

Overview & Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 7 December 2021

A meeting of the above Committee will be held in the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa on Tuesday 7 December 2021, at 6.00pm and available for the public to watch via the Warwick District Council [YouTube channel](#).

Councillor Milton (Chair)

Councillor G Cullinan

Councillor V Leigh-Hunt

Councillor A Dearing

Councillor R Margrave

Councillor J Dearing

Councillor T Morris

Councillor O Jacques

Councillor P Redford

Councillor P Kohler

Councillor D Russell

Emergency Procedure

At the commencement of the meeting, the emergency procedure for the Town Hall will be announced

Agenda

1. Apologies & Substitutes

- (a) to receive apologies for absence from any Councillor who is unable to attend; and
- (b) to receive the name of any Councillor who is to act as a substitute, notice of which has been given to the Chief Executive, together with the name of the Councillor for whom they are acting.

2. Declarations of Interest

Members to declare the existence and nature of interests in items on the agenda in accordance with the adopted Code of Conduct.

Declarations should be disclosed during this item. However, the existence and nature of any interest that subsequently becomes apparent during the course of the meeting must be disclosed immediately. If the interest is not registered, Members must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days.

Members are also reminded of the need to declare predetermination on any matter.

If Members are unsure about whether or not they have an interest, or about its nature, they are strongly advised to seek advice from officers prior to the meeting.

3. Minutes

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2021. **(Pages 1 to 6)**

4. Work Programme, Forward Plan & Comments from Cabinet

To consider a report from Democratic Services. **(Pages 1 to 14)**

5. Cabinet Agenda (Non-Confidential Items and Reports) – Thursday 9 December 2021

To consider the non-confidential items on the Cabinet agenda which fall within the remit of this Committee. The only items to be considered are those which Committee Services have received notice of by 9.00am on the morning after Group meetings.
(Circulated Separately)

6. Public & Press

To consider resolving that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the paragraphs 1,2 & 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

7. Cabinet Agenda (Confidential Items and Reports) – Thursday 9 December 2021

To consider the confidential items on the Cabinet agenda which fall within the remit of this Committee. The only items to be considered are those which Committee Services have received notice of by 9.00am on the morning after Group meetings.
(Circulated separately)

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General Enquiries: Please contact Warwick District Council, Riverside House, Milverton Hill, Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV32 5HZ.
Telephone: 01926 456114
E-Mail: committee@warwickdc.gov.uk

For enquiries about specific reports, please contact the officers named in the reports. You can e-mail the members of the Committee at oandscommittee@warwickdc.gov.uk

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Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 2 November 2021 in the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Milton (Chair); Councillors Cullinan, J Dearing, Jacques, Kohler, Leigh-Hunt, Morris, Redford and Russell.

Also Present: Councillors Cooke – Portfolio Holder, Place & Economy, Day – Leader of the Council, Hales – Portfolio Holder, Transformation & Resources and Rhead – Portfolio Holder, Climate Change.

30. **Apologies and Substitutes**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Dearing and Margrave.

31. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

32. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 21 September 2021 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

33. **Update on Joint Work with SDC**

The Committee considered a report from the Chief Executive which set out the progress of the work being done to enable effective scrutiny of the proposals to achieve joint working with Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

Both Warwick District Council (WDC) and Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SDC) had agreed a vision to create a single statutory South Warwickshire Council covering all of the activities currently carried out by SDC and WDC by 1 April 2024.

Appendix 1 to the report set out the Programme Risk Register.

A request was made that the expected benefits section of the report, point 1.6, should be updated to include climate change.

In response to questions from Members, the Chief Executive explained that:

- In respect of CO₂ emissions, a figure was unavailable at this stage to quote in the expected benefits section of the report (point 1.6), but asset rationalisation would clearly have a benefit in terms of improving CO₂ emission figures. If possible, this information would be supplied for the report in December.
- Statistical representation had been achieved in the number of responses received during the consultation phase. The aim had been to receive at least 600 responses and the figure was running

at circa 1,500 responses, but there was no data analysis as yet on where geographically these responses had originated from. Focus Groups had been completed. Parish & Town Councils had also been included in the consultation. An initial statistical evaluation of responses should be provided by the end of the week. The programme was running to the timescales set.

- Programme Risk Register reference PR010 - A draft digital strategy had been prepared and would be discussed by the Joint Management Team (JMT) later in the week. As part of this, work would be done to ensure that there would be alignment with a customer access strategy plan that had yet to be written. The hope was that the digital strategy plan would be ready to be considered by Councillors in the December round of meetings.
- Programme Risk Register reference PR004 (concerns raised that the overall risk rating was not high enough) – The Warwickshire Association of Local Councils (WALC) had arranged information sessions for all parish and town councils, not just for those in its membership. If individual town councils wished to have their own sessions, then WDC would provide these upon receipt of a request.
- There was scope to delegate certain functions to parish and town councils, but care would be required to ensure in so doing, the specific town and parish councils had sufficient governance arrangements in place and resources to undertake the functions. This required careful consideration on a case-by-case basis and consideration of the local community requirements.
- As a matter of principle, WDC and SDC would look to sharing a HQ. Work had been commissioned to explore options.
- Whether the merger resulted in a democratic deficit simply because there might be fewer Councillors was open to question because by merging, there would be more Councillors in total than each individual Council currently had. The opportunity was that this would allow more Councillors to have more time for their pastoral role within the community because membership of committees and Cabinet would require the same number of Councillors, not double, so freeing up time Councillors currently spent in meetings. (The Leader of the Council also added that other considerations would need to be considered on how the Council would operate if a political merger took place; for example, whether wards would become single or multi-member, and more efficient ways of working such as more use of Programme Advisory Boards (PABS) that had been introduced at WDC.) The risk rating under PR002 on the Programme Risk Register would be reviewed prior to the vote 13 December.

The Chair raised the issue that how the Council communicated with its residents on the merger and any matter that concerned them, such as changes to the refuse collection, should be reviewed. He asked for this to be entered into the minutes. He pointed out that in the Programme Risk Register, communication was often mentioned as a method to mitigate a risk.

34. Cabinet Agenda (Non-Confidential items and reports) – Thursday 4 November 2021

The Committee considered the following item which would be discussed at the meeting of the Cabinet on Thursday 4 November 2021.

Item 9 – Riverside House Development Brief

The Committee welcomed and supported the report and asked that information on the sample size should be added to give context to the statistics provided in the report.

The Committee recommended that in the brief, the Council's wish for the developer to find carbon savings in the build/construction process and to investigate the reuse of materials, be made clear.

35. Progress Update – Merger of ICT Systems

The Committee considered a report from ICT which gave an update on the progress towards merging of ICT systems and data, including plans if the authorisation for full political merger between WDC and SDC was denied.

The Head of ICT Services reassured Members that both WDC and SDC had independent IT systems and platforms currently so there was no risk that both Councils' IT systems would fail.

The process to bring both Councils' systems together would begin with examination of infrastructure, for example, telephony, email systems, file storage, servers. This would require consideration of how this would be sourced to work for the South Warwickshire Council rather than for WDC and SDC. Much of the infrastructure in question had already been scheduled for replacement in the next few years which was fortunate because some budget allowance had already been planned.

In response to questions from Members, the Head of ICT Services and Councillor Hales, Portfolio Holder – Transformation & Resources, explained that:

- The spend on ICT at both SDC and WDC was almost the same at each authority in terms of the line of business applications. Differences in expenditure centred on software licenses for core components such as Microsoft Office because WDC had more staff.
- Savings could be achieved depending on staff numbers following the merger of service provision and maintenance costs would decrease as services moved to one system rather than separate systems. Core component expenditure would be unlikely to change much unless there was change in staff numbers. Future costs would be calculated to form part of the budget setting process.
- Work to identify and present infrastructure changes was required, and costs and timings could be done to replicate the work already in progress for business applications.
- Currently there was no member of staff within ICT wholly dedicated to programme management and this had been raised with the Joint Management Team. As an interim measure, one of the programme managers from SDC was helping. Project Management staff resourcing was something that was being considered to address the risk identified at 5.3 in the report.
- Architecture of the platforms in use at both authorities (allowing systems to "speak to each other") would be discussed on 24 November with ICT teams from both authorities meeting. They would discuss ideas for bring systems together.

- Implementation of the new Finance System – process lessons learnt – this work was planned once it was known how well the system was working.

In response to a question about how Members could help the process, the Deputy Chief Executive explained that if on 13 December, the decision was made not to go forward with the political merger, then it had already been agreed that a shared service approach would still proceed. The risk would then continue to remain if the Councils then, at some point in the future, decided to resume full autonomy over service provision. The work that had been done to allow shared service provision would have to be undone and this would be very costly. He therefore urged Members to consider their decision on 13 December in light of this inherent risk and the fact that it would be no small matter to reverse the process in the future.

The Committee requested that a report giving an update be provided every six months.

(Councillor Cooke left the meeting during discussions on this report. Councillor Hales left the meeting at the end of discussions on this report.)

36. **Cabinet Agenda (Non-Confidential items and reports) – Thursday 4 November 2021**

The Committee considered the following item which would be discussed at the meeting of the Cabinet on Thursday 4 November 2021.

Item 11 – Climate Change Action Programme

The Committee welcomed the report and the request for additional resource.

The Committee recommended the following:

- That a carbon descent plan was created for use as a target and tracker for use to measure progress on the programme.
- The Council should promote good news stories, e.g., the divestment of fossil fuel investments, so that residents were aware about the progress being made.
- A consolidated view of the different standards in Housing that were in use across the District should be produced to give more clarity on which standards would apply and where they might apply, e.g., in or near the Conservation Area.

(Councillor Rhead left the meeting.)

37. **Task & Finish Group – Equality & Diversity (Phase 2)**

An update on progress with the second phase of the work had been circulated to all Members during the week via email. The Chair asked that the information contained within the email be posted on the Council's website so that the public could view it. The email set out how the Group would get to a point of presenting a plan for phase 2.

(Councillor Day left the meeting.)

38. **Review of the Work Programme, Forward Plan and Comments from the Cabinet**

The Committee considered its work programme for 2021/2022 as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

Service Area Dashboard Update

Councillor Kohler reported that previously, a briefing session for Councillors had been requested about the existing data on the Dashboard, but he did not think this had been progressed. He would speak to the Democratic Services Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer to agree a way forward.

The Chair drew attention to an email that had been sent to all Councillors to inform them how to access information on the Council's Intranet.

Forward Plan

The Chair had raised the issue with the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive about the high number of reports going to Cabinet in December. This was a concern because the Committee needed to ensure that there would be adequate time at the December meeting to scrutinise the merger decision.

February 2022 Work Programme

With the need to keep December 2021 meeting clear for the scrutiny of the merger decision, February's meeting was now looking as if it might become very busy. The question had therefore been raised as to whether an additional meeting of the Committee would be necessary in January. When the Chair asked Members' opinion, there was no response.

Potential item for the Work Programme

Councillor Kohler raised an issue that he had remarked at a recent Planning Committee meeting that there might be a gap in the policy framework. This concerned how listed buildings and historical buildings could contribute to the decarbonisation of the District – how solar panels could be installed on or near these buildings. The previous Local Plan had detailed recommendations in a sustainable buildings SPD; and detail was lacking in the current Local Plan, with the emphasis on officers weighing up the harm. Councillor Kohler felt this was something that should be improved.

The Committee requested that Councillor Kohler speak with Councillor Cooke to ascertain if there was a policy gap and how this might be closed. He was asked to report back to the Committee at the next meeting with his findings on whether work was required and options.

Resolved that

- (1) appendices 1 and 2 to the Work Programme report be noted;
- (2) Councillor Kohler to report back to the Committee at the December meeting on whether work is required to close a policy gap

relating to sustainability on listed/historical buildings; and

- (3) a progress update on the merger of the ICT systems be provided every six months.

(The meeting ended at 7.49pm)

CHAIR
7 December 2021

Overview & Scrutiny Committee
7 December 2021

Title: Work Programme, Forward Plan & Comments from Cabinet
Lead Officer: Lesley Dury, Principal Committee Services Officer
Portfolio Holder: Not applicable
Public report
Wards of the District directly affected: Not applicable
Accessibility checked: Yes

Summary

This report informs Members of Overview & Scrutiny Committee:

- (1) of the Committee's work programme for 2021/2022 (Appendix 1); and
- (2) responses that Cabinet gave to comments and recommendations made by Overview & Scrutiny Committee regarding the reports to Cabinet on 4 November 2021 (Appendix 2).

Recommendations

- (1) That Members consider the work programme (Appendix 1) and agree any changes as appropriate.
 - (2) That the Committee:
 - identifies any Cabinet items on the [Forward Plan](#) on which it wishes to have an input before the Cabinet makes its decision; and
 - nominates a Member to investigate that future decision and report back to the Committee.
 - (3) That Members note the responses made by the Cabinet on the Comments from the Cabinet report (Appendix 2).
 - (4) The Committee agrees to defer the review of the Council's democratic structure until the later of (a) a decision by the Council on 13 December regarding the potential merger of the Council; or (b) the decision from the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing Communities on the application for this Council to be merged.
 - (5) The Committee notes the update from the Equalities Task & Finish Group as set out at paragraph 1.16.
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1 Background/Information

- 1.1 The five main roles of overview and scrutiny in local government are: holding to account; performance management; policy review; policy development; and external scrutiny.
- 1.2 The pre-decision scrutiny of Cabinet decisions falls within the role of 'holding to account'. To feed into the pre-decision scrutiny of Cabinet decisions, the

Agenda Item 4

Committee needs to examine the Council's Forward Plan and identify items which it would like to have an impact upon.

- 1.3 The Council's Forward Plan is published on a monthly basis and sets out the key decisions to be taken by the Council in the next twelve months. The Council only has a statutory duty to publish key decisions to be taken in the next four months. However, the Forward Plan was expanded to a twelve-month period to give a clearer picture of how and when the Council will be making important decisions.
- 1.4 A key decision is a decision which has a significant impact or effect on two or more wards and /or a budgetary effect of £50,000 or more.
- 1.5 The Forward Plan also identifies non-key decisions to be made by the Council in the next twelve months, and the Committee, if it wishes, may also pre-scrutinise these decisions.
- 1.6 There may also be policies identified on the Forward Plan, either as key or non-key decisions, which the Committee could pre-scrutinise and have an impact upon how these are formulated.
- 1.7 The Committee should be mindful that any work it wishes to undertake would need to be undertaken without the need to change the timescales as set out within the Forward Plan.
- 1.8 At each meeting, the Committee will consider their work programme and make amendments where necessary, and also make comments on specific Cabinet items, where notice has been given by 9am on the morning after Group meetings. The Committee will also receive a report detailing the response from the Cabinet, on the comments the Committee made on the Cabinet agenda in the previous cycle.
- 1.9 The Forward Plan is considered at each meeting and allows the Committee to look at future items and become involved in those Cabinet decisions to be taken, if members so wish.
- 1.10 As part of the new scrutiny process, the Committee is no longer considering the whole of the Cabinet agenda.
- 1.11 On the day of publication of the Cabinet agenda all Councillors are sent an e-mail asking them to contact Committee Services, by 09.00am on the day of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting to advise which Cabinet items they would like the Committee to consider.
- 1.12 As a result, the Committee considered the items detailed in appendix 2. The response the Cabinet gave on each item is also shown.
- 1.13 In reviewing these responses, the Committee can identify any issues for which they would like a progress report. A future report, for example on how the decision has been implemented, would then be submitted to the Committee at an agreed date which would then be incorporated within the work programme.
- 1.14 In July 2020, a report went to Executive on "Governance Review of Warwick District Council" – Minute 22. In the list of resolutions made, one was:
(1) an independent assessment of these arrangements is undertaken in February 2022 and officers are asked to bring back an outline proposal for this, in consultation with the Chairs of Scrutiny, in December 2021 along with proposed funding arrangements, be approved.

- 1.15 Following the decision in July 2020 the Council has embarked on proposals for a potential merger with Stratford-on-Avon District Council. The decision of this Council to make a formal application (or not) to the Secretary of State will, one way or another, impact on the democratic structure of this Council. Therefore, after consultation with the Chairs of both Scrutiny Committees, they were in agreement the review should be deferred for now to enable proper consideration of the Council's needs.
- 1.16 In respect of the Equality & Diversity Task & Finish Group, the Group has not met since the last meeting of the Scrutiny Committee because it is waiting to look at the engagement levels from the proposed merger consultation as a base level for investigation. This data is anticipated to be with the Group before Christmas. Based on this and the demands on Councillors in respect of focussing on the proposed merger ahead of Council on 13 December the Group is unlikely to meet to look at this until after the Christmas break.

2 Conclusion/Reasons for the Recommendation

- 2.1 The work programme should be updated at each meeting to accurately reflect the workload of the Committee.
- 2.2 The proposed plan at Appendix 1 has been developed in order for the Committee to focus on the four agreed core themes (Covid 19, Climate Change, Medium Term Financial Strategy and Business Plan). While this Committee will not have as much focus on the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, it will have to spend significant times looking at the other areas in detail.
- 2.3 Two of the five main roles of overview and scrutiny in local government are to undertake pre-decision scrutiny of Cabinet decisions and to feed into policy development.
- 2.4 If the Committee has an interest in a future decision to be made by the Cabinet, or policy to be implemented, it is within the Committee's remit to feed into this process.
- 2.5 The Forward Plan is actually the future work programme for the Cabinet. If a non-cabinet member highlighted a decision(s) which is to be taken by the Cabinet which they would like to be involved in, that member(s) could then provide useful background to the Committee when the report is submitted to the Cabinet and they are passing comment on it.
- 2.6 Appendix 2, Comments from Cabinet, is produced to create a dialogue between the Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It ensures that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is formally made aware of the Cabinet's responses.
- 2.7 Where Overview and Scrutiny Committee has made a recommendation as opposed to a comment, the Cabinet is required to respond to the recommendation(s) made, including whether or not it accepts the recommendation(s).

Meeting Date: 7 December 2021

Title	Where did item originate from	Format	Lead Officer / Councillor	Next report date if applicable	Completion Date / Notes
Service Area Dashboard update	O&S May 2021	Verbal report	Councillors Kohler, Cullinan and Jacques		
Task & Finish Group – Equality & Diversity – Phase 2	O&S July 2021	Point 1.16 in the Work Programme report	Councillor Mangat	Every meeting until completed	
Policy Gap – sustainability on listed / historical buildings – Is there a policy gap and what can be done if there is a gap. Councillor Kohler to speak with Councillor Cooke	O&S November 2021	Verbal report	Councillor Kohler		

Meeting Date: 8 February 2022

Title	Where did item originate from	Format	Lead Officer / Councillor	Next report date if applicable	Completion Date / Notes
Current Arrangements for the South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership.	This is a mandatory report.	Written report	Marianne Rolfe.	Late October / Early November 2022.	This is an annual report.
HEART Shared Service update including the implementation of the new IT system	April 2021	Written report	Lisa Barker / Nick Cadd (nick.cadd@stratford-dc.gov.uk)	TBA	
A report on the Stratford Street Scene Team and on how its fly tipping enforcement service differs from the one operated currently at Warwick District Council.	February 2021	Written report	Zoe Court		The service is estimated to recommence in April 2021, so see if it has been operating for 6 month for a report October 2021. If not, move to a date when it will have.

Meeting Date: 8 March 2022

Title	Where did item originate from	Format	Lead Officer / Councillor	Next report date if applicable	Completion Date / Notes
Annual update from Shakespeare's England.	Committee meeting 29 August 2018	Written report.	Martin O'Neill and Councillor Hales.	March 2022.	This is an annual report.

Meeting Date: 12 April 2022

Title	Where did item originate from	Format	Lead Officer / Councillor	Next report date if applicable	Completion Date / Notes
Overview & Scrutiny End of Term report.	Standing Annual Item.	Written report.	Committee Services Officer.	April 2023.	This is an annual report.

Briefing Notes to All Councillors – April 2022: Not for O&S Agenda

Title	Where did item originate from	Format	Lead Officer / Councillor	Next report date if applicable	Completion Date / Notes
Children's and Adults' Safeguarding Champions: End of Term Report.	Standing Annual Item.	Briefing note to all Councillors with a paragraph explaining that if they have any concerns that they feel require scrutiny, to raise these for consideration as part of the work programme.	Lisa Barker.	April 2022.	This is a briefing note to all Councillors.

Appendix 1 – Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

Title	Where did item originate from	Format	Lead Officer / Councillor	Next report date if applicable	Completion Date / Notes
Members' Annual Feedback on Outside Appointments / Annual review of membership/participation of Outside Bodies (Includes a short synopsis on Champions)	Standing Annual Items	Briefing note to all Councillors with a paragraph explaining that if they have any concerns that they feel requires scrutiny, to raise these for consideration as part of the work programme and if any are to be considered to be ceased, the Deputy Chief Executive will discuss these with the LCG	Andrew Jones	April 2022	This is an briefing note to all Councillors.

Municipal Year 2022/23 (Meeting dates still to be confirmed)**May/June 2022**

Title	Where did item originate from	Format	Lead Officer / Councillor	Next report date if applicable	Completion Date / Notes
Update on the merging of ICT systems and data as the merger of the service areas of the two Councils moves forwards, including plans if authorisation for full political merger is denied.	O&S November 2021	Written report	David Elkington	Every six months	

July/August 2022

Title	Where did item originate from	Format	Lead Officer / Councillor	Next report date if applicable	Completion Date / Notes
Update on the merging of ICT systems and data as the merger of the service areas of the two Councils moves forwards, including plans if authorisation for full political merger is denied.	O&S November 2021	Written report	David Elkington	Every six months	
The Progress and Impact of the Equality & Diversity Task & Finish Group's Recommendations in the report that was presented to O&S 6 July 2021	O&S 6 July 2021	Written Report	Tracy Dolphin/Graham Leach		

September time 2022

Title	Where did item originate from	Format	Lead Officer / Councillor	Next report date if applicable	Completion Date / Notes
Park Exercise Permits – annual review of the scheme	August 2020 (Last report made to O&S - 21 September 2021)	Briefing Note	Padraig Herlihy	Annual update	

Meeting Date: To Be Advised

Title	Where did item originate from	Format	Lead Officer / Councillor	Next report date if applicable	Completion Date / Notes
Decide if an update is required on the Catering and Events Concessions Contract – Royal Pump Rooms and Jephson Gardens Glasshouse.	Committee meeting 26 September 2019.	Informal update.	Dave Guilding / Philip Clarke.	TBA	D Guilding and P Clarke were asked when they can give an informal update considering the impact of Covid-19 on this service. A response from them is awaited.
**Update on plans to improve accessibility to, and the condition / cleanliness of, toilets for people living with disabilities subsequent to the presentation of the plans at the September 2019 Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting. **There is no new information on plans to improve	Committee meeting 26 September 2019 and briefing note 8 December 2020.	Briefing Note	Zoë Court	To be advised if applicable.	No officer will attend the Committee meeting unless there is a request. If there is a request, Members should send their questions to the report author before the meeting.

Appendix 1 – Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

Title	Where did item originate from	Format	Lead Officer / Councillor	Next report date if applicable	Completion Date / Notes
<p>accessibility to, and the condition / cleanliness of, toilets for people living with disabilities – Officers request that this update is postponed until such time as budget figures 2021/22 for improvements are known.</p>					
<p>Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards Enforcement Process – Private Sector Housing</p>	<p>O&S August 2020</p>	<p>Written Report</p>	<p>Mark Lingard</p>		<p>A review was requested once the scheme had been operation for 12 months. Covid Lockdown has meant that the 12 months has not been achieved yet.</p>

**Response from the meeting of the Cabinet on the
O&S Committee's Comments – 4 November 2021**

Item Number: 9 – Riverside House Development Brief

Requested by: Chair- O&S

Reasons Considered: Because the Council own the site and it is important to the people living in Royal Leamington Spa. It is important that due diligence is undertaken.

Scrutiny Comment:

The Committee welcomed and supported the report and asked that information on the sample size should be added to give context to the statistics provided in the report.

The Committee recommended that in the brief, the Council's wish for the developer to find carbon savings in the build/construction process and to investigate the reuse of materials, be made clear.

Cabinet Response:

The recommendations in the report were approved, along with the recommendation from Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Item Number: 11 – Climate Change Action Plan

Requested by: Chair - O&S and the Green Group

Reasons Considered:

(1) Chair – O&S:

Since this is a stated strategic priority for the Council and important to the residents in the District, the Committee decided a while back that this report would be called in when it appeared on the Cabinet agenda to ensure due diligence was undertaken.

(2) Green Group:

As it's a strategic priority of the Council.

Here are some of the issues that we'd like discussed, but are sure other members will wish to raise other points. We are delighted with the plans to appoint more officers and many of the actions within appendix 1 are excellent.

We would like to know more about the context of the Heat Decarbonisation Plan (ambition 1 appendix 1, points 1.1. 1.2 and 1.3), including: How much are already agreed projects expected to reduce WDC's carbon emissions from heating using gas? Which 'net zero standards' will be used?

In section 4.1 of ambition 1 appendix 1, it states that WDC has moved all investments away from fossil fuels! Can you please confirm this is the case, and whether this excellent news has been/ will be publicised widely.

Ambition 2 appendix 1 section 3.5 refers to “the standard used for Europa Way”. Please provide a link to this standard so members can see what it is. Section 3.6 refers to the WDC zero carbon DPD as also providing a standard. How do these 2 standards relate? In what ways is one stronger than the other? How do they relate to the recent government announcement that "effective from June 2022, for England that would result in a 31% reduction in carbon emissions from new homes compared to current standards"? see [Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener - October 2021](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/102421/net-zero-strategy-build-back-greener-october-2021.pdf) (publishing.service.gov.uk)

Scrutiny Comment:

The Committee welcomed the report and the request for additional resource.

The Committee recommended the following:

- That a carbon descent plan was created for use as a target and tracker for use to measure progress on the programme.
- The Council should promote good news stories, e.g., the divestment of fossil fuel investments, so that residents were aware about the progress being made.
- A consolidated view of the different standards in Housing that were in use across the District should be produced to give more clarity on which standards would apply and where they might apply, e.g., in or near the Conservation Area.

Cabinet Response:

The recommendations in the report were approved, along with the recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee.