

Meeting of the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee

**Wednesday, 28th September, 2022 at 6.00pm
in the Council Chamber
at the Council House, Priory Road, Dudley**

Agenda - Public Session (Meeting open to the public and press)

1. Apologies for absence
2. To receive any declarations of interest under the Members' Code of Conduct
3. To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 20th June, 2022 as a correct record (Pages 5 to 11)
4. Public Forum (Pages 12 to 15)
5. Terms of Reference (Pages 16 to 20)
6. Carbon Reduction Plan (Pages 21 to 29)
7. Update on progress with Air Quality Monitoring in the Borough (Pages 30 to 34)
8. Progress Update on the Use of Pesticides and Maintaining the Borough's Green Spaces (Pages 35 to 47)

9. [Action Tracker \(Pages 48 to 50\)](#)
10. To consider any questions from Members to the Chair where two clear days notice has been given to the Monitoring Officer (Council Procedure Rule 11.8).

Distribution:

Councillor D Corfield (Chair)
Councillor P Dobb (Vice-Chair)
Councillors C Barnett, C Bayton, K Casey, R Collins, C Eccles,
J Elliott, J Foster, S Henley, M Rogers, T Russon, K Shakespeare



Chief Executive

Dated: 20th September, 2022

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Submitting Apologies for Absence

- Elected Members can submit apologies by contacting Democratic Services (see our contact details below).

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Minutes of the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee

**Monday 20th June, 2022 at 6.00 pm
in the Council Chamber at the Council House, Priory Road,
Dudley**

Present:

Councillor D Corfield (Chair)
Councillor P Dobb (Vice-Chair)
Councillors C Barnett, R Collins, T Creed, C Eccles, J Elliott, J Foster, M Hanif, S Henley, M Rogers, T Russon and P Sahota

Dudley MBC Officers:

B Heran (Deputy Chief Executive), A Vaughan (Interim Director of Public Realm), G Scholes (Interim Lead for Climate Change) and M Johal (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

Also in attendance:

Councillor R Clinton (Cabinet Member for Waste Management and Climate Change)

Together with 9 members of the public.

1 Chairman's Introduction

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Committee and stated that it was a very important Scrutiny Committee which aimed to cover climate change and environmental issues. To enable proper Scrutiny to take place each meeting would be limited to one or two items.

The meeting were informed that for this meeting a time limit of 3 minutes would be set to allow individual members of the public to speak during the Public Forum item. However, there would also be an opportunity for members of the public to speak during discussion of Agenda Item No 5 should comments be related to that particular item.

Time limits for specific agenda items would be reviewed at future meetings at the discretion of the Chair.

2 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors C Bayton, K Casey and K Shakespeare.

3 **Appointment of Substitute Members**

It was reported that Councillors M Hanif, P Sahota and T Creed had been appointed to serve as substitutes for Councillors C Bayton, K Casey and K Shakespeare respectively for this meeting only.

4 **Declarations of Interests**

No Member made a declaration of interest, in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct, in respect of any matter considered at the meeting.

5 **Public Forum**

A member of the public made comments about climate change and stated that finite fossil fuels were coal, oil and gas giving off greenhouse gases that enhanced the natural greenhouse effect. The natural greenhouse effect made life on earth possible. However, it was considered that the burning up, over 300 years, of our one-off geological inheritance was enhancing that natural greenhouse effect to raise temperatures to make life uninhabitable on earth, which was called human-induced climate change. Therefore, there was an urgent need to drastically reduce greenhouse gases by reducing our use of fossil fuels.

The following proposals to reduce use of oil and gas and on spending less were made:-

- Using a self-powered bike or a bus to attend Council meetings
- Switching off lights when vacating a room, particularly in the Council House
- Turning down the temperature of a room and wearing additional layers of clothing
- Buying less and making everything last longer
- Insulating Council offices and residential homes to the maximum possible
- Installation of secondary, double or triple glazing
- Using cars as little as possible and increasing walking, cycling and use of public transport
- Scrapping Metro tram extensions as they had spoilt and even destroyed railway lines and infrastructure in the Black Country and Birmingham
- Reinstate the commuter and regional trains back on the 120 km Black Country Railway “of national strategic significance” that had not yet been turned into the £500 million, 10 kms Dudley Tram



- Bring in fair, free public transport to reward everyone using buses, trains and trams, with traffic priority for buses on the inside lane and stiff financial penalties for vehicles not registered as essential users on main roads, within the outer Ring Road, during rush hour
- Move Council offices to more energy efficient buildings such as those at the Waterfront and to use the railway line
- To cancel the climate busting concrete and steel, double-track railway/tram viaduct to smother the carbon-absorbing grass, soil and trees/shrubs on Dudley's premier canal embankment at Merry Hill.

5 **Discussion on Terms of Reference and Work Programme for the Committee for 2022/23**

The Committee received a presentation from the Deputy Chief Executive with input from the Interim Director of Public Realm and the Interim Lead for Climate Change on tackling climate change together with the proposed Work Programme for the Committee for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

In presenting the information it was highlighted that it was vital to work collaboratively with partners, businesses and communities to achieve long term goals. Particular reference was made to the United Nations – 17 Goals which would be referred to regularly with a view to developing Dudley's Action Plan which would be included in the Committee's Work Programme for appropriate scrutiny.

The Interim Director of Public Realm referred to Dudley's inhouse fleet vehicles that required replacing and also on the need to review the incineration service and associated financial consideration as the waste management contract was due to expire in February, 2023. A company had also been commissioned to develop the waste strategy, of which carbon was a key component, and once options were available these would be submitted to the Committee for consideration.

The Deputy Chief Executive indicated that Council Directorates used various methods in their Sections to minimise the impact on the environment, however, it was acknowledged that these needed to be brought together and incorporated onto a "dashboard" for easier assessment and analysis.

Arising from the presentation, members of the public from various organisations were given the opportunity to make their comments which included the following:-

- Reference was made to the need for public support and input such as via the setting up of a citizen's climate assembly in Dudley
- It was considered that the Green Care Team in Dudley created a barrier to biodiversity, particularly on their mowing methods
- The Council's renewable energy supplier needed reviewing as it was considered the organisation were not a 100% renewable energy supplier
- Reference made to traffic congestion which impacted on children as they were unable to play outside and the need to reduce car dependency by introduction of various schemes such as encouraging walking to school



- The instructions for recycling were not clear and these needed to be reviewed for ease of understanding
- Protection of the natural environment was vital due to its absolute crisis and it was explained that insects, species and flowers were dying and drastically reducing as they were being destroyed through over enriching grass and the ground. The use of fertilisers to tidy edges also needed to be reviewed as it had a knock-on effect.
- It was considered that Heath Lane in Stourbridge was one of the highest polluted areas in the country and proposed air quality improvement plans, particularly in that area would be welcomed.
- Reference was made to electric bicycles, however there were no dedicated cycle lanes and future plans on any proposals were queried.
- The need to work with schools to encourage cycling and walking to and from school
- Review the use of glyphosate weedkiller as it contributed to the decline of insects
- Better information and communication to the public on grants available for insulating homes

Members then made comments including the following:-

- Reference was made to the Black Country Plan and that it was integral to climate change
- The Black Country Plan had many challenges and although consultation had taken place it was not certain concerns on biodiversity and the impact on the environment had been adequately addressed
- There had been a decrease in public transport owing to the lack of demand and it was considered that this had been contributed by there being no proper strategy to encourage the use of public transport
- Reference was made to Fens Pool and the uncertainty of the impact from additional developments and whether overall consideration had been given to the impact of proposed developments on green belt sites
- The need to work jointly with Future Council Scrutiny Committee on issues around the Black Country Plan with a view to addressing concerns
- The need to ensure residents and businesses were involved and engaged in work programmes
- In the Council Climate Plan Scorecards website, Dudley scored zero in all Sections which had been highlighted by the press
- The Council did not have a dedicated section on climate change on the website to include assistance and links to grants
- Transport and housing were two key areas for scrutiny
- The impact of the Metro on green spaces and natural habitat, and given its connectivity to Merry Hill, the confliction in encouraging people to buy less
- It was considered that greenspaces and natural habitat should be considered earlier in the work programme of the Committee
- Feedback on trials of the use of non-pesticides was requested



- The need to encourage Planning to be stricter with developers in relation to green agendas for proposed developments
- The Stourbridge Household Waste Recycling Centre did not serve the needs of residents as it only opened from 8 am to 4 pm and was not accessible to all
- The need to be specific on items and elements to be scrutinised given climate change and the environment were massive topic issues and cross cutting
- Green care issues related to blocked drains, weedkiller use and litter contributing to fly tipping and the need to review practices
- The need to have a baseline to work to including best practice from other Local Authorities
- An assurance that resources were available for delivery of proposed actions

The Cabinet Member for Waste Management and Climate Change acknowledged concerns and points made and explained about the ongoing work being undertaken in the background, particularly on short term outcomes that could be delivered quickly. One of the short-term proposals was to focus on schools with a view to encouraging each school to develop their own strategy to monitor air quality, which could include low speed zones in the vicinity. Businesses were also being encouraged to be environmentally friendly, particularly on any proposed developments in the area, with the possibility of making requirements mandatory.

Arising from a query about the Climate Change Group, the Deputy Chief Executive clarified that although regular feedback would be provided to this Committee on its work, the group was separate to this Committee. It was further indicated that the group would include input from residents.

It was noted that at each meeting the items for discussion at the forthcoming meeting would be reviewed to reflect any changes that might arise from time to time.

In concluding the debate Members agreed that Working Group meetings should be held as and when necessary and that a site visit to Lister Road be arranged in due course.

Resolved

- (1) That the terms of reference for the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee be submitted to the next meeting for noting.
- (2) That the work programme of the Committee be confirmed in line with the programme of business below, subject to the need for flexibility to reflect any changes that might arise during the municipal year:



Working as One Council in
the historic capital of the Black Country



CCE/5

Wednesday, 28th September, 2022

Overview report showing operational progress across Council Teams

Update on progress with Air Quality Monitoring and Filtering

Progress with developing Climate Change Strategy, Action Plan and performance management arrangements

Developing the programme for engagement across the Borough – our workforce, our partners, our residents and businesses

Progress with Street Cleansing and Green Care (Including protection of our Greenspaces and Natural Habitat) and moving to a greener delivery model

Monday, 21st November, 2022

Overview report showing operational progress across Council Teams

Update on Waste Management Strategy to include plans around the future development of the energy from waste plant based at Lister Road, the proposed options to maximise recycling through changes in our waste collection system

Transport Fleet Strategy and Green Transport

Monday, 23rd January, 2023

Overview report showing operational progress across Council Teams

Review of Corporate Estates

- (3) That the following specific elements be included in the Work Programme for detailed scrutiny whilst considering the relevant topic items:-

Cycling Provision in Dudley

Dudley Council's Climate Plan Scorecard

Transport and Housing performance indicators related to Climate Change and Environment

Stourbridge Household Waste Recycling

Pesticides

Biodiversity



- (4) That Working Group meetings be arranged on an ad hoc basis, as and when necessary, throughout the year.
- (5) That the Lead for Law and Governance, following consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, be authorised to make all the necessary arrangements to enable this Committee to undertake its programme of scrutiny work during the 2022/23 municipal year.

The meeting ended at 7.57 pm

CHAIR



**Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee –
28th September, 2022**

Report of the Lead for Law and Governance

Public Forum

Purpose

1. To consider the ongoing arrangements for the engagement of members of the public and partner organisations in the work of this Committee.

Recommendation

2. That the Lead for Law and Governance, following consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, be authorised to invite any members of the public or representatives of partner organisations to future meetings where they have a specific interest or specialist knowledge in relation to Climate Change and environmental issues.

Background

3. Pursuant to the Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules, as set out in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, all Scrutiny Committees have a 'Public Forum' agenda item at each meeting. This is to allow members of the public to ask questions on any matter falling within the terms of reference of the Scrutiny Committee. The way in which the Public Forum session is conducted is at the discretion of the Chair of the meeting.

4. The Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules also provide that a Scrutiny Committee may invite local residents, partner organisations, stakeholders and Members and Officers in other parts of the public sector to attend the Committee, discuss issues of local concern and/or answer questions. This is an alternative, more flexible, approach to the appointment of formal Co-opted Members, which would require approval of Full Council. In addition, formally appointed Co-opted Members are required to sign the Members' Code of Conduct and comply with its requirements.
5. Following consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, it is proposed to adopt a flexible and open approach to maximise opportunities to achieve public and partner engagement in the work of this Committee. Residents or representatives of partner organisations with a specific interest in the Committee's work may be given a standing invitation to attend meetings and speak on any agenda items, at the discretion of the Chair. The Public Forum agenda item will be retained to afford any residents the opportunity to raise general issues within the terms of reference of the Committee. These arrangements will be kept under ongoing review.
6. The Council's scrutiny arrangements are set out in Part 2, Article 6 of the Constitution (Overview and Scrutiny). The associated Scrutiny Procedure Rules are contained within Part 4 of the Constitution which also contains the terms of reference for the Council's Scrutiny Committees.

Finance

7. The costs of operating the scrutiny arrangements will be contained within existing budgetary allocations.

Law

8. Scrutiny Committees are established in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 and the requirements of the Council's Constitution, which was adopted under the Local Government Act 2000, subsequent legislation and associated Regulations and Guidance.



Risk Management

9. The Council is committed to adopting best practice in its management of risk. It aims to ensure risk is maintained at an acceptable level to maximise opportunities and demonstrate that it has given full consideration of the implications of risk to the delivery and achievement of its outcomes, strategic aims and priorities.

Equality Impact

11. Provision exists within the Council's scrutiny arrangements for overview and scrutiny of the Council's policies on equality and diversity.

Human Resources/Organisational Development

12. The Council's scrutiny functions are administered within the resources available to the Democratic Services Team with support from Directorates and other Officers as required.

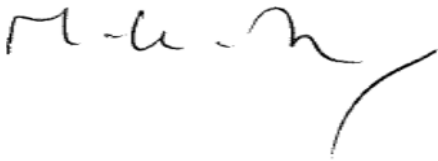
Commercial/Procurement

13. Individual items included in the Annual Scrutiny Programme may have commercial implications, which will be reported at the relevant Committee meeting.

Council Priorities and Projects

14. Dudley operates a One Council ethos to build an effective and dynamic organisation aligned to its three core priorities to grow the economy and create jobs; create a cleaner and greener place and support stronger and safer communities.
15. Items within the Annual Scrutiny Programme and the work undertaken by the Scrutiny Committee will contribute to the delivery of key Council priorities including the Borough Vision, Council Plan and Future Council Programme.





Mohammed Farooq
Lead for Law and Governance
(Monitoring Officer)

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List of Background Documents

[The Council's Constitution](#) – Part 4 – Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules



**Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee –
28th September, 2022**

Report of the Lead for Law and Governance

Terms of Reference

Purpose

1. To report on the Scrutiny Committee's terms of reference for the 2022/23 municipal year.

Recommendation

2. That the terms of reference for the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee, as set out in the Appendix, be noted.

Background

3. At the Annual Meeting of the Council on 19th May, 2022, the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee was established for the 2022/23 municipal year. The terms of reference were discussed at the first meeting of this Committee on 20th June, 2022. It was agreed that the terms of reference would be submitted to this meeting for noting.
4. Also, at the Annual Meeting of the Council, the Leader reported on the appointment of a Cabinet Member portfolio for Waste Management and Climate Change for the 2022/23 municipal year. The Lead for Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) was authorised to take any necessary and consequential actions required to implement the decisions taken at the Annual Meeting of the Council.

5. The executive functions of the Cabinet Member for Waste Management have now been agreed and incorporated in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution, namely:
- (1) Responsibility for the policy and strategic direction of functions relating to Waste Management and Climate Change (other than policies that require approval by the Cabinet/Council).
 - (2) The co-ordination and development of the environmental sustainability agenda and matters associated with the Council's decision to declare a Climate Emergency.
 - (3) Lead responsibility in relation to Climate Change activity, including the development and implementation of a Carbon Reduction Plan.
 - (4) Approval and implementation of the Waste Strategy.
6. Scrutiny of the above functions are reflected in the terms of reference of this Committee as set out in the Appendix. In particular, the terms of reference reflect that this Scrutiny Committee has a key role in scrutinising corporate and strategic activity in relation to Climate Change and priorities concerning the environment. The Committee is developing a detailed work programme for the 2022/23 municipal year.
7. The Council's scrutiny arrangements are set out in Part 2, Article 6 of the Constitution (Overview and Scrutiny). The associated Scrutiny Procedure Rules are contained within Part 4 of the Constitution which also contains the terms of reference for the Council's Scrutiny Committees.

Finance

8. The costs of operating the scrutiny arrangements will be contained within existing budgetary allocations.



Law

9. Scrutiny Committees are established in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 and the requirements of the Council's Constitution, which was adopted under the Local Government Act 2000, subsequent legislation and associated Regulations and Guidance.

Risk Management

10. The Council is committed to adopting best practice in its management of risk. It aims to ensure risk is maintained at an acceptable level to maximise opportunities and demonstrate that it has given full consideration of the implications of risk to the delivery and achievement of its outcomes, strategic aims and priorities.

Equality Impact

11. Provision exists within the Council's scrutiny arrangements for overview and scrutiny of the Council's policies on equality and diversity.

Human Resources/Organisational Development

12. The Council's scrutiny functions are administered within the resources available to the Democratic Services Team with support from Directorates and other Officers as required.

Commercial/Procurement

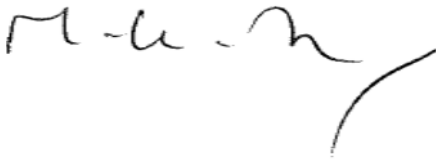
13. Individual items included in the Annual Scrutiny Programme may have commercial implications, which will be reported at the relevant Committee meeting.

Council Priorities and Projects

14. Dudley operates a One Council ethos to build an effective and dynamic organisation aligned to its three core priorities to grow the economy and create jobs; create a cleaner and greener place and support stronger and safer communities.



15. Items within the Annual Scrutiny Programme and the work undertaken by the Scrutiny Committee will contribute to the delivery of key Council priorities including the Borough Vision, Council Plan and Future Council Programme.



Mohammed Farooq
Lead for Law and Governance
(Monitoring Officer)

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Appendix

Appendix 1 – Terms of reference

List of Background Documents

The Council's Constitution

Annual Meeting of the Council – 19th May, 2022



CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Membership

13 Councillors

Terms of Reference

In accordance with the Annual Scrutiny Programme and any statutory requirements:-

- (a) To undertake overview and scrutiny functions with specific reference to:
- Climate Change and matters associated with the Council's decision to declare a Climate Emergency, including the development and implementation of a Carbon Reduction Plan and action to support the United Nations sustainable development goals.
 - The development of the environmental sustainability agenda and action to address the corporate priority to create a cleaner and greener place.
 - Working collaboratively with partners, businesses and communities to achieve long term goals in connection with the above.
- (b) To contribute to policy development and undertake scrutiny investigations/inquiries as required.
- (c) To consider and determine any items that are called in for scrutiny in accordance with the Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules.
- (d) To submit reports and recommendations to the relevant decision taker(s).



Carbon Reduction Plan

September 2022



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Content

- Progress update
- Carbon Reduction Plan
- Carbon Reduction Plan Teams and Timeline
- Links to Strategy
- Priority Actions



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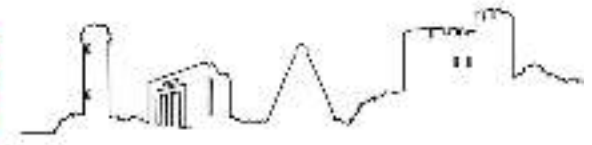


Progress Update

- Focus on the corporate estate, CLS Consultancy on behalf of DMBC have carried out a baseline assessment of the corporate estate, including grey fleet for scope 1&2 emissions.
- This will provide us with a baseline 2019, aspirations for the next 5 years and ideas for decarbonising the corporate buildings.
- This work will be completed by the end of September and will feed into the wider Carbon Reduction Plan.
- An internal working group on behavioural change delivered the first meeting in August, it's important that this work feeds into the wider plan on Carbon Reduction.
- Review on commercial benefit of Solar PV, will start October 2022.
- Trajectory's to demonstrate reaching Net Zero by 2041 are currently being reviewed.



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Carbon Reduction Plan

- A wider Borough plan now needs to be commissioned, this plan will support the aspirations of the West Midlands and tie into future innovation and funding opportunities.
- We will start with our own operations, using the data collected during the past 3 months, this will inform the baseline and also commercial business cases.
- Each directorate will take ownership for delivery of carbon targets.
- Workstreams will define priority actions, policy, funding, capital expenditure, resource and delivery of targets and KPI's.
- A Energy/decarbonisation, Waste and Climate Emergency strategy will be commissioned, this will set out the vision, sense of direction and provide a 5 year action plan for the council, all supported by marketing and communications.
- Set up governance arrangements to monitor progress



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Teams and Timeline

Buildings

- Housing Directorate
 - Property and capital projects
 - Regeneration and new builds
 - Sustainability
 - Planning Policy
 - Trading Standards
-
- **Cross cutting: Communications**
 - **Cross cutting: Finance and Procurement**

Transport

Transportation

Fleet Services

Waste & Offsetting

Waste and Fleet

Air Quality



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Cabinet Report: Timeline

- | Expected Date | Proposed activity |
|----------------------|--|
| • October – December | Scoping policies, programmes and projects to develop the first draft of the Carbon Reduction Plan. |
| • January 2023 | Initial Dudley Carbon Reduction Plan and Monitoring framework |
| • February – March | Engagement programme with key stakeholders |
| • April | Cabinet Report |
| | Request to consult with residents on the final carbon reduction plan |
| • July | Final draft of Carbon Reduction Plan incorporating engagement and consultation outcomes CRP to Cabinet and Council for approval. |



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Links to Strategy

- Circular Economy, links to West Midlands Industrial Symbiosis programme WMISP.
- Waste Strategy,
- Heat Decarbonisation/Energy Strategy, links to smarter cities.
- Climate Emergency Strategy, building a resilient Dudley.



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Priority Actions

| Priority Action | Cost over 10 years (£) and staff requirements |
|--|---|
| <p>Buildings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use baseline data from CLS study to inform decisions on installed measures. 2. Consider opportunities for heat networks, starting with EFW 3. Local generation, using public sector to create energy hubs 4. Consider opportunities for demand side response, energy storage and smart/flexible technologies 5. Heat pump installer training, links to skills gaps and green jobs. 6. Initiate exemplar new build projects of LA owned or partially owned housing at a very high standard of energy efficiency. | <p>9 FTE</p> <p>£30m</p> |

Priority Actions

| Priority Actions | Costs over 10 years (£) and staff requirement |
|--|---|
| Publicity campaign 1. Run a major publicity campaign covering all aspects of the Net Zero Plan. | Up to 2 FTE £300K until 2026 |
| Planning Policy 1. Explore opportunities to raise new build non-domestic carbon emissions standards above the National Planning Policy Framework. 2. Initiate low carbon heat networks schemes in cost effective and heat density locations, acting alone or in a public – private partnership 3. Introduce carbon offsetting, offset payment from developers who can't meet Net Zero targets, £300 per tonne. | 2 FTE (Planning Policy, Sustainability) £200m investment as a public ownership or private sector Positive FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION. |

**Meeting of the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee –
28th September 2022**

Report of the Interim Director of Public Health and Wellbeing

Update on Air Quality Monitoring in the Borough

Purpose

1. This report outlines the current measures in place to monitor air quality in Dudley, and proposals to improve air quality in the future.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended: -
 - That the Committee notes the contents of this report.
 - That the Committee supports the proposals for further initiatives.
 - That the Committee recognises the importance of air quality data and supports development of the use of that data in strategic planning of development of the borough.

Background

3. The UK Government has a responsibility to protect people's health against the harmful effects of air pollution. Air pollution can trigger heart attacks, stroke and exacerbate respiratory illness as well as causing cancer and stunting lung development in children.
4. Air pollutants can also damage flora, fauna, change natural landscapes and the urban environment as well as intensifying the effects of climate change.
5. The main pollutants of concern which affect air quality in Dudley are Nitrogen Dioxide and Particulate Matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5})

6. Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) is a gas that is released into the atmosphere when fuels are burned, i.e., from:
 - petrol or diesel in a car engine,
 - natural gas in a domestic central heating boiler or cooker
 - power stations.
7. The National Object for NO₂ is 40ug/m³ annual average. Of all the sites where Dudley monitors NO₂ there are two areas where the National Objective is exceeded: Wordsley and Netherton.
8. Particulate Matter PM₁₀ & PM_{2.5} are particles with an aerodynamic diameter smaller than 10 micrometres (um) & 2.5um. Commonly referred to as coarse dust and fine dust. Particulates are generated by abrasion and friction from motor vehicles, as well as being by-products of combustion and burning.
9. The National Objective for PM₁₀ is 40ug/m³ annual average and all the sites where Dudley monitors PM₁₀ show compliance.
10. The National Objective for PM_{2.5} is currently 25ug/m³ annual average and all the sites where Dudley monitors PM_{2.5} show compliance.
11. In light of new evidence demonstrating the harmful nature of PM_{2.5} and its ability to travel deep inside the lung and into the blood stream, the Government are considering a reduction in the National Objective for PM_{2.5} down to 10ug/m³.
12. Dudley operates 58 diffusion tubes measuring NO₂, 3 fixed air quality stations measuring NO₂, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} along with 2 weather stations and 2 mobile Zephyr units.
13. The diffusion tubes are located across 50 different sites (4 locations where tubes are co-located in triplicate for purposes of validation), they are small, inexpensive and reliable, however, they require changing by hand on a monthly basis and subsequent laboratory analysis. Whilst the results are dependable, they are not highly accurate and require bias adjusting.
14. The bias adjustments calculations for the diffusion tubes are done annually and are based on the results from the highly accurate and significantly expensive air quality monitoring station equipment.

15. The bias adjusted annual diffusion tube measurements can be seen at each location of the Gizmo mapping tool available to the public on our website: <https://mapping.dudley.gov.uk/custom/no2stations.asp>
16. The solid triangles represent current tubes where results are available up to 2021, whereas the outline triangles represent historical tubes – locations we no longer monitor because the area is compliant with National Objectives and there are other tubes located nearby.
17. Dudley Council bases its Key Performance Indicator (KPI) for air quality monitoring on the number of diffusion tubes we successfully get a measurement from. Sometimes tubes go missing (due to theft or building work) on occasions spiders and other insect inhabit the tubes nullifying the measurement.
18. Data from the 3 air quality monitoring stations is available on request.
19. In terms of climate change Oxides of Nitrogen (including NO₂) are 300 times more potent than carbon dioxide (CO₂) and also deplete the ozone layer. Particulate matter contains black carbon (amongst any other things) which also has a warming effect on the atmosphere so it is clear that reducing NO₂ and Particulate Matter will have a significant impact on global warming and climate change.
20. The next project Environmental Health are looking at in terms of improving Air Quality is a schools' campaign – The aim is to go into schools and speak to about all the things each of us can do to reduce air pollution and improve our air quality. This will culminate in the design of a poster at each school encouraging parents to walk to school or at least turn their engines off when stationary for more the 1 minute, and when safe to do so. The winner will have his/her poster blown up for the school railings or similar- and his/her picture in the local press/website etc. The generic anti idling element of the project is already underway with 'turn your engines off' signs soon to be placed on a lamppost near you – requests welcome.
21. Further initiatives and developments to the service include:
 - Develop links between monitoring and implementation of improvement initiatives
 - Input into health inequalities agenda
 - Further education and awareness



- Input into planning policies and traffic control

Finance

22. Financial implications from undertaking this work are normally met from within existing budgets. However, the improved Air Quality Monitoring Stations were funded via Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) grant funding of £53,000.

Law

23. The DEFRA carries out an annual national assessment of air quality, using monitoring and modelling to determine compliance with relevant limit values. The annual completion of local authorities Annual Status Report (ASR) for Air Quality feeds into this annual national assessment.
24. The local air quality management (LAQM) regime requires every local authority to regularly review and assess air quality in their area (via ASR or other method).

Risk Management

25. If national objectives are not met, or at risk of not being met, the local authority concerned must declare an air quality management area (AQMA) and prepare an air quality action plan (AQAP). This identifies measures that will be introduced in pursuit of the objectives and can have implications for planning. The whole of Dudley was declared an AQMA in 2007 and has been working towards having this status lifted ever since.
26. Planning guidance has been introduced to support air quality improvements and several significant road layout changes have been made along with many other changes detailed in the AQAP – some changes supported by DEFRA grant funding.
27. The UK Government has been taken to court on 3 separate occasions for failing to protect people's health against the harmful effects of air pollution. This has no direct impact on Local Authorities in terms of fines.



Equality Impact

28. The proposals in this report do not impact on protected groups or conflict with the Council's commitment to equality.

Human Resources/Organisational Development

29. There are no implications for Human Resources/Organisational Development.

Commercial/Procurement

30. There is no impact on commercial and procurement.

Council Priorities and Projects

31. The work undertaken by the Food Team is an integral part of the Council's vision for the borough as follows:
- Dudley Vision 2030 - Connected green spaces linking parks, nature reserves and waterways to high quality local spaces, accessible to all and enjoyed by all.
 - Dudley Health & Wellbeing Strategy - Longer, safer, healthier lives for all.

Mayada Abuaffan

Interim Director of Public Health and Wellbeing



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Telephone: 01384 814669



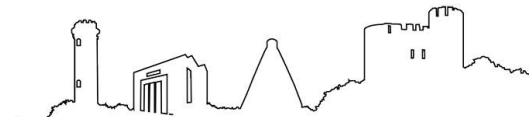
Progress update on the trial of the use of pesticides and maintaining the Borough's green spaces

Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee

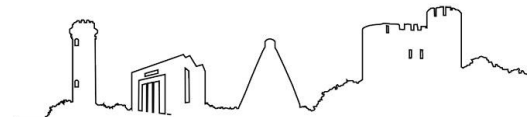
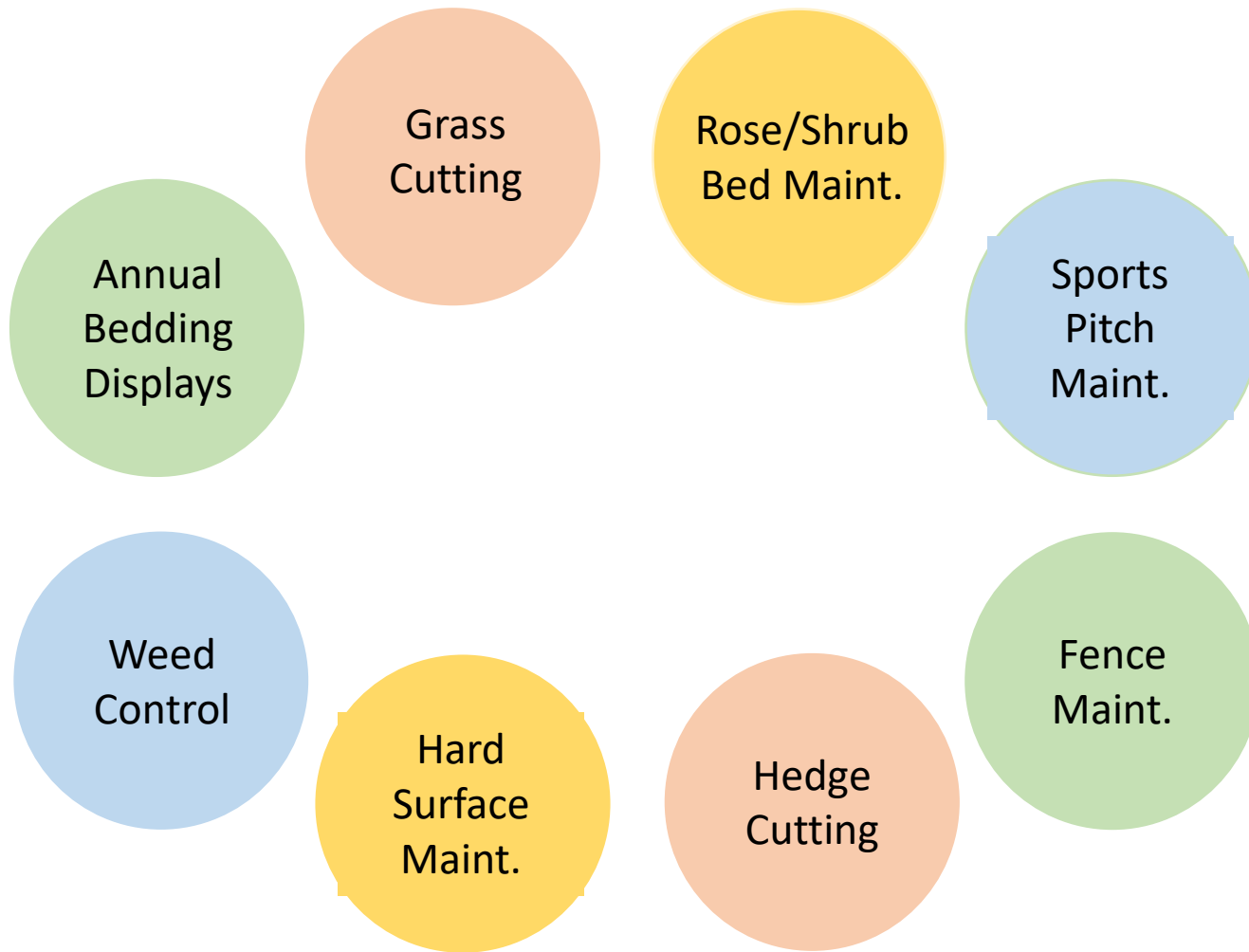
28th September 2022



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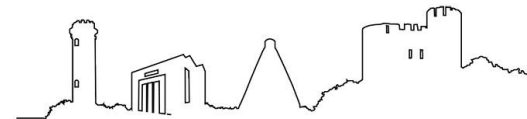
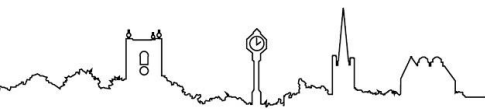


Our approach to maintenance



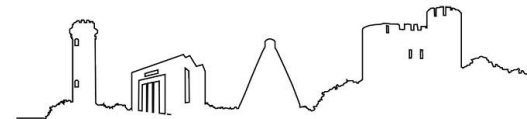
Our use of pesticides

Hard
Surfaces



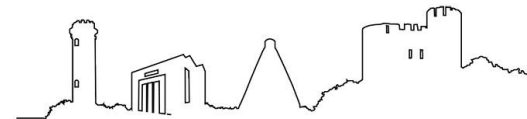
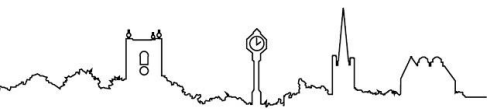
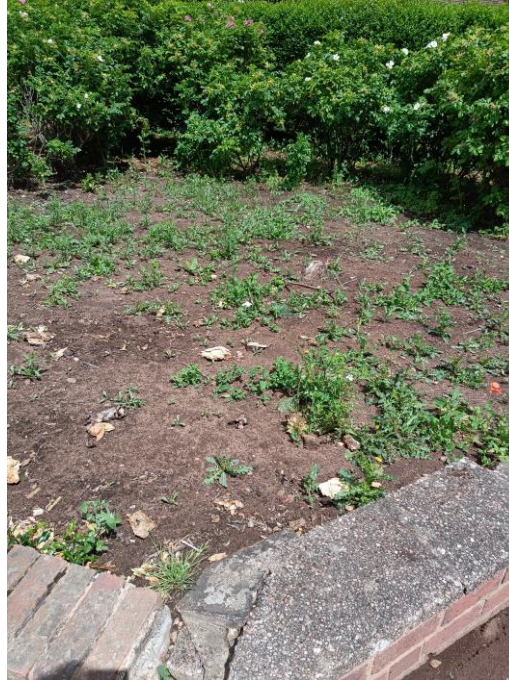
Our use of pesticides

Grass
Edges and
Obstacles



Our use of pesticides

Shrub
Beds



What did you ask?

Report presented to Housing and Public Realm Scrutiny setting out the current position and outlining alternative treatments and methods.



Agenda Item No. 6

Housing and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee - 22nd September 2021

Report of the Acting Director of Public Realm

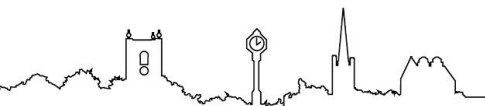
Use of Glyphosate for Weed Control

Purpose of Report

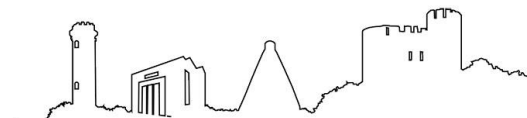
1. To present the current position regarding Dudley Council's use of glyphosate and outline alternative treatments and methods which could be considered to reduce and / or eradicate its application for managing weed control in the Borough.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that members:
 - Note the contents of this report and alternative methods of weed control subject to funding approval.

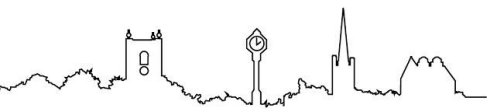


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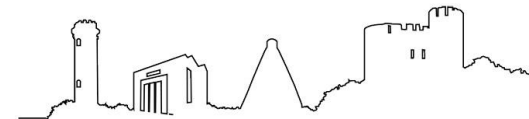


What have we done?

Katoun Gold
& Chikara

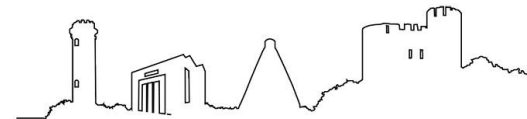
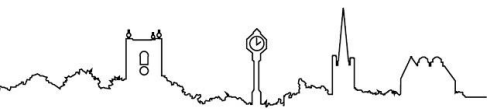


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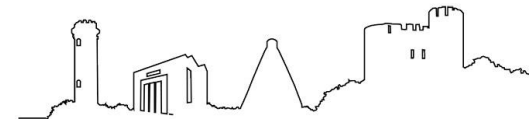
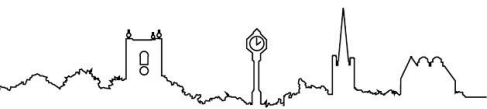
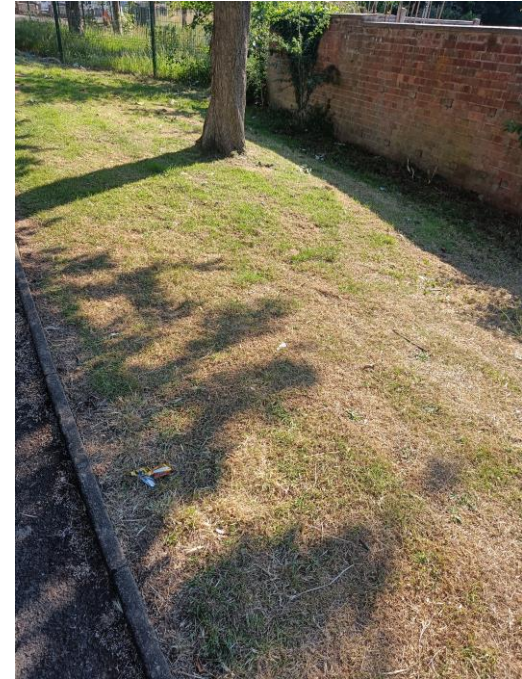
What have we done?

Foamstream



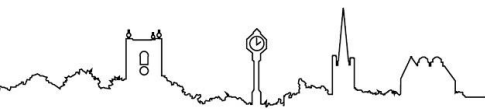
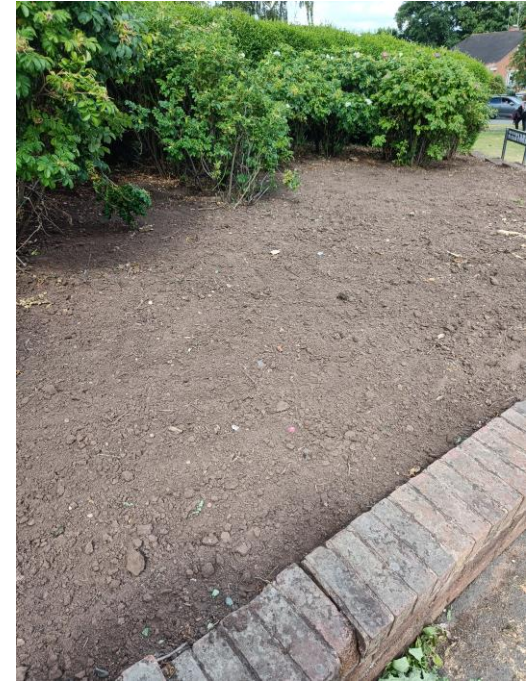
What have we done?

Weed
rippers and
trimmers

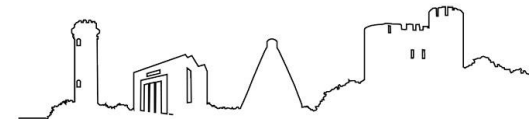


What have we done?

Hoe and
hand weed

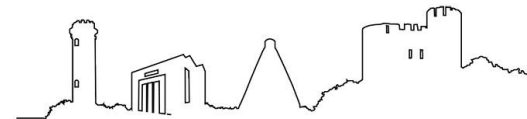
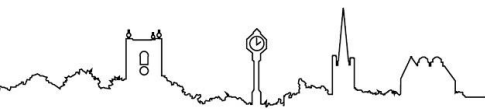


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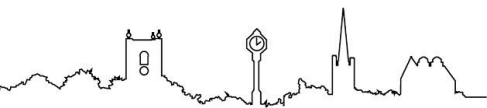
What have we done?

Arterial
Routes

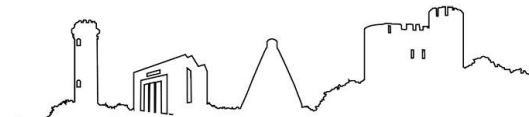


Thoughts and reflections

- First time, we want the right people in the right place at the right time with the right equipment doing the right job in the right way.
- Can we move away from a one size fits all approach but achieve consistency?
- What and how do we maintain? How do we deliver?
- Can we join up with other service areas to achieve better outcomes?



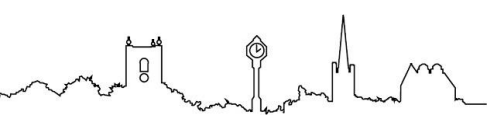
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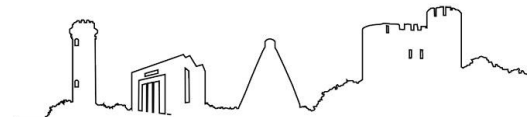
Progress update on the trial of the use of pesticides and maintaining the Borough's green spaces

Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee

28th September 2022



Working as One Council in
the historic capital of the Black Country



Action Tracker – Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee

| Subject (Date of Meeting) | Recommendation/action | Responsible Officer/Area | Status/Notes |
|---|--|---|---|
| Discussion on Terms of Reference and Work Programme for the Committee for 2022/23 (20 th June, 2022) | Site Visit to Lister Road to be arranged in due course | Democratic Services | Site visits arranged for 21 st and 22 nd September, 2022 – invitations sent to Members (Completed) |
| | That the terms of reference for the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee be submitted to the next meeting for noting. | Democratic Services | Scheduled to be considered by the Scrutiny Committee on 28 th September, 2022 (Completed) |
| | That the following specific elements be included in the Work Programme for detailed scrutiny whilst considering the relevant topic items:- Cycling Provision in Dudley Dudley Council's Climate Plan Scorecard | Chair/Vice Chair/ Democratic Services/ Responsible Officers | To be considered by the Chair and Vice Chair for inclusion in the Scrutiny Work Programme |

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | <p>Transport and Housing performance indicators related to Climate Change and Environment</p> <p>Stourbridge Household Waste Recycling</p> <p>Pesticides</p> <p>Biodiversity</p> | | |
|--|--|--|--|

Future Business – Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee

| Date of Meeting | Work Programme | Responsible Officer/Area | Notes |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|--------------|
| 21 st November, 2022 | Update report on Climate Change Strategy, Action Plan and performance management arrangements | Interim Lead for Climate Change | Report |
| | Update on Waste Management Strategy | Acting Director of Public Realm | Report |
| | Transport Fleet Strategy and Green Transport | Acting Director of Public Realm | Report |
| 23 rd January, 2023 | Update report on Climate Change Strategy, Action Plan and performance management arrangements | Interim Lead for Climate Change | Report |
| | Review of Corporate Estates | Director of Regeneration & Enterprise (Corporate Landlord) | Report |
| | Revenue Budget Strategy (TBC) | Director of Finance and Legal | Report |
| 27 th March, 2023 | Update report on Climate Change Strategy, Action Plan and performance management arrangements | Interim Lead for Climate Change | Report |