Shropshire Council

Date: Thursday, 9 November 2023

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: Shrewsbury/Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

Contact: Sarah Townsend Committee Officer,
Tel: 01743 257721
Email: sarah.townsend@shropshire.gov.uk

ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

TO FOLLOW REPORT (S)

10   Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme (Pages 1 - 14)
To consider the future work programme of the Committee. (Attached).

Contact: Tom Dodds (Tel: 01743 258518)

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Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/24

Topic to be included at the appropriate point in the programme – Community Safety

Topic	Shropshire Council Priority(ies) and Strategic Objective(s)	Objectives for the topic (what it will it involve)	Expected Impact/added value (what will it achieve)	How will the expected impact/added value be identified/measured?	Committee meeting date(s)	Information/ evidence required	Witnesses (in person/written)
River Water Quality Task and Finish Group	Healthy People

Healthy Environment | Current live O&S work delivering an agreed terms of reference | • | • | | • | • |
| Renewable Energy and Planning | Healthy Environment | • Rapid T&F Group
• To investigate the pros and cons associated with developing renewable energy and energy storage sites
• To learn from national legislation, guidance and draw on case studies of what has worked or not worked in other areas.
• To make evidence-based recommendations on how policy could be developed to clarify planning decision | • Provide a clear steer on what members would like to be set out in a council policy on the development of new renewable energy and storage sites
• Greater clarity for developers
• Fewer delays in the | Reduction in the number of planning committee meetings required to reach a decision on proposals to develop new energy generation or storge sites

Member satisfaction and recognition that the process is improved because of the policy development | | Examples of best practice/policies from other LAs that have already looked at renewable energy generation and storage

Legally set/caselaw-based requirements that must be addressed

Current Shropshire Council policy and preferred future policy content | Internal
Assistant Director Planning Policy officers
Development Management (Planners) Officers
Legal Services Officers
Portfolio Holder

External
NFU (as it is often agricultural land involved)
National Grid |

		making on proposals for such developments • To engage with stakeholders to inform how the council can be a leader on identifying opportunities to use more renewable energy generation in communities e.g. engaging with T&PCs on the social benefits of solar panels on T&PC buildings	planning process decision making process				Planning Inspector? Developer?
Developer contributions	Healthy Economy Healthy People Healthy Environment	• All member briefing session followed by Task and Finish Group • To consider and understand the upcoming changes to developer contributions and how these should be confirmed and communications • To understanding how the social impacts of significant housing developments are being identified by stakeholders and	More informed stakeholders who make develop contribution requirements that are more in line with future needs and demand	Fewer situations where there is a gap between available and/or funded provision and demand following new housing developments.		• The guidance to stakeholders to inform their identification of social impacts and the amount or type of developer contribution required to address them • Evidence of the type of guidance/support that stakeholders identify they need to make more accurate identification of the social impact	Council officers involved in identifying social impact and need Council officers involved ion confirming developer contribution requirements Portfolio Holder Stakeholders Local members

		whether this is being done consistently and robustly enough to inform the contribution requirements and allocations that are needed to meet future need as a result of the development • To review and evaluate learning from more recent developments e.g. Shrewsbury South and West Urban Extensions. • To make evidence based recommendations on where stakeholders could improve the identification of social impacts, the potential solutions and the amount of developer contribution that would be required to address them • (link to HOSC looking at Primary Care Estates Strategy)				• Examples of the social need identified for pervious housing developments • Evidence of the actual need/demand and how this varies from the identified need/demand • Case studies from local members	

| Climate Change | Healthy Environment Healthy Economy Healthy People | • Holding to account – Whole committee working and then full meeting in public • To be informed by the Annual Report 2023 • To request an All-Member briefing on the annual report to help to confirm identify where the committee can add value. • To consider the council's commitment to climate change, including through the delivery of the 8 resolution points (September 2021) and the May 2019 Climate Emergency • To develop conclusions on and recommendations on next steps that the Council could take forwards including whether the current Board arrangement | Timely opportunity to review progress and plans Confirmation that the forward focus on Climate Change is future ready Identification of learning from other areas that could help in Shropshire Identification of good practice in Shropshire to be highlighted and shared | Confirmed areas of focus to tackle climate change by the Council in the future | | Annual report Evidence of the actions taken by Shropshire Council to address climate change against the outcomes/priorities to be addressed and the impact achieved Planned actions to be taken in Shropshire and the desired impact, including measures of success and timeframes Evidence of effective climate change actions taken by other similar local authorities Views from stakeholders on what they want to see in place, what is stopping them from achieving them, and what they believe could help to deliver changes. | Executive Director Assistant Directors Portfolio Holders Climate Change Team Manager Passenger Transport Group Manager Local stakeholders including River Severn Partnership, VCSE organisations and Marches Energy Agency Zero Carbon Shropshire Passenger Transport |

		remains fit for purpose/is having the impact required • To provide critical friend challenge and ask ▪ whether the council going as far and as fast as it could, ▪ what could it do more of, ▪ what other places are doing that could be learned from, or ▪ whether Shropshire leading the way and what should be celebrated and highlighted? • Within this consideration, some specific points for exploration are: ▪ What arrangements could Shropshire Council confirm or put in place to provide information and					Others – depending on focus e.g. NFU, T&PCs, LEP and Local business groups

		advice and help to close the skills gap to facilitate retrofitting properties to improve energy efficiency? ▪ What is being done/can be done to de-carbonise transport? ▪ What influence can and should the council have on external partners?					
Engagement	Healthy Organisation	• Task and Finish Group • To confirm how the council defines effective engagement and what it wants to achieve by carrying it out? How does this compare to best practice? • To confirm what legally needs to be consulted on and where and how engagement adds value.	Reinforce a consistent approach to engagement by the council The promotion of effective engagement to help inform transformation by the Council To provide a clear steer on what	A more consistent approach to engagement by the Council Local Members identify that they are informing how engagement with their communities is taking place. Evidence of the engagement taking place to information transformation work		Shropshire Council guidance and standards for engagement and consultation Examples of how the Council has carried out engagement Examples of how the Council would like to carry out engagement/improve engagement, what this would achieve/enable,	Chief Executive Assistant Director Transformation and Effectiveness Head of Communications and Engagement Feedback and Insight Team Leader

		• To explore how the council uses effective engagement to inform its strategy development, service planning and decision making
		• To consider how well the council delivers effective engagement based on its own definition?
		• To evaluate the strengths and opportunities to improve how the Council carries out engagement?
		• To understand what quality standards are in place and they compare to good practice? How effective is the Council at following them and enforcing them?
		• To understand:
		  ▪ How people and communities are engaged in ways that best enables to them to
			Members would expect from effective engagement and what they they will be looking for in their work
			
			To confirm and communicate options and opportunities where local Members should be a route to inform effective engagement with their communities
				and how it is being used.		and what needs to happen to achieve it.
						
						Best practice and guidance/requirements for effective engagement – including innovative examples of what can be used for engagement with different groups
						
						Benchmarking with other similar local authorities on what and how they carry out effective engagement – to include:
						  • purpose and views on effectiveness,
						  • how engagement findings are used and people are kept informed (you said/we did/will be doing),
						  • approaches used,
						  • tools/systems,
						  • standards and enforcement within the council,
							Portfolio Holder

		contribute, identify priorities and how they can be delivered, and by whom? When, on what, why and how are they enabled to be involved? ■ How is engagement (in all forms and purposes) being developed to shape the transformation programme development, options identification and delivery? ■ How the council ensures that all areas of the community are getting a voice – not just the usual suspects/those who shout loudest etc? ■ How the priorities of communities and organisations			• corporate v. operational, • capacity and structures etc	

		are being identified and confirmed? How is this being used to help understand who can do what, wants to do more, might fund more, or should be doing more? ▪ How should the council use this information to deliver the outcomes differently, including in partnership, with the collective resources available? ▪ Whether the council has enough of the right people with the right skills and tight tools, in the right place, to deliver the work that is required? ▪ What Members expect to see in the				

		transformation work in terms of effective engagement activity, outputs and outcomes, and why? What difference can/will it make? • To make evidence based recommendations					
Delivering effective outcomes in partnership		• Task and Finish group • To understand the opportunities that working in partnership can officer to the Council to deliver outcomes for the people and communities of Shropshire. • To Focus will be on exploring services/outcomes within the remit of the committee e.g. Environmental Maintenance and Leisure provision including swimming	Highlighting opportunities and benefits of delivering outcomes in partnership at different scales. Confirmation of the importance of effective engagement to underpin identification of shared outcomes, manage expectations,	An increase in the number of occasions where outcomes are delivered through effective partnerships		The opportunities for partnership working/a shared outcome focus in the big transformation challenges the council (and systems) is facing What are the smaller opportunities that communities, VCSE and T&PCs identify Approaches that the council takes to identify and deliver working in partnership Examples of best practice and	Chief Executive Executive Director Assistant Director Housing and Communities Assistant Director Transformation and Effectiveness Relevant HoS/Council officers to the

		pools and sports centres. • Focus to be on working with T&PCs and VCSE • What are the different opportunities that T&PCs and VCSE identify? • What are the opportunities that Shropshire Council identify? • Link to work on how the Council engages with people and communities: ▪ Have communities been asked about priorities for them and what they would want to see progressed? ▪ Could local members play a role in carrying out this work in their communities? ▪ Are there any opportunities that people and communities might want to contribute to	and opportunities to deliver outcomes together differently Providing evidence of opportunities to draw on different sources of funding to deliver outcomes with communities			opportunities for partnership working/delivering shared outcomes from other local authorities Examples of other/additional funding opportunities and where they might be appropriate for Shropshire	focus of the work VCSE SALC Other partners – depending on case studies

		through other funding routes, such as crowd funding? ▪ Are there opportunities to deliver matched funding to deliver outcomes e.g. with developer contributions, or grant funding bids? • How can T&PCs and VCSE be enabled to contribute to their own communities/benefits for their communities? What might be impacting on this? How can any barriers be removed or overcome? What sources of funding or resources could be suitable to do this? • Strong link into behavioural economics and the transformation programme					
Transport		To learn from all member briefings on					

		the transport related topics identified in the Member Development Programme To establish whether there is evidence of a coherent, cross cutting and integrated transport strategy for Shropshire, drawing on the transport strategies and plans as well relationships and interdependences with other key areas of focus including housing, health and well-being, education and employment, and climate change Understanding how evidence has and is underpinning strategy development and decisions To learn from examples of best practice by other Local Authorities To make evidence based recommendations				

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