



Report of:	Meeting	Date
Clare James, Corporate Director Resources	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	12 June 2023

Establishment of Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee on Climate Change

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1** For members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to approve the establishment of an Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee to consider Climate Change matters.

2. Outcomes

- 2.1** For an Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee with a Climate Change theme to be established.
- 2.2** That the Council's approach to Climate Change be strengthened by including it as part of the Overview and Scrutiny function via a sub-committee with task groups, to review specific climate change issues.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1** That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee confirms the establishment of a sub-committee and instructs officers to take the appropriate steps to create it and bring a full proposal, including a terms of reference, to the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting scheduled on 17 July 2023 so that the sub-committee can meet as soon as possible after that date.

4. Background

- 4.1** At full Council 18 May 2023, the decision was made to disband the Climate Change Policy Working Group and create a Lead Member for Climate Change. The proposal to create a sub-committee of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, with a Climate Change theme, chaired by that Lead Member was also announced.
- 4.2** Section 9FA of the Local Government Act 2000 provides that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may appoint one or more sub-committees, and may arrange for the discharge of any of its functions by

any such sub-committee. The functions of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are confirmed in Part 2.10 of the Council's Constitution.

- 4.3 Section 9FA (6b) of the Local Government Act 2000 confirms that an Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee is to be treated as a body to which section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (duty to allocate seats to political groups) applies.
- 4.4 If the committee approves, the full proposal, including the terms of reference and specific delegation of functions for the sub-committee will be brought to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at a future meeting for comments and approval.
- 4.5 If the Sub-Committee is established, Part 4.05 'Overview and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules' of the Constitution would require updating. The procedure rules assist the committee to carry out its constitutional and statutory obligations and form part of the constitution. These changes will be made by the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager under section 18.02 of Article 18 Review and Revision of the Constitution.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1 The Council's Business Plan includes the ambition for a cleaner, greener and more sustainable environment. The dissolution of the Climate Change Policy Working Group and the establishment of the Lead Member for Climate Change at full Council on 18 May 2023 were the first steps towards enhancing member involvement in achieving our Climate Change targets. These actions, coupled with an Overview and Scrutiny sub-committee aim to support the Council's approach to the delivery of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.
- 5.2 Should the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree to the proposal, the next step will be to define the terms of reference to be agreed at a future meeting. These should have due regard to economy, efficiency and effectiveness in order to ensure the sub-committee works within its remit with a precise focus.

Financial and legal implications	
Finance	The financial implications of creating the sub-committee have not yet been evaluated. The scoping of the terms of reference will inform this assessment and should have due regard to the potential for increased resourcing costs in Democratic Services and Climate Change in particular. Consideration should be given of the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of the sub-committee to ensure value for money.
Legal	The proposal in this report is in accordance with Section 9FA of the Local Government Act 2000.

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	X
equality and diversity	X
sustainability	X
health and safety	X

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	X
climate change	✓
ICT	X
data protection	X

Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

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List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
None.		