

Wiltshire Council

Environment Select Committee

18 December 2018

Task Group and Programme Boards Representatives Updates

Purpose

To provide an update on recent task group and programme board activity and propose any decisions requiring Committee approval.

1. Homelessness Strategy Task Group

Membership:

Cllr Matthew Dean

Cllr David Halik

Cllr Deborah Halik

Cllr Gordon King

Cllr Pip Ridout

Cllr Tom Rounds

Cllr John Walsh

Cllr Graham Wright (Chairman)

Supporting Officer: Natalie Heritage

Terms of Reference:

1. To support the development of a Homelessness Strategy which aims to prevent and reduce homelessness in Wiltshire by considering:

- a) Partnership working arrangements - which can help to facilitate a holistic response to the causes of homelessness and the accessibility of advice and information around homelessness and housing options
- b) Projections of homelessness in the county
- c) The availability of suitable and appropriate accommodation
- d) Provision for the needs of vulnerable groups deemed as most at risk of homelessness
- e) The reasons why individuals become either at risk of or homeless

2. To meet every 8 weeks or on an ad-hoc basis as appropriate, until the conclusion of the Cabinet's work in in drafting a Homelessness Strategy September 2019.

Recent activity:

The task group had their first meeting on 17 December 2018, where Cllr Graham Wright was elected as Chairman of the Task Group. The members were provided with the Council's most recent paperwork from the 'Homeless Review'; which local authorities are required to carry out on an annual basis. The Director of Housing and Commercial Development and the Head of Housing provided the Task Group with a presentation, alongside this paperwork.

The meeting gave the Group a sound overview for how housing operates in Wiltshire and how the Council actively works to reduce homelessness in the county, within the relevant legislative frameworks. Members were also briefed on the partners and agencies involved in this process.

The next meeting of the task group will take place on 15 January. The Task Group are hoping to consider the draft Homelessness Strategy at this meeting. In the case that the Strategy is not yet ready for them to consider, the Task Group will be speaking to partners from within Debt Advice, as well as Resolving Housing Benefit Problems and resolving Rent or Service Charge Arrears and considering how these agencies work alongside the Council to help reduce the issue of homelessness in Wiltshire.

2. Rapid Scrutiny: Plastic Waste for Wiltshire's roads

Membership:

Cllr Trevor Carbin

Cllr Tony Jackson

Cllr Jacqui Lay

Cllr Brian Mathew (Chairman)

Supporting Officer: Marie Gondlach

Recent Activity:

The Rapid Scrutiny met on 3 October 2018 and received a comprehensive presentation from MacRebur (website can be accessed [here](#)).

Since then work has focused on contacting local authorities who have either used MacRebur for some of their road surfacing or who are engaging with innovative solutions for reusing / recycling plastic waste.

It has been an engaging, but also challenging, rapid scrutiny as there is such diversity at a local, national and international level in tackling the issue of plastic waste. The rapid scrutiny is now focusing on using the evidence it has gathered to provide a logical, efficient and manageable plan for the Environment Select Committee to monitor local, national and international programmes with regards to dealing with plastic waste and the council's performance in that area.

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