



# NORWICH City Council

**Committee Name: Cabinet**

**Committee Date: 08/12/2021**

**Report Title: Scrutiny committee recommendations**

**Portfolio:** Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources

**Report from:** Executive director of community services

**Wards:** All Wards

**OPEN PUBLIC ITEM**

## **Purpose**

To consider the recommendations made by scrutiny committee on 21 October 2021.

## **Recommendation**

To consider whether to adopt all or some of the recommendations from the scrutiny committee.

## **Policy Framework**

The Council has three corporate priorities, which are:

- People living well
- Great neighbourhoods, housing and environment
- Inclusive economy

This report meets the corporate priorities for people living well and great neighbourhoods, housing and the environment.

## Report Details

1. The main topic for the scrutiny committee on 21 October was a review of the environmental strategy following COVID-19. The Portfolio Holder, Cllr Emma Hampton, was present to hear the debate and to answer questions from the scrutiny committee. The committee welcomed the direction that the council was taking on environmental matters and how external expertise could add to the debate. There was a discussion on the progress made by other authorities on the topic of renewable energy, and how renewable energy factors had been considered on two Norwich pilot projects, Riverside swimming pool and St Andrews and Blackfriars Halls. Cost was seen as a significant factor and the importance of identifying sources of funding to the success of future projects was raised.
2. The committee heard from the council's fuel poverty and energy officer that there will be a review of the Housing HRA business plan with an objective for the council's housing stock to become carbon neutral. A report on the financial aspects will be available to the committee in due course.
3. There was discussion around the following topics;
  - a) Increase in flight capacity at Norwich airport,
  - b) per capita carbon emissions in various parts of the city,
  - c) introducing green spaces in corridors in adaptations to the city,
  - d) the council's role in influencing environmental standards in new housing and
  - e) challenging the need for new road schemes.
4. The following resolutions were then agreed to be presented to cabinet:

Recommendation	Rationale	Implications / resource requirements to Norwich City Council
1. ask for the standing items of the Scrutiny committee to include updates from the Norwich Climate Change Commission	To enable the scrutiny committee to be aware and briefed on the latest work of the Norwich Climate Change Commission.	No financial cost. These updates would need to be prioritised to ensure best use of the limited agenda slots available on the scrutiny forward work programme.
2. invite UK100 to attend a meeting of this committee to update on what work we are going to do with them.	UK100 is a network for UK locally elected leaders who have pledged to play their part in the global effort to avoid the worst impacts of climate change by switching to 100% clean energy by 2050. Norwich City Council is a member of UK100.	No financial cost. Officer time to issue invitation and host on the day.

<p>3. hold a member briefing on the environmental impact of any investments to form part of the investment matrix that is used.</p>	<p>To further member knowledge in this area.</p>	<p>Officer and member time. Could result in a change in the way investment decisions are reached.</p>
<p>4. request that the review of the Economic strategy include businesses plans for net zero carbon emissions.</p>	<p>The information would be provided by local businesses at the request of Norwich City Council, with the objective of making local businesses consider what their plans for net zero carbon emissions actually are.</p>	<p>Officer time. Reputation of the council.</p>
<p>5. review commercial investment strategy to see how it can support environmental strategy</p>	<p>Members referred, in particular, to the progress made by other councils on renewable energy.</p>	<p>Officer time. Could result in a change in the way investment decisions are reached.</p>
<p>6. recommend that when the BEIS per capita figures are reported in council reports that it is stated that the BEIS data set does not include production, consumption, shipping and aviation.</p>	<p>Using this caveat would ensure that readers of any council report* including BEIS data would be made aware that production, consumption, shipping and aviation sources of carbon emissions are not included. *(including reports prepared by the Greater Norwich Development Partnership such as the joint core strategy annual monitoring report).</p>	<p>Officer time to identify who in the council is likely to use BEIS data in council reports and then to inform these officers of the caveat that should accompany any use of BEIS data. Officer time to inform the Greater Norwich Development Partnership of this recommendation.</p>
<p>7. ask cabinet to actively look at partnering with academia to get the tools needed to ensure we can work out what we can and can't influence.</p>	<p>Understanding and building on the knowledge from expert partners could help determine what measures are included in the environmental strategy, prioritising those which the council can directly influence.</p>	<p>Officer and potentially member time. Reputation of the council.</p>

- The scrutiny work programme is a standing item at each meeting. At the meeting on 21 October the committee heard that select committee work on flytipping and communal bins has been delayed by three months due to the need to consider the data. It was hoped that a detailed report could be considered by the scrutiny committee in December.

### Consultation

- Ward councillors, the public or other stakeholders have not been consulted (statutorily or otherwise). However the public are encouraged to submit topics for scrutiny via an interactive form on the council's website. The recommendations in this report have been confirmed with the cabinet member for climate change and digital inclusion.

### Implications

#### Financial and Resources

- Any decision to reduce or increase resources or alternatively increase income must be made within the context of the council's stated priorities, as set out in its Corporate Plan 2019-22 and Budget.
- Any impact on resources resulting from this report will be accommodated within existing budgets or the relevant approvals will be sought if additional budget is required.

### Legal

- No specific legal advice has been sought or provided.

### Statutory Considerations

Consideration	Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:
Equality and Diversity	None at this stage
Health, Social and Economic Impact	The recommendations have the potential to inform the council's environmental strategy; which in turn could lead to better health outcomes for residents.
Crime and Disorder	None at this stage
Children and Adults Safeguarding	None at this stage
Environmental Impact	The recommendations have the potential to inform the council's environmental strategy.

### Risk Management

Risk	Consequence	Controls Required
None at this stage		

## **Other Options Considered**

10. There have been no other options considered for this report, as it is a factual report based on the outcome of committee meetings that have already taken place.

## **Reasons for the decision/recommendation**

11. This report will allow cabinet to make a decision on whether or not to take forward some or all of the recommendations from the scrutiny committee meeting held on 21 October 2021.

**Background papers:** none

**Appendices:** none

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