

ASHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL



Council Offices,
Urban Road,
Kirkby in Ashfield
Nottingham
NG17 8DA

Agenda

Scrutiny Panel B

Date: **Thursday, 12th November, 2020**

Time: **7.00 pm**

Venue: **[Ashfield District Council's YouTube Channel](#)**

For any further information please contact:

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SCRUTINY PANEL B

Membership

Chairman: Councillor Christian Chapman

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Trevor Locke

Councillors:

Ciaran Brown

Dale Grounds

David Walters

Melanie Darrington

Phil Rostance

FILMING/AUDIO RECORDING NOTICE

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SUMMONS

You are hereby requested to attend a meeting of the Scrutiny Panel B to be held at the time and on the date mentioned above for the purpose of transacting the business set out below.



Carol Cooper-Smith
Chief Executive

AGENDA

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1. To receive apologies for absence, if any.
2. **Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and Non Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interests.**
3. To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 15 October 2020. 5 - 8
4. **Scrutiny Review: Climate Change.** 9 - 16

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SCRUTINY PANEL B

Meeting held in on Thursday, 15th October, 2020 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor Christian Chapman in the Chair;

Councillors Ciaran Brown, Melanie Darrington,
Dale Grounds, Trevor Locke, Phil Rostance and
David Walters.

Officers Present: Lynn Cain, Theresa Hodgkinson, Mike Joy and
Shane Wright.

SB.4 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and Non Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

SB.5 Minutes

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 23 July 2020, be received
and approved as a correct record.

SB.6 Scrutiny Review - Community Protection Service

The Service Manager, Scrutiny and Democratic Services introduced the report
and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members were reminded that they
had been working on the Community Protection Service review since January
2020 (over the course of three Panel meetings) and had examined the origins
of the service, the Community Protection Team's current working practices,
the ongoing difficulties officers faced undertaking the role and their ongoing
priorities for reducing crime and anti-social behaviour within Ashfield.

The Panel had also spoken to the Council's Service Manager for Community
Safety and two Community Protection Officers at a previous meeting to garner
their perspective on how they undertake their duties and manage the day to
day requirements of the role. Members had also been interested in how the
Community Protection Team worked in partnership with the Police through the
Integrated Hub based at the Council offices. Comments had also been sought
from the Police Chief Inspector, Mark Dixon, regarding the partnership working
currently taking place.

During the nine months since the start of the review, the Council had taken on
board the interim comments and suggestions emerging from the Panel and
had took the opportunity as a result of certain job positions becoming vacant,
to review the service and restructure the team accordingly. The restructure

has also been influenced by the recommendations from the recent Council Peer Challenge undertaken earlier in the year, to reshape the service.

The Panel were therefore being asked to take stock of the current position and recognise how well the review has progressed since the start of the year. It was acknowledged that the new Community Protection Team, once fully staffed (recruitment was still ongoing), would need time to establish itself prior to any further consideration by the Panel regarding its future direction and effectiveness as a service.

It was therefore suggested that Members consider the submission of a set of interim recommendations to Cabinet to acknowledge the current position and to enable work to commence on embedding the new Community Protection Team into the Council's establishment.

Director of Place and Communities - Restructure and Current Position

The Director of Place and Communities firstly thanked the Panel for their contributions towards the facilitation of a new Community Protection Team as part of the review process.

Community Protection Service Restructure

Having acknowledged that the previous Service Manager, Community Safety role had been mostly office based, it had been agreed that the post would be split into two new Team Leader positions which would ensure both officers would have increased flexibility to be out on the District leading their teams as required.

The first Team Leader, Craig Day, had been recruited and he was due to start the role on 7 November 2020. The second Team Leader post was currently going through the recruitment process and would be finalised within the next two weeks.

Following a successful open day for the recruitment of Community Protection Officers, three officers had been appointed and were due to begin training with the Police imminently. It was remarked upon that having received an offer from the Chief Inspector to undertake the necessary training of the new Community Protection Officers, it was testament to the ongoing success of partnership working by partners through the Integrated Hub.

During the restructure it had become apparent that there was synergy between the roles of the Council's Place and Wellbeing Team and the Community Protection Service and with that in mind, a revised Service Manager, Place and Wellbeing position had been established with responsibility for Place and Regeneration, Health and Wellbeing, Leisure and Community Safety. The closing date for recruitment applications was 25 October 2020.

Case Recording by Officers

In response to the Panel's request that the Council should invest in mobile, hand-held technology to enable CPO's to digitally input reports and data in situ (rather than having to return to the main office) had been taken on board and this service upgrade had been embedded in the second phase of the Council's digital transformation programme for progression.

Visible Presence in the Community

The Panel had previously noted that 'visible presence in the community' was a priority for the CPO role and wished to see this factored into their daily duties. The Council were in agreement that this presence was important but it would be for the new Team Leaders to designate the most effective patrol routes for officers in response to ongoing demands on the service.

Public Perception

Members had identified the importance of ascertaining and managing public perception of the Community Protection Service, as a key discretionary service. It was agreed that this could be achieved through undertaking a public consultation exercise involving residents and businesses in Ashfield but again, the new structure would need time to establish itself before any meaningful data could be captured.

Enforcement: Fixed Penalty Notices

The Leader and the Deputy Leader (and Portfolio Holder for Community Safety) had recently been considering options for optimising enforcement via the issue of fixed penalty notices (FPNs). A neighbouring authority had recently outsourced the function as part of a pilot initiative and the outside organisation undertaking the work were due to present options to the Council's Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) in the next few weeks.

Police: Operation Reacher Team

A new Operation Reacher Team had recently moved into the Integrated Hub at the Council offices as part of a county-wide expansion of the scheme marking a significant investment in proactive policing by Nottinghamshire Police since its inception in April 2018.

The Reacher Team were working with communities and in disadvantaged areas with a range of diversionary activities in conjunction with the CPOs.

Police Risk Management Meetings

The Director of Place and Communities advised the Panel that she had been in attendance at the fortnightly Police Risk Management meetings and it had been affirming to see key partners working so well together, focussing on key problem families within the District that required additional support and management.

To conclude the Director of Place and Communities thanked the Panel and Scrutiny officers for their facilitation of the review and reiterated the importance of the scrutiny process and how it continues to compliment the work undertaken by the Corporate Leadership Team and its Directors.

At this point in the proceedings, the Panel were then shown on screen a draft set of seven interim recommendations for submission to Cabinet and the Chairman took the Panel through each recommendation in turn, inviting any comments or amendments to the text as required.

RESOLVED that

- a) the update in relation to progression of the Community Protection Service review, as presented, be received and noted;

- b) the Community Protection Service review remain on the 2020/21 Scrutiny Workplan and be held in abeyance pending integration of the new Community Protection Team into the Council's establishment and a progress report back to the Panel in due course;
- c) the following interim recommendations be presented to the December 2020 meeting of the Cabinet for consideration:
1. The Panel note the importance of and endorse the ongoing restructure and recruitment exercise within Community Safety, ensuring the Community Protection Service is fully resourced.
 2. Full consideration is given to the equipment needs of Community Protection Officers to ensure that the on-street presence and back office support maximises efficiency in both reporting and monitoring casework
 3. the Community Protection Service focuses on four core priorities of:
 - Providing a visible presence
 - Dealing with anti-social behaviour issues
 - Working collaboratively with key partners
 - Ensuring public safety in Ashfieldwhilst maintaining a flexible approach to holistic issues.
 4. A consultation exercise is undertaken to further understand public expectations and perceptions of the Community Protection Service, ensuring value for money is delivered.
 5. Delegate the power to the Director of Place and Communities to ensure all options are explored regarding the use of powers accredited to Community Protection Officers.
 6. The Community Protection Service continue to expand on partnership working with the Police and other key partners to ensure a more integrated approach to community safety in the District
 7. Following the review and restructure of Community Safety, the Community Protection Service topic be referred back to scrutiny as appropriate in 2021.

The meeting closed at 8.24 pm

Chairman.

Report To:	SCRUTINY PANEL B	Date:	12 NOVEMBER 2020
Heading:	SCRUTINY REVIEW: CLIMATE CHANGE		
Portfolio Holder:	NOT APPLICABLE		
Ward/s:	ALL		
Key Decision:	NO		
Subject to Call-In:	NO		

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to serve as an introduction to the Scrutiny Review: Climate Change, including setting out information within the Council's refreshed Corporate Plan, the results of a 2019 employee survey regarding climate change, and setting terms of reference for the review.

The first meeting of the Panel on this topic is an opportunity to set clear objectives for the review, while establishing the key information and involvement needed.

Recommendation(s)

Scrutiny Panel B Members are recommended to:

- a. Note the information contained within the report.
- b. Set initial terms of reference for the review, including objectives, methodology, involvement and key information required.
- c. Consider the Council's current corporate objectives and priorities regarding climate change.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

Climate Change was added to the Scrutiny Workplan 2020/2021 by Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in July 2020, having originally been set up as a separate scrutiny commission.

Alternative Options Considered

No alternative options have been considered at this stage of the review. Any alternative options considered will be outlined alongside the final report of the review to be presented to Cabinet.

Detailed Information

INTRODUCTION

Please see some introductory information from the National Geographic Society regarding climate change, available at <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/climate-change/>.¹

What is Climate Change?

Climate change is a long-term shift in global or regional climate patterns. Often climate change refers specifically to the rise in global temperatures from the mid-20th century to present.

Climate is sometimes mistaken for weather. However, climate is different from weather because it is measured over a long period, whereas weather can change from day to day, or from year to year. The climate of an area includes seasonal temperature and rainfall averages, and wind patterns. Different places have different climates. A desert, for example, is referred to as an arid climate because little water falls, as rain or snow, during the year. Other types of climate include tropical climates, which are hot and humid, and temperate climates, which have warm summers and cooler winters.

Climate change is the long-term alteration of temperature and typical weather patterns in a place. Climate change could refer to a particular location or the planet as a whole. Climate change may cause weather patterns to be less predictable. These unexpected weather patterns can make it difficult to maintain and grow crops in regions that rely on farming because expected temperature and rainfall levels can no longer be relied on. Climate change has also been connected with other damaging weather events such as more frequent and more intense hurricanes, floods, downpours, and winter storms.

In Polar Regions, the warming global temperatures associated with climate change have meant ice sheets and glaciers are melting at an accelerated rate from season to season. This contributes to sea levels rising in different regions of the planet. Together with expanding ocean waters due to rising temperatures, the resulting rise in sea level has begun to damage coastlines as a result of increased flooding and erosion.

The cause of current climate change is largely human activity, like burning fossil fuels, such as natural gas, oil, and coal. Burning these materials releases what are called greenhouse gases into Earth's atmosphere. There, these gases trap heat from the sun's rays inside the atmosphere causing Earth's average temperature to rise. This rise in the planet's temperature is called global warming. The warming of the planet impacts local and regional climates. Throughout Earth's history, climate has continually changed. When occurring naturally, this slow process has taken place over hundreds and thousands of years. The human influenced climate change that is happening now is occurring at a much faster rate.

Local Authorities and Climate Change

According to the Local Government Association, around 230 councils have declared a climate emergency. Many councils are taking action to reduce carbon emissions and working with partners and local communities to tackle the impact of climate change on their local area.

¹ National Geographic Society, *Climate Change*, 2020.

The LGA and the Centre for Public Scrutiny have made many resources available to assist Council's scrutinising climate change and the impact on local areas. Panel Members may wish to review these resources as the review progresses.

SCRUTINY REVIEW: CLIMATE CHANGE

Members have previously discussed climate change and voted on a motion that was carried in July 2019 as follows:

This Council acknowledges the steps that Ashfield District Council have been taking to combat climate change.

This Council is proud of the measures we are already taking at a local level. This includes:

- (1) Ensuring energy efficiency across all our buildings and the moves towards reducing fleet emissions.*
- (2) Ensuring a comprehensive programme of planting trees - replacing every tree removed with two trees and planting 1000 trees across the District over the next four years.*
- (3) Ensuring that our planning policy continues to support blue and green infrastructure (rivers, streams, parks and nature reserves)*
- (4) Continues to work with community groups across the Ashfield District.*

This Council has an obligation to continue to lead, catalyse, support and influence actions by residents, our partners and businesses in the Ashfield District.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- (1) Reaffirm its commitment to doing everything possible to combat climate change including committing to a robust climate change strategy.*
- (2) Include an assessment of the implications for sustainability and the environment in all relevant reports to committees."*

During these discussions, it was also announced that a scrutiny commission would be established with the purpose of considering climate change and ensuring that a green thread runs through all Council policies and strategies.

Due to extenuating circumstances over the past year, the commission has been unable to get off the ground as a separate function. Because of this, Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee felt it would be most appropriate to add the topic of climate change to the 2020/2021 workplan to be considered as a normal review topic.

ASHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL – CORPORATE PLAN

Members may find the Council's Corporate Plan a good starting point to understand the Council's goals and ambitions regarding climate change, along with any strategies and policies already in place.

'Cleaner and Greener' is one of the five key priorities identified by the Council set out in the Corporate Plan.

Within the Corporate Plan, the Council's vision for the 'Cleaner and Greener' priority is established:

By 2023, we will create a cleaner and greener Ashfield, enabling communities and businesses to thrive in a clean and tidy district, minimising waste and recycling more.

Ashfield is pro-active in encouraging more recycling, tackling environmental crime and finding innovative ways of delivering services that are responsive to the needs of our residents, visitors and businesses.

By working with our communities and businesses, the Council is better able to understand what matters and to shape services to help people enjoy living, visiting, and working in Ashfield.

The Corporate Plan further outlines numerous key projects, programmes, and initiatives to be implemented within the next four years. Please see some of the initiatives that may be of interest to this review:

Environment

- Deliver against our Environmental Charter
- Refresh the Green Business Scheme to engage businesses and promote environmentally sustainable behaviours
- Work with community volunteers and local business volunteers to encourage an increase in ownership of community open spaces
- Contribute to a reduction of CO2 emissions by increasing tree coverage in Ashfield
- Develop a Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan

EMPLOYEE SURVEY 2019 – CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

As part of the Employee Survey 2019, respondents were asked to suggest ideas and actions that the Council could or should implement to support climate change mitigation.

As part of this survey, over 100 suggestions were made, with all suggestions fed into the Council's project to develop its policy and strategy approach to climate change.

Panel Members may find it useful to see the most submitted suggestions:

Fleet and Personal Vehicles

- Implement electric vehicle fleet by phasing out petrol and diesel vehicles
- Promote car share schemes
- Encourage use of personal electric vehicles through changes to car user designations
- Provide solar powered electric charging points

Paperless Meetings/Offices & Reduced Paper Use

- Phase out use of paper agendas
- Have paper free offices
- Reduce printing

- Reduce leaflet drops

Recycling

- Make household recycling easier/increase what can be recycled
- Introduce food waste collections

Smarter Working

- Expand agile working/working from home
- Improve options to reduce customer visits

Energy & Resources

- Maximise provision of solar panels and use of solar technology
- Reduce use of single use plastics

Policy

- Ensure planning policies include carbon neutral and energy efficient homes
- Use Future High Streets/Town Funds to invest in and support green technologies
- Ensure procurement exercises include climate considerations
- Phase out single use plastic
- Provide subsidised use of public transport

Awareness Raising

- Raise awareness of actions that the Council is taking
- Host climate change conversation sessions for employees
- Provide a climate change suggestion box on the intranet
- Undertake awareness campaigns

NEXT STEPS

Establishing Terms of Reference

At the outset of the review process, Panel Members should set terms of reference for the Climate Change topic. The terms of reference should include review objectives, methodology, involvement, and key information required.

Objectives:

- Establish the progress of the Council's 'Cleaner and Greener' key corporate priority
- Ensure the Council is working effectively towards climate change mitigation
- Understand the policies and strategies in place and in development regarding climate change

Methodology:

- Examine Council strategies and policies
- Examples from other authorities

- Consult and liaise with key partners
- Review national and local data

Involvement:

- To be determined by Panel Members

Key Information:

- National and local data
- Environmental Charter, Green Business Scheme, Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan
- National initiatives
- LGA guidance and case studies

Implications

Corporate Plan:

Details of how the Scrutiny Review: Climate Change align with the Council’s Corporate Plan are including within the detailed information section of the report.

Legal:

There are no legal implications at this stage of the review. Any legal implications identified involving any recommendations to be made to Cabinet at the end of the review will be appropriately addressed in the final report.

Finance:

There are no financial implications at this stage of the review. Any financial implications identified involving any recommendations to be made to Cabinet at the end of the review will be appropriately addressed in the final report.

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	None.
General Fund – Capital Programme	
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	

Risk:

Any risks and mitigation discovered over the course of this review will be presented in a final report to Cabinet along with the Panel’s recommendations.

Risk	Mitigation
None at this stage.	None at this stage.

Human Resources:

There are no HR implications at this stage of the review. Any HR implications identified involving any recommendations to be made to Cabinet at the end of the review will be appropriately addressed in the final report.

Environmental/Sustainability

Environmental and sustainability implications will be heavily considered throughout this review, details of which will be included within the detailed information section of the report.

Equalities:

There are no equalities implications at this stage of the review. Any equalities implications identified involving any recommendations to be made to Cabinet at the end of the review will be appropriately addressed in the final report.

Other Implications:

There are no other implications at this stage of the review. Any other implications identified involving any recommendations to be made to Cabinet at the end of the review will be appropriately addressed in the final report.

Reason(s) for Urgency

None.

Reason(s) for Exemption

None.

Background Papers

None.

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