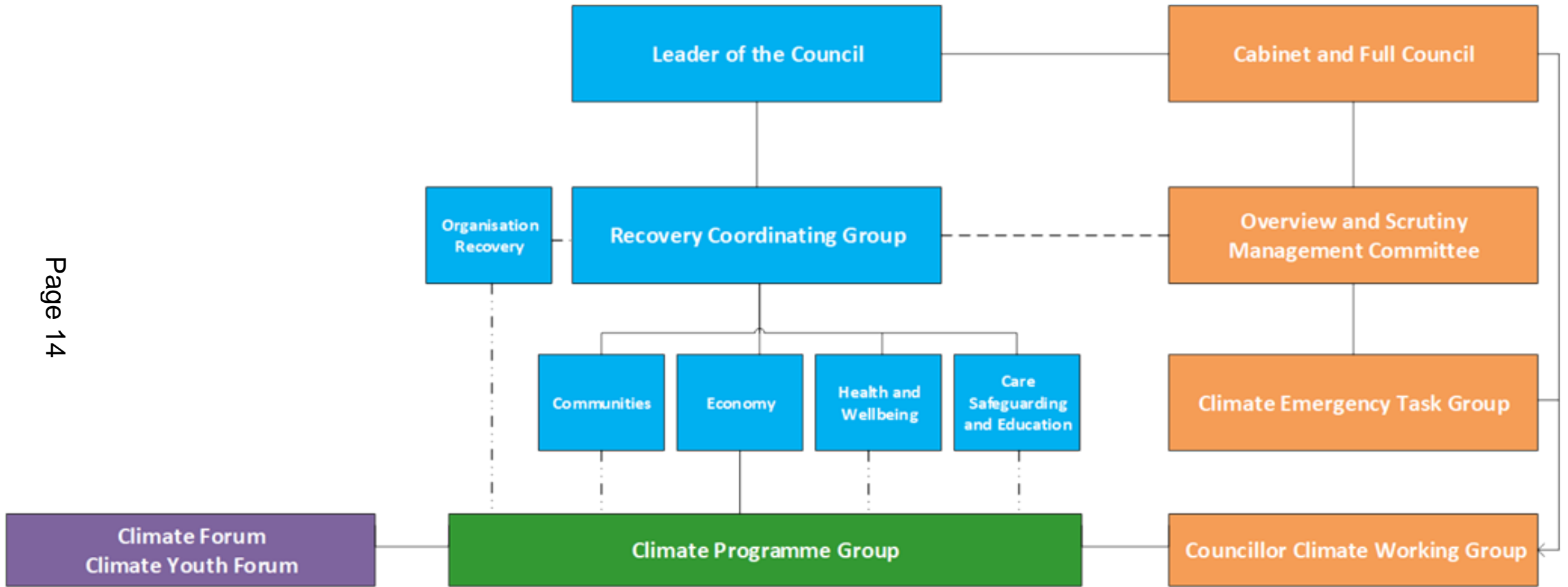
Where does a new Climate Strategy fit in?



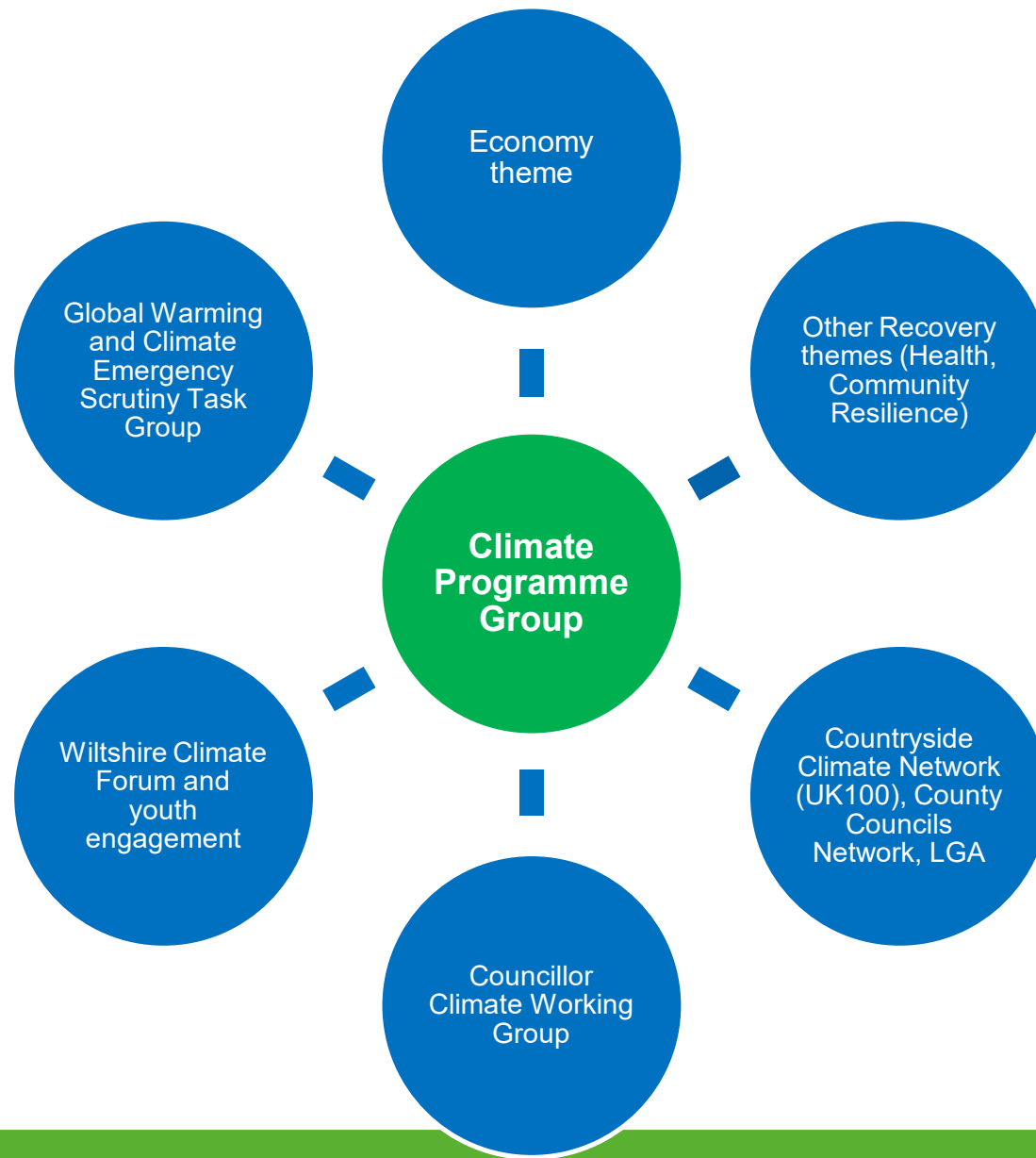
RECOVERY CO-ORDINATION GROUP (RCG)



 = Task & Finish Groups



Governance





Indicative timeline

- **Summer:**
 - establish council baseline (LGA tool)
 - engagement with environmental groups – pre partnership forum
- **Autumn:**
 - Councillor Climate Working Group meets
 - Initial Task group recommendations available
 - Climate team in post
 - First meeting of Climate Programme Group
 - Development of Strategy

Indicative timeline contd

- **Winter:**
 - 6 monthly update to February Cabinet and Council
 - draft strategy to February Cabinet
- **Spring:**
 - consult on strategy, alongside green and blue infrastructure strategy
 - review strategy in light of consultation
- **Summer:**
 - strategy adopted by Cabinet and Council