

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD



Report subject	Climate Change Enquiry Scoping Report
Meeting date	5 January 2022
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	In July 2021 the Overview and Scrutiny Board agreed to add a climate change enquiry session to its forward plan. The enquiry was planned to coincide with publication of the Cabinet report 'Climate Action Annual Report 2020/21'. The proposed structure of the scrutiny is set out in the body of this scoping report for the benefit of all participants. It has been developed by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board in communication with all Board members and taking the advice of officers.
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that: The scope and format of the scrutiny enquiry session be noted by all participants.
Reason for recommendations	To ensure that the purpose for the enquiry is clear, understood by all stakeholders and the Overview and Scrutiny Board can maximise the effectiveness of the scrutiny session.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Mike Greene, Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Transport
Corporate Director	Graham Farrant, Chief Executive
Report Authors	Lindsay Marshall, Overview and Scrutiny Specialist
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Update and Information

Background

Reason for Review

1. BCP Council declared a climate emergency in July 2019. One of the five priorities within the Council's Corporate Plan is 'Sustainable Environment' which includes the following objectives:
 - Ensure sustainability underpins all of our policies
 - Protect and enhance our outstanding natural environment
 - Develop an eco-friendly and active transport network
 - Tackle the climate and ecological emergency
 - Promote sustainable resource management
 - Maximise access to our high quality parks and open spaces

The Overview and Scrutiny Board is keen to use its resource to focus on areas of high priority for the organisation and where its scrutiny focus can make a difference to the council and its communities. At its meeting in July 2021 the Overview and Scrutiny Board agreed to hold an enquiry session on the matter of climate change, to take place in January 2022 when the latest Climate Action Annual Report would be published.

Structure of the scrutiny enquiry

2. The aim of the scrutiny session is to bring together relevant information and stakeholders to allow the Board to gain a greater understanding of the work ongoing in relation to climate change; to gather evidence relating to the effectiveness of council's role in relation to climate change, and to identify areas for further focused scrutiny and/or form recommendations as appropriate. The session is designed as a scene setting exercise with a broad approach that may lead to more refined scrutiny work being programmed.

The Chair and Vice Chair have advised that the enquiry session will be split into three parts:

- a) Scrutiny of the Council's Climate Action Annual Report 2020/21 (listed separately on this Overview and Scrutiny Board agenda);
- b) Evidence gathering from stakeholders, using the recently published Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (cfigs) guide to climate change scrutiny '*10 questions to*

ask if you are scrutinising climate change' to structure discussions. The document is referred to in more detail in paragraph 4 below, and the full document can found here <https://www.cfgs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/CfPS-Climate-Change-LINKS-1.pdf>

- c) Actions and recommendations arising from the enquiry.

All Board members have been engaged in the planning of the enquiry session and asked to lead on an area of enquiry, as outlined in the cfgs document.

Participants

3. Participation has been invited from the following in order to allow for broad discussions to take place and for the Board to identify areas for more specific focus in future, as appropriate:

- Councillors:
Drew Mellor, Leader of the Council
Philip Broadhead, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Development, Growth and Regeneration
Mike Greene, Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Transport
Mark Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place
Steve Baron, Lead Member for Poole Rejuvenation (responsible for biodiversity and ecology)
- Officers:
Graham Farrant, Chief Executive
Sarah Longthorpe, Director, Delivery of Regeneration
Chris Shepherd, Director of Development
Kate Langdown, Director of Environment
Betty Butlin, Director of Operations Adult Social Care
John McVey, Sustainable Transport Policy Manager
Neil Short, Sustainability Manager
Roxanne King, Strategic Lead – Climate, Resource and Sustainability
Gail Mayhew, URC Executive Officer
Matthew Montgomery, Head of Climate
Nick Perrins, Planning Policy and Implementation Manager
Lorraine Mealings, Director of Housing
Adam Richens, Director of Finance
Jeremy Richardson, Head of Strategic Procurement and Commissioning
Georgia Turner, Director of Communications and Marketing

At this stage, the Chairman has advised that he is keen to hear from both Councillors and Officers to assist the Board in its enquiry. It is expected that individuals and stakeholders external to the organisation may be identified through the course of the enquiry, to contribute to further detailed scrutiny as appropriate.

Scope of the Enquiry

4. The enquiry session is designed to be a scene setting exercise for what is a very broad topic area which cuts across many council services. Attendees have been supplied with

the below list of questions and asked to prepare responses relating to their areas of responsibility as appropriate.

Extract from cfigs document '*10 questions to ask if you are scrutinising climate change*':

- 1) How well does the council understand the need to take action locally?*
- 2) How does the council's leadership champion and direct action on climate change?*
- 3) How is the council adopting a clear and detailed strategic plan, and how is it mainstreaming climate change mitigation and adaptation?*
- 4) Has the council reviewed its investment strategy, supply chains and procurement models to give due consideration to climate change impacts?*
- 5) How is the council integrating sustainability and resilience into its transport and energy plans?*
- 6) How is the council planning to understand and act on the need to adapt existing properties and estates to address the impacts of climate change- and to plan for new housing stock which is resilient to these impacts?*
- 7) How is the council promoting climate education, diversifying the labour market and focusing on sectors that are sustainable?*
- 8) What measures are being taken to ensure that health and social care systems will be resilient with the extra pressures they will come under due to climate change?*
- 9) How does the council identify those who are most at risk from the impacts of climate change, and what is being done to assist the most vulnerable?*
- 10) How is the council supporting and working with all relevant private and civic actors in the area towards climate change mitigation and adaptation?*

Resources and Timetable:

5. This is the first enquiry meeting of the Board in relation to climate change. Depending on the outcome of discussions, further areas for focused scrutiny may be identified by the Board and added to its forward plan with a timetable to be determined. Resources to support any future work will be identified at point of commissioning.

Timescales

6. The entire O&S Board meeting resource for January 2022 is dedicated to the climate change enquiry session. The timescales for any further scrutiny work identified on climate change will be scoped at the point of commissioning.

Measure of Effectiveness

7. This is an initial scrutiny session on the matter of climate change. Following the scrutiny session, the Board should have a greater understanding of the council's role and responsibilities in relation to climate change and areas that may benefit from further challenge and scrutiny. Measures of success include the identification of more focused areas for future scrutiny or monitoring; identification of other external invitees or council officers or councillors to engage in future climate change scrutiny, and the forming of recommendations. The Board may choose to withhold from forming any recommendations at this stage if further scrutiny is identified.

Summary of financial implications

8. Not applicable to this scoping report

Summary of legal implications

9. Not applicable to this scoping report

Summary of human resources implications

10. Not applicable to this scoping report

Summary of sustainability impact

11. Not applicable to this scoping report

Summary of public health implications

12. Not applicable to this scoping report

Summary of equality implications

13. Not applicable to this scoping report

Summary of risk assessment

14. Not applicable to this scoping report

Background papers

Published works:

Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (cfgs) *'10 questions to ask if you are scrutinising climate change'*

Appendices

None