

NOTICE
OF
MEETING

**COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
PANEL**

will meet on

TUESDAY, 12TH APRIL, 2022

At 7.00 pm

In the

GREY ROOM - YORK HOUSE, AND ON [RBWM YOUTUBE](#)

TO: MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

COUNCILLORS JOHN BOWDEN (CHAIRMAN), GREG JONES (VICE-CHAIRMAN),
GURPREET BHANGRA, HELEN PRICE, CATHERINE DEL CAMPO,
MARGARET LENTON (WRAYSBURY PARISH COUNCIL) AND PAT MCDONALD
(WHITE WALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL)

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

COUNCILLORS CLIVE BASKERVILLE, MAUREEN HUNT, LEO WALTERS, JON DAVEY
AND CHRIS TARGOWSKI

Karen Shepherd – Head of Governance - Issued: 4 April 2022

Members of the Press and Public are welcome to attend Part I of this meeting. The agenda is available on the Council's web site at www.rbwm.gov.uk or contact the Panel Administrator **Becky Oates** Rebecca.Oates@RBWM.gov.uk

Recording of Meetings – In line with the council's commitment to transparency the Part I (public) section of the virtual meeting will be streamed live and recorded via Zoom. By participating in the meeting by audio and/or video, you are giving consent to being recorded and acknowledge that the recording will be in the public domain. If you have any questions regarding the council's policy, please speak to Democratic Services or Legal representative at the meeting.

AGENDA

PART I

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE NO</u>
1.	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> To receive any apologies for absence.	-
2.	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> To receive any declarations of interest.	3 - 4
3.	<u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 17 January 2022.	5 - 10
4.	<u>ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING</u> To confirm the actions from the minutes of the previous meeting.	-
5.	<u>CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY</u> To receive a report on the above based on the scoping document produced by the panel.	11 - 16
6.	<u>COMMUNITY FACILITIES REVIEW</u> To receive the above.	Verbal Report
7.	<u>ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT</u> To approve the final version of the Annual Scrutiny Report.	17 - 22
8.	<u>WORK PROGRAMME</u> To consider the Panel's work programme for the remainder of the Municipal year. To include consideration of items scheduled on the Cabinet Forward Plan .	23 - 24

MEMBERS' GUIDE TO DECLARING INTERESTS AT MEETINGS

Disclosure at Meetings

If a Member has not disclosed an interest in their Register of Interests, they **must make** the declaration of interest at the beginning of the meeting, or as soon as they are aware that they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) or Other Registerable Interest. If a Member has already disclosed the interest in their Register of Interests they are still required to disclose this in the meeting if it relates to the matter being discussed.

Any Member with concerns about the nature of their interest should consult the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

Non-participation in case of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI)

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your DPIs (summary below, further details set out in Table 1 of the Members' Code of Conduct) you must disclose the interest, **not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room** unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest' (as agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer), you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest. Dispensation may be granted by the Monitoring Officer in limited circumstances, to enable you to participate and vote on a matter in which you have a DPI.

Where you have a DPI on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet Member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it.

DPIs (relating to the Member or their partner) include:

- *Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.*
- *Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses*
- *Any contract under which goods and services are to be provided/works to be executed which has not been fully discharged.*
- *Any beneficial interest in land within the area of the council.*
- *Any licence to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer.*
- *Any tenancy where the landlord is the council, and the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest in the securities of.*
- *Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where:*
 - a) that body has a place of business or land in the area of the council, and*
 - b) either (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body **or** (ii) the total nominal value of the shares of any one class belonging to the relevant person exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.*

Any Member who is unsure if their interest falls within any of the above legal definitions should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

Disclosure of Other Registerable Interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to one of your Other Registerable Interests (summary below and as set out in Table 2 of the Members Code of Conduct), you must disclose the interest. **You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting** but otherwise **must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation**. If it is a 'sensitive interest' (as agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer), you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Other Registerable Interests (relating to the Member or their partner):

You have an interest in any business of your authority where it relates to or is likely to affect:

- a) any body of which you are in general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority*
- b) any body*
 - (i) exercising functions of a public nature*
 - (ii) directed to charitable purposes or*

one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union)

Disclosure of Non- Registerable Interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to your financial interest or well-being (and is not a DPI) or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, you must disclose the interest. **You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting** but otherwise **must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation**. If it is a 'sensitive interest' (agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer) you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **affects** –

- a. your own financial interest or well-being;
- b. a financial interest or well-being of a friend, relative, close associate; or
- c. a body included in those you need to disclose under DPIs as set out in Table 1 of the Members' code of Conduct

you must disclose the interest. In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied.

Where a matter **affects** your financial interest or well-being:

- a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
- b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise **must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation**. If it is a 'sensitive interest' (agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer, you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Other declarations

Members may wish to declare at the beginning of the meeting any other information they feel should be in the public domain in relation to an item on the agenda; such Member statements will be included in the minutes for transparency.

Agenda Item 3

COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

MONDAY, 17 JANUARY 2022

PRESENT: Councillors John Bowden (Chairman), Greg Jones (Vice-Chairman), Gurpreet Bhangra, Helen Price and Catherine Del Campo

Also in attendance: Councillor Clive Baskerville, Councillor Samantha Rayner, Councillor Donna Stimson, Councillor David Hilton, Councillor David Cannon, Ian Brazier-Dubber, Councillor John Baldwin and Councillor Gurch Singh

Officers: Shilpa Manek, David Scott, Andrew Durrant, Laurence Ellis and Christopher Wheeler

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and read out the online meeting information.

The Panel introduced themselves, as did Officers present.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor Pat McDonald.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: that the minutes of the meetings held on 7 October 2021, 9 November 2021 and 18 November 2021 as a true and accurate record.

Councillor Del Campo would email the Clerk if she had any changes on 7 October 2021.

Subject to no changes from Councillor Del Campo, these were proposed by Councillor Bhangra and seconded by Councillor Jones.

Councillor Price asked to go through all the Matters Arising, as follows:

- Page 17, 3rd paragraph, It had been suggested that the resident request be relooked at in three months. **ACTION: this would be placed on the work programme for April 2022.**
- Page 19, to place the Community Safety Partnership on the work programme. **ACTION: this was on the work programme.**
- Page 19, to place food banks on the work programme. **ACTION: Look into working with Councillor Price on a scoping document.**
- Page 23, a brochure for Tivoli was to be distributed to Parish Councils and Town Forum Members. **ACTION: Had this been completed, Clerk to follow up on this.**

- Page 25, the Panel agreed in the summary of the debate that communications needed to be improved and Councillor Price felt they had not improved since the meeting. **ACTION: Inform Alysse Strachan and report back.**
- Page 26, to place the air quality item suggested by Infrastructure O & S panel on the work programme. **ACTION: this was on the work programme.**

Q2 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

Andrew Durrant, Executive Director of Place Services, gave a short overview and some detail around the Q2 performance and data report on page 27 in the agenda pack. Andrew Durrant reminded Members that the new Corporate Plan was adopted on 23rd November 2021 which set out the Council's new strategic priorities for the next five years, from 2021 to 2026. The report covered the 2021/22 Q2 data and performance and progress in relation to the council's interim strategy. The report also acknowledged the new performance reporting arrangements that were agreed by Cabinet on 16th December 2021, that would take effect from 1 April 2022. Members had been given a presentation on 4 January 2022 that explained the new performance arrangements in detail, by the Monitoring Officer.

There were six out of seven measures either meeting or exceeding the targets and the last one was just short of meeting the target but within meeting the set tolerances. In terms of the recovery strategy, there had been a series of campaigns launched to provide reassurance to returning visitors. The Q2 period saw the return of some of the larger events that the borough was used to hosting such as the Royal Horse Show and Royal Ascot. Andrew Durrant also mentioned the footfall across the main towns continued to be encouraging. Some ongoing work for the environment and climate strategy, the council had been able to secure a further £165,000 of grants funding from the low carbon skills fund and this would enable heat decarbonization assessments and development plans across the majority of the council's-built estates including schools, libraries, the Town hall and the Guildhall. The formation of a RBWM climate partnership had been approved to provide more visible leadership for communication, engagement and delivery of the borough-wide environment and climate strategy. The next phase of embedding community response was launched in Maidenhead as part of the transformation strategy and the Maidenhead project had started to develop partnerships to address some of the health inequalities affecting disadvantaged communities. Quarter two also saw the launch of the engagement HQ platform for community engagement and empowerment. Also, the engagement with community and cultural groups had been established with a series of health and well being workshops. The Tivoli performance was commented on and Andrew Durrant would follow up on the outstanding actions.

Councillor Del Campo commented that all the figures looked good except the Tivoli performance. The headline performance figure for recycling, especially over Christmas, did not reflect the difficulties that residents had, with three-week bin collections and assisted collections. The Executive Director commented that there had been a low level of issues in relation to waste collection. The change had gone very well but there had been some things that could have been done better. It was suggested that a detailed report on the transfer be presented to the Panel at a future meeting to understand what was done, how it was done and see if it could be done better next time.

ACTION: Report to a future Panel meeting after a few months of the changes

Councillor Del Campo asked if the assisted collections could be looked into and fixed as soon as possible as these were for vulnerable residents.

The Chairman commented that SERCO had done very well considering it was a four-day bank holiday after a long time.

Councillor Del Campo asked about what work had been done with businesses in the borough to reduce the amount of plastic and non-recyclable waste that was generated. Councillor Stimson commented that soft plastics could be taken back to some supermarkets. A list was in the process of being developed by the team of 'what could be taken where' for residents.

Councillor Del Campo asked if the new performance system would give the Panel, a real-time snapshot of what was going on and Andrew Durrant confirmed that it would give real-time information to extract for the here and now rather than being a historical view back. The performance management team were currently looking at the best way to bring these reports to the Overview and Scrutiny Panels. Councillor Rayner confirmed what Andrew Durrant had said and commented that it was more useful to deal with the matters in a more timely manner.

Councillor Price asked about the engagement of the biodiversity action plan with key stakeholders and asked why Members had not been considered to be key stakeholders. Councillor Price had tried to get a briefing, but this had still not taken place. Councillor Price asked why councillors were being excluded. Councillor Stimson gave an update that the borough was at the stage where they had been working with Wild Maidenhead, Wild Cookham and Wild Eton Wick. The project was being half run by experts and the other half by expert officers. The action plan was now with the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxford Wildlife Group & Trust.

ACTION: Councillor Stimson to give further update to Councillor Price after meeting with Andrew Durrant.

Councillor Price asked about the recovery strategy and that she had suggested that the implications of long covid be covered on the borough's population and residents since there were currently two percent of residents that we knew very little about and had not been mentioned in the strategy. Councillor Price still felt that these should be included.

Councillor Price referred to the report on page 41 and the reference to the quarterly Cabinet Transformation Sub Committee which had not met on a regular basis. It also mentioned that Dedworth library would establish a partnership for librarians to extend into Windsor but this had come to a standstill because of staffing issues and trying to find a head librarian in Dedworth so this had still not progressed from six months ago. Councillor Price continued that page 41 referred to the BAME community but there was no reference to Windsor or the Windsor Muslim Association who always got left out of everything. Councillor Price commented that being a learning organisation, there never seemed to be discussion on added value or lessons learnt from failures or from things that had not worked and how things could be improved for the next time.

DRAFT ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT

The Clerk asked the Panel for comments on the draft annual scrutiny report. This was the first draft, and all comments would be added and then a final report would be agreed at the next meeting in April, before it went to cabinet in June.

Councillor Price commented that there was a requirement that the report be produced but no use was made of it. In the last two year's report, proposals had been made to increase improvement to the working methods, but these were not followed and the report was never referred to throughout the year.

Councillor Del Campo commented that the Panels felt more like overview meetings where not much scrutiny was done. There were many meetings that covered many items over the last year and going forward it would be better to have fewer meeting looking at less items but in more detail.

The Clerk commented that we were doing better and that District Enforcement, Serco and Tivoli were very productive and we did better scrutiny for these items.

ACTION: Any comments for the draft Annual Scrutiny Report to be sent to the clerk in the next ten days.

WORK PROGRAMME

The Panel went through the work programme and that the next meeting, so far, consisted of Q3 Interim Performance Management Report and the resident item about parking on footpaths and verges. Also items still not scheduled included Community Safety Partnership and the Waste Management Strategy. There was also Serco update, Boulters Lock progress, Food Banks and Air Quality. The Clerk reminded all that a scoping document would be required if the item was to be put on the agenda with reasons why the item was down for scrutiny. Councillor Del Campo asked about Norden Farm and The Old Court. Councillor Del Campo had asked for the items to place before the budget discussion at Full Council which had not been possible. Andrew Durrant commented that conversations were taking place between Norden Farm and Officers. Andrew Durrant and the Clerk would check when the Norden Farm item would be available to be discussed at a public panel.

ACTION: Report back on Norden Farm

Councillor Price commented that the Waste contract item was on the cabinet forward plan, many changes had taken place, but the Panel had not been kept informed. Councillor Price suggested it be put on the work programme. The Clerk suggested speaking with Alysse Strachan first and discussing if the item needed to go on the work programme.

Councillor Price reminded the panel that the Sports strategy and leisure centres had been suggested previously for the work programme. Andrew Durrant commented that this was a good idea for a future meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to add to work programme under items not yet scheduled

The Clerk then referred to the first of the two scoping documents on Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy that Councillor Del Campo had prepared. The Clerk read out a statement from the Officers. It read:

We are currently drafting our End of Year Report which details progress against targets set out in the Environment and Climate Strategy. This was a commitment made in the strategy document itself. It details progress against the headline carbon target as well as against the actions detailed in the delivery plan. This will be published early in the Spring and may well cover much of what the Panel is looking for.

Many of the key headline targets rely on government being published by national government. This includes Borough carbon emissions and renewable energy generation in the Borough. These are only published once a year.

As agreed by Cabinet, we are currently going through the process of setting up an independent climate partnership that will support deliver of the Environment and Climate Strategy. This is due to be in place from Spring 2022.

In terms of current scrutiny of the work we undertake, we have bi-weekly Lead Member Briefings and month shadow lead member briefings.

Councillor Stimson added that a lot of work had been done and it would be better to leave to the summer.

Councillor Del Campo was very pleased that the borough were already working towards the borough's targets. Councillor Del Campo wanted to add more to the scoping document with respect to the air particulate monitoring that had been agreed at Full Council, Clause 2, to review the borough's air quality improvement action plan in light of the updated food guidelines.

ACTION: Ask James Thorpe for another update for April meeting and add to Agenda when mote timely. Keep on work programme.

The second scoping document was on the Community Facilities Review. Ian Brazier-Dubber, Property Manager for the RBWM Property Company, informed the Panel that the report had been produced by his predecessor, Barbara Richardson. The report was to group and develop a set of community facilities in the Holmanleaze area in Maidenhead and provide a new set of community facilities. The main idea was to generate some income from the development of the Ivy Leaf Club, where a multi-use community facility could be built along with affordable housing. Further work was required to see if the improvements to the community facilities accommodated those uses appropriately and also be able to find a source of funding for them.

Councillor Price made some comments on the scoping documents. These included including the neighbours of the site such as the mosque and the park users and broaden out the people who would have views on the proposals. The local community were unaware of the proposals for the project. Councillor Price felt that a lot more work was required. Councillor Price also commented that there was a corporate risk if the project did not go ahead as there would be a loss of affordable housing. The review timescale was 31 October which had been passed as it was only being discussed now. It had disappeared from the Cabinet forward plan so Councillor Price asked about the timeframe. The Clerk suggested adding all the comments to the scoping document and then it be sent to the Panel for comments again and then have on the April meeting agenda for another discussion.

Councillor Del Campo suggested that views from all around the sites be collated and the Disability and Inclusion Forum may have some views. The Clerk commented that the Property Manager had presented at the last Disability and Inclusion Forum and had been kept informed. And the Licensing Panel be kept informed as it was moving licenced premises out into residential areas from the town centre. Councillor Del Campo also suggested Community and Religious groups. The scoping document did not set out the success criteria and the resources. Councillor Del Campo suggested a site visit.

The meeting, which began at 7.00 pm, finished at 8.35 pm

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....

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Report Title:	Environment and Climate Strategy - End of Year Update
Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	No - Part I
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Stimson, Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Sustainability
Meeting and Date:	Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel – 12th April
Responsible Officer(s):	Chris Joyce – Head of Infrastructure, Sustainability and Economic Growth Andrew Durrant – Executive Director of Place Services
Wards affected:	All

www.rbwm.gov.uk



REPORT SUMMARY

The Council declared an Environment and Climate Emergency in June 2019 and adopted its Environment and Climate Strategy in December 2020. From that moment, the Council has been working to deliver against the objectives set out across the four themes, Energy, Natural Environmental, Transport and Circular Economy.

A key priority has been increasing the size of the officer team delivering this work, conducting feasibility to better understand the Council's estate, setting up the Climate Partnership and securing external funding to accelerate our plans.

The end of year update attached to this report provides detailed progress against the action plan. Overall there has been a reduction in the Council's emissions as well as the Borough's emissions although the data available for the Borough is two years delayed and therefore it is difficult to draw conclusions from.

The Council has also made strong progress on embedding sustainability into all it does with the Corporate Plan highlighting action on climate change and the environment as one of three priorities in the adopted Corporate Plan as well as 10 of the 50 goals in the plan.

DETAILS OF RECOMMENDATION(S)

RECOMMENDATION: That Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel notes the report and end of year update.

1. REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) AND OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Options

Table 1: Options arising from this report

Option	Comments
Note the report and comment This is the recommended option	None

- 1.1 The report recommends noting the content and seeks members views and questions arising from it.

2. KEY IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 The Council has committed to delivering the Environment and Climate Strategy. In addition, the Corporate Plan makes tackling climate change a priority for the Council with 6 goals in the plan directly related to the strategy and a number of others that are related to climate change and the environment.
- 2.2 The actions set out in the Strategy will not only reduce the Council's environmental impact but it will also reduce the Council's energy spend to ensure we can deliver best value to residents.
- 2.3 The strategy also focuses on wider actions in the Borough such as supporting homes to reduce their emissions and reversing biodiversity decline by implementing a new Biodiversity Action Plan. These actions will directly support the Council's ambition to create a sustainable borough of opportunity and innovation.

Table 2: Key Implications

Outcome	Unmet	Met	Exceeded	Significantly Exceeded	Date of delivery
50% reduction in Council emissions by 2025	Less than a 50% reduction.	50% reduction	A 50% reduction earlier than 2025.	A greater than 50% reduction by 2025.	31 st March 2026.
50% reduction in Borough emissions by 2025	Less than a 50% reduction.	50% reduction	A 50% reduction earlier than 2025.	A greater than 50% reduction by 2025.	31 st March 2026.

3. KEY OUTCOMES

Resourcing

- 3.1 The Council has put in place strong foundations for future delivery of its ambitious Strategy. It has significantly grown its Sustainability and Climate Change team to increase its capacity. The team is now made up of 8 officers covering the Council's energy contracts, carbon reduction programme, natural environment service, Lead Local Flood Authority duties and circular economy theme.
- 3.2 The Sustainability and Climate Change Team have utilised the Council's new RBWMTTogether platform to create pages across all themes of the strategy and better engage residents with the work being undertaken.

Energy/Carbon Reduction

- 3.3 It has also undertaken feasibility work across 45 of its buildings to identify where the best carbon savings can be achieved so that funding can be invested in a targeted way.
- 3.4 The Council itself has seen a reduction in its carbon emissions of 15% 2020/21 compared to the 2018/19 baseline. This is despite the winter being particularly cold and increased ventilation being encouraged due to COVID-19.
- 3.5 In 2019, carbon emissions in the Borough decreased by 6.1% when compared to 2017. Due to government data, these are the most up to date figures we have and therefore they will not reflect any of the recent work undertaken in this area since the declaration of a climate emergency.
- 3.6 The Borough clearly needs to accelerate carbon reductions, and this is a driving force behind the creation of the Borough's Climate Partnership which the Council has committed to funding for the next three years. The Council has committed £250,000 annually for the next three years to ensure the Partnership has the resources it requires to achieve its objectives.

Circular Economy

- 3.7 Recycling rates have increased to 50%, the target set for 2025 which is broadly very good news. There is further work to ensure that we see an overall decrease in the amount of waste being generated.
- 3.8 Work to implement the Single Use Action Plan has begun with a focus on ensuring large events such as the Platinum Jubilee celebrations minimise the waste they generate.
- 3.9 The Council provided financial support to the Maidenhead Repair Café which has been successful launched by members of the community. This project is growing and increasing the amount of items being diverted from waste streams.

Natural Environment

- 3.10 The Council has worked closely with the local 'Wild' groups and the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust to jointly develop a Biodiversity Action Plan for the Borough which will be presented to Cabinet in April 2022. Whilst this is later than was planned in the Strategy, it was decided that it was important to get the document right rather than rush something together.
- 3.11 13,400 trees have been planted over the last 18 months at the Ockwells Nature Reserve by corporate volunteers, community groups and a public planting day.
- 3.12 1200 school children have undertaken environmental education at the Braywick Nature Centre, led by Council officers and our partners Groundwork South.

Transport

- 3.13 The Council has made good progress on the development of its Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan along with publishing its Bus Service Improvement Plan. This will be important drivers for low carbon travel in the future.

Key Projects for delivery in the next 12 months

- 3.14 Collective Solar Purchasing Scheme – The Council has committed to increasing the amount of renewable energy generation in the Borough. A key technology to achieve this is solar photovoltaic panels. To help residents overcome some of the barriers to installing solar, the Council has been working with Solar Together to launch a collective solar purchasing scheme in May 2022. The aim is to use collective purchasing to ensure a competitive price whilst also providing residents with confidence that they are using a supplier that has gone through certain checks.
- 3.15 Residential Energy Efficiency / Fuel Poverty – Energy costs have increased significantly and further rises are expected for the Autumn. This has and will continue to put residents finances under pressure, making the issue of fuel poverty more acute. The Council has secured large grants from central government to assist residents on low incomes and in inefficient homes to make upgrades to their property to reduce energy costs and carbon emissions. Ensuring uptake of this support will be a key focus over the next year to ensure support is available to those in the Borough that need it.
- 3.16 Local Nature Recovery Strategy – A key requirement of the Environment Act 2021 is for local responsible bodies to publish a local nature recovery strategy. Building on the Council’s Biodiversity Action Plan, the Council will look to work with partners and neighbouring authorities to develop a LNRS over the next year.
- 3.17 Climate Partnership - The Council has acknowledged that to achieve the targets it has set out, there will need to be a broad partnership of residents, community groups and organisations involved. As part of its 2022/23 budget, £250,000 has been allocated to form an independent Climate Partnership for the Borough. By utilising the knowledge and expertise of organisations across the borough, the partnership will better support delivery of the outcomes set out in the strategy as well as supporting the council to deliver on its own actions and commitments. This first meeting of the Climate Partnership will be during Spring 2022.

4. FINANCIAL DETAILS / VALUE FOR MONEY

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications of this report.
- 4.2 In relation to the delivery of the Environment and Climate Strategy, the Council has secured over £3.5 million of external funding to support projects in the Borough.
- 4.3 £1.56 million was awarded to the Council from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to deliver low carbon heating upgrades along with insulation and solar panels at 5 schools during 2022/23.
- 4.4 £383,000 was awarded to the Council from the Local Authority Delivery Scheme Phase 2 to fund energy efficiency improvements in residents’ homes in the Borough during Spring 2022.

- 4.5 £1.3 million was awarded to the Council from the Sustainable Warmth scheme to fund energy efficiency improvements in resident’s homes in the Borough during 2022/23.
- 4.6 £128,000 was awarded to the Council from the Low Carbon Skills Fund Phase 2 to deliver heat decarbonisation plans across 31 Council buildings. This work is now complete.
- 4.7 £205,000 was awarded to the Council from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Phase 1 to deliver lighting upgrades across 14 Council buildings/schools. This work is now complete.
- 4.8 Approximately £70,000 was awarded to the Council from the Heat Network Delivery Unit and the EU City Facility Fund to undertake heat demand/supply mapping across the Borough. This work is currently underway.
- 4.9 Approximately £20,000 was awarded to the Council by Defra to supporting work on biodiversity net gain implementation.

5. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

- 5.1 Equalities. Equality Impact Assessments are published on the [council’s website](#). This is not a new document or decision therefore the original EQIA is still relevant.
- 5.2 Climate change/sustainability. Delivery of the Environment and Climate Strategy is fundamental to the Council’s ambitions across sustainability and climate change.
- 5.3 Data Protection/GDPR. – No data protection implications

6. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

6.1 This report is supported by 1 background documents:

- Environment and Climate Strategy - End of Year Update

7. CONSULTATION

Confirmation relevant Cabinet Member(s) consulted	Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Sustainability	Yes
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REPORT HISTORY

Decision type:	Urgency item?	To follow item?
For information	No	No

Report Author: James Thorpe, Sustainability and Climate Change Lead

Report Title:	Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel - Annual Report 2021/22
Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	No - Part I
Member Reporting:	Councillor Bowden, Chairman of the Panel
Lead Officers:	Andrew Durrant, Executive Director of PLACE, David Scott, Head of Communities
Meeting and Date:	Full Council – June 2022

REPORT SUMMARY

Part 9A B4 of the [council constitution](#) requires an Overview and Scrutiny Panel to report annually to full Council on 'its workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate'.

1. DETAILS OF RECOMMENDATION(S)

RECOMMENDATION: That Full Council notes the annual report of the Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

2. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Again, a difficult year within Covid restrictions. Most meetings were virtual, and or including online participants. This has restricted work programmes, and task and finish groups, were not appropriate.

3. TOPICS SCRUTINISED DURING THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021/22

- 3.1 *Embedding Community Response*
- 3.2 *Library Transformation*
- 3.3 *Budget 2021/2022*
- 3.4 *District Enforcement*
- 3.5 *Thames Valley Police*
- 3.6 *Performance Management*
- 3.7 *Compliments and Complaints Annual Report*
- 3.8 *Maidenhead Heritage Centre*
- 3.9 *Performance of the Tivoli Contract for Grounds Maintenance*
- 3.10 *Allotments*

4. CALL-INS CONSIDERED DURING THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021/22

- 4.1 *Battlemead Common*

5. RESIDENT SUGGESTIONS CONSIDERED DURING THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021/22

- 5.1 *Parking on Footpaths and verges – The recommendation was that this topic was considered by the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel and the*

Panel noted the report and agreed to consider the issue again after three months. This was considered at Panel on 9 November 2021 and the Panel will receive an update at the meeting on 12 April 2022.

6. TASK AND FINISH GROUPS ESTABLISHED DURING THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021/22

6.1 *No Task and Finish Groups established in the municipal year 2021/22.*

7. PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVED WORKING METHODS

- 7.1 People should feel positive about attending a scrutiny panel and embrace the work that goes with it. Meetings should be shorter and more focussed asking quality questions to scrutinise item.
- 7.2 Prior to meetings, topics studied more and prepare quality questions to ask.
- 7.3 No more 'scrutiny in arrears' Be more abreast of the wider picture and get ahead of decision making and help to shape the agreement not hear about it once everything is in place. The Panel should look at the Cabinet forward plan and have an overview before cabinet makes its decision. This would make for better decision-making and be less confrontational. Involve Scrutiny Panels at beginning of process.
- 7.4 Summarise main points and actions It's not always clear that what we've discussed has been taken on board or will ultimately make a difference.
- 7.5 Invite relevant community groups, experts and residents Spend more time understanding what the Panel would like to scrutinise and invite groups accordingly.
- 7.6 More timely documents At least a week in advance so we can properly scrutinise. Try and avoid 'to follow' reports.
- 7.7 More frequent meetings Plan the municipal years meetings at the beginning of the year for better planning.
- 7.8 Set achievable, measurable goals Make use of task and finish.
- 7.9 Better reflect the ethos of overview and scrutiny, which is to be a 'friendly critic' of the administration. What added value do we currently provide through our meetings? The role of Cabinet members should be to clarify areas, that they are present at a meeting to answer questions and provide clarification, not to participate in discussion.
- 7.10 Review of the budget process We should give feedback on what worked well and what could be improved whilst this is still fresh in our mind. By doing so the process will be better for next year. Keep the budget process meeting to only one item for better scrutiny. This was dropped this year, but it's not clear why. We absolutely should be scrutinising the impact of budget proposals on our Communities.

- 7.11 In order to foster a more cohesive approach I would recommend that we circulate all members of the Panel with ideas/comments/suggestions.
- 7.12 We will have had seven meetings in 2021/2022 (nine in the year 2021), but achieved very little. There needs to be a genuine appetite for scrutiny from all members of the panel, if it is to be successful, and that means being a 'friendly critic' of the administration, not backing them up at all times.
- 7.13 Speed up the process to get work items onto the work programme. Climate Change was requested in June 2021 by Cllr Price, a scoping document has been produced by Cllr del Campo but as yet, nothing has happened. Similarly, Cllr del Campo repeatedly asked for updates from Norden Farm and Old Court before the February budget meeting but while nobody said no, it hasn't happened either.
- 7.14 Prioritise work items of most importance, such as Climate Change, and do them well, but don't lose sight of other matters. Briefing notes seem to be a good way to achieve this, but they seem to have been quietly shelved.
- 7.15 Add to the agenda of every meeting, "Actions and matters arising". We do these when prompted by panel members but it should be a routine part of every meeting.
- 7.16 Scrutinise quarterly performance sooner — the new performance portal should assist with this. There doesn't seem to be much value in the performance reports at the moment though as they are so out of date.
- 7.17 Explore whether Parish Councillor Pat McDonald can be loaned an iPad to allow him to join meetings, or invite him to send a substitute.

8. THANKS

- 8.1 The Panel would like to thank the following individuals and organisations for their involvement in the scrutiny process this year:
- *Thames Valley Police*
 - *District Enforcement*
 - *Tivoli*
 - *Maidenhead Heritage Centre*
 - *David Scott, Lead Officer*
 - *Shilpa Manek, Clerk*
 - *Andrew Durrant, Executive Head of Service*
 - *All other officers who have attended to present reports or helped with the smooth running of meetings.*
 - *Margaret Lenton (Wraysbury Parish Council)*
 - *Members of the Public*
 - *Members of the Council*

9. PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2022/23

- 9.1 The Panel proposes to consider the following topic areas for scrutiny in the coming municipal year:

Topics already in progress/carried over from 2021/22:

- Norden Farm and Old Court
- Maidenhead Heritage Centre
- Tivoli update
- SERCO update

New topics:

- Climate Change
- Foodshare Windsor and Maidenhead
- Community Facilities Review
- Community Safety Partnership
- Boulton Lock car park
- Waste Management Strategy

10. APPENDICES

10.1 This report is supported by 1 appendix:

- Work Programme

REPORT HISTORY

Decision type:	Urgency item?	To follow item?
For information	No	No

Report Author: Councillor Bowden, Chair of the Communities O&S Panel
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WORK PROGRAMME - COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duncan Sharkey – Chief Executive • Andrew Durrant – Executive Director of Place • Hilary Hall – Executive Director of Adults, Health and Housing
LINK OFFICERS & HEADS OF SERVICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Scott – Head of Communities • Louise Freeth – Head of Revenues, Benefits, Library and Resident Services • Chris Joyce – Head of Infrastructure, Sustainability and Economic Growth • Alysse Strachen – Head of Neighbourhoods

MEETING: 14th June 2022

ITEM	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER
In-Depth Performance Reports referred by Corporate O&S Panel	Andrew Durrant – <i>Executive Director of Place</i>
Work Programme	Panel clerk

MEETING: 13th September 2022

ITEM	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER
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Work Programme	Panel clerk

MEETING: 25th January 2023

ITEM	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER
In-Depth Performance Reports referred by Corporate O&S Panel	Andrew Durrant – <i>Executive Director of Place</i>
Work Programme	Panel clerk

MEETING: 11th April 2023

ITEM	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER
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Work Programme	Panel clerk

ITEMS SUGGESTED BUT NOT YET PROGRAMMED

ITEM	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER
Community Safety Partnership	David Scott , <i>Head of Communities</i>

Waste Management Strategy	Alysse Strachen , <i>Head of Neighbourhoods</i>
SERCO Update	Alysse Strachen , <i>Head of Neighbourhoods</i>
Boulters Lock, Maidenhead	Andrew Durrant – <i>Executive Director of Place</i>
Air Quality	Andrew Durrant – <i>Executive Director of Place</i>
Tivoli Performance update	Alysse Strachen , <i>Head of Neighbourhoods</i>
Food Banks	David Scott , <i>Head of Communities</i>
Norden Farm	Steph James , <i>Service Lead for Economic Growth</i>
The Old Court	Steph James , <i>Service Lead for Economic Growth</i>
Sports Strategy and Leisure Centres	David Scott , <i>Head of Communities</i>

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