

Agenda

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Wednesday, 18 January 2023, 2.00 pm
County Hall, Worcester

All County Councillors are invited to attend and participate

This document can be made available in other formats (large print, audio tape, computer disk and Braille) on request from Democratic Services on telephone number 01905 846621 or by emailing democraticServices@worcestershire.gov.uk

DISCLOSING INTERESTS

There are now 2 types of interests:
'Disclosable pecuniary interests' and **'other disclosable interests'**

WHAT IS A 'DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST' (DPI)?

- Any **employment**, office, trade or vocation carried on for profit or gain
- **Sponsorship** by a 3rd party of your member or election expenses
- Any **contract** for goods, services or works between the Council and you, a firm where you are a partner/director, or company in which you hold shares
- Interests in **land** in Worcestershire (including licence to occupy for a month or longer)
- **Shares** etc (with either a total nominal value above £25,000 or 1% of the total issued share capital) in companies with a place of business or land in Worcestershire.

NB Your DPIs include the interests of your spouse/partner as well as you

WHAT MUST I DO WITH A DPI?

- **Register** it within 28 days and
- **Declare** it where you have a DPI in a matter at a particular meeting
 - you must **not participate** and you **must withdraw**.

NB It is a criminal offence to participate in matters in which you have a DPI

WHAT ABOUT 'OTHER DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS'?

- No need to register them but
- You must **declare** them at a particular meeting where:
 - You/your family/person or body with whom you are associated have a **pecuniary interest** in or **close connection** with the matter under discussion.

WHAT ABOUT MEMBERSHIP OF ANOTHER AUTHORITY OR PUBLIC BODY?

You will not normally even need to declare this as an interest. The only exception is where the conflict of interest is so significant it is seen as likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

DO I HAVE TO WITHDRAW IF I HAVE A DISCLOSABLE INTEREST WHICH ISN'T A DPI?

Not normally. You must withdraw only if it:

- affects your **pecuniary interests OR** relates to a **planning or regulatory** matter
- **AND** it is seen as likely to **prejudice your judgement** of the public interest.

DON'T FORGET

- If you have a disclosable interest at a meeting you must **disclose both its existence and nature** – 'as noted/recorded' is insufficient
- **Declarations must relate to specific business** on the agenda
 - General scattergun declarations are not needed and achieve little
- Breaches of most of the **DPI provisions** are now **criminal offences** which may be referred to the police which can on conviction by a court lead to fines up to £5,000 and disqualification up to 5 years
- Formal **dispensation** in respect of interests can be sought in appropriate cases.

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Wednesday, 18 January 2023, 2.00 pm, County Hall, Worcester

Membership: Cllr Alastair Adams (Chairman), Cllr Tony Muir (Vice Chairman), Cllr Mel Allcott, Cllr Paul Harrison, Cllr Aled Luckman, Cllr Emma Marshall, Cllr Beverley Nielsen, Cllr David Ross and Cllr Emma Stokes

Agenda

Item No	Subject	Page No
1	Apologies and Welcome	
2	Declarations of Interest and of any Party Whip	
3	Public Participation Members of the public wishing to take part should notify the Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager in writing or by e-mail indicating both the nature and content of their proposed participation no later than 9.00am on the working day before the meeting (in this case 17 January 2023). Further details are available on the Council's website. Enquiries can also be made through the telephone number/e-mail address listed in this agenda and on the website.	
4	Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meeting Previously circulated.	
5	Budget Scrutiny 2023/24	1 – 18
6	Highways Innovations Update	To follow
7	Work Programme	19 - 24

NOTES

Webcasting

Members of the Panel are reminded that meetings of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel are Webcast on the Internet and will be stored electronically and accessible through the Council's Website. Members of the public are informed that if they attend this meeting their images and speech may be captured by the recording equipment used for the Webcast and may also be stored electronically and accessible through the Council's Website.

Agenda produced and published by the Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager (Interim Monitoring Officer) Legal and Governance, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester WR5 2NP

To obtain further information or a copy of this agenda contact Alyson Grice/Alison Spall, Overview and Scrutiny Officers on 01905 844962/846607, scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

All the above reports and supporting information can be accessed via the Council's website

Date of Issue: Tuesday, 10 January 2023

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ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

18 JANUARY 2023

BUDGET SCRUTINY 2023/24

Summary

1. The Panel will consider the draft Budget for 2023/24 for the areas within its remit relating to the Environment including Net Zero Plans, Highways, Flooding and Waste.
2. The Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Environment and Highways & Transport, the Strategic Director of Economy and Infrastructure, the County Council's Chief Financial Officer (S151) and the Deputy Chief Finance Officer have been invited to the meeting.

Background

3. Members of the Panel are reminded that they have had the benefit of quarterly performance and financial monitoring throughout the year as part of the Scrutiny Panels' role in maintaining oversight of service provision, identifying trends, budget pressures and challenges.
4. In addition, the Leader and Chief Executive attended the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) on 7 December to discuss the new and emerging pressures for the Council likely to impact on the 2023/24 budget and medium-term financial plan, following the autumn statement.

Budget Scrutiny 2023/24

5. As part of the Budget Scrutiny process for 2023/24, the Strategic Director of Economy and Infrastructure has been asked to identify the main messages from the draft 2023/24 Budget for areas within the remit of the Panel and these are set out in Appendix 1.
6. The draft Council Budget 2023/24 was presented to Cabinet on 5 January 2023 and is also available to the Panel at Appendix 2.
7. The Panel's discussions on the draft Council Budget 2023/24 will be reported to the OSPB on 30 January 2023, when the Board will formulate its comments to Cabinet for its meeting on 2 February 2023.

Purpose of the meeting

8. Following discussion of the information provided, the Panel is asked to determine any comments on the draft 2023/24 Budget for the Chairman to report back to the OSPB at its meeting on 30 January 2023.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 - Main messages from draft 2023/24 Budget for areas within the remit of the Panel (presentation slides)

Appendix 2 - Draft 2023/24 Budget discussed by Cabinet on 5 January 2023
[Agenda for Cabinet on Thursday, 5th January, 2023, 10.00 am - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Specific Contact Points for this Report

Alyson Grice/ Alison Spall, Overview and Scrutiny Officers, Tel: 01905 844962 / 846607
Email: scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager (Interim Monitoring Officer) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

[Agenda for Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board on Wednesday, 7th December, 2022, 10.00 am - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

[Agenda and Minutes - Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

[All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here](#)

[The Council's Budget Books are available on the website here](#)

2023/24 Draft Budget for consultation

**Environment Overview and Scrutiny
Panel**

18th January 2023

- Budget Report to Cabinet on 5 January 2023 summarises the financial position for Council and each of the service areas.
- Local Government Settlement announced on 19 December was a one-year settlement, however funding contains net additional grant funding of £26.3m which is extremely welcome.
 - Core spending power increased to upper tier Authorities to recognise significant demand pressures which included an increase to our Settlement Funding assessment by £8.4m.
 - Further funding of £19.5m to recognise significant pressures within Adults and Children's Social Care.
 - Reduction in new homes bonus of £1.1m and £0.5m in Services Grant.
 - Policy statement suggests core funding grants will increase by inflation in 2024/25.
- Funding Review anticipated for 2025/26
- Proposed Council Tax increase of 2.94%, plus a 2% Adult Social Care Levy - Total 4.94%

Overall Change 2022/23 – 2023/24

Pages 5

WCC Budget Changes 2022/23 to 2023/24



Budget Pressures	£m
Pay Inflation as set nationally	11.6
Contract Inflation	17.0
Rebase budget and Waste Financing	8.7
Service demand – see below	30.6
Total	67.9

- People Services - **£18.5m**
 - WCF - **£4.9m**
 - E&I - **£0.9m**
 - COACH - **£0.8m**
 - Capital Programme - **£5.5m**
- £30.6m**

Provisional Budget 2023/24	£m
Investment and Pressures to Fund	67.9
<i>Funded From:</i>	
Government Funding - Section 6	-26.3
Council Tax - Section 10	-14.0
Increase in use of Earmarked Reserves Above MTFP - Section 8	-5.2
Savings and Efficiencies Required - Section 7	-22.4

Section numbers relate to the information contained within the Budget Report to Cabinet dated 5 January 2023.

2% Adult Social Care Levy for 2023/24 in order to contribute to existing cost pressures due to Worcestershire's ageing population.

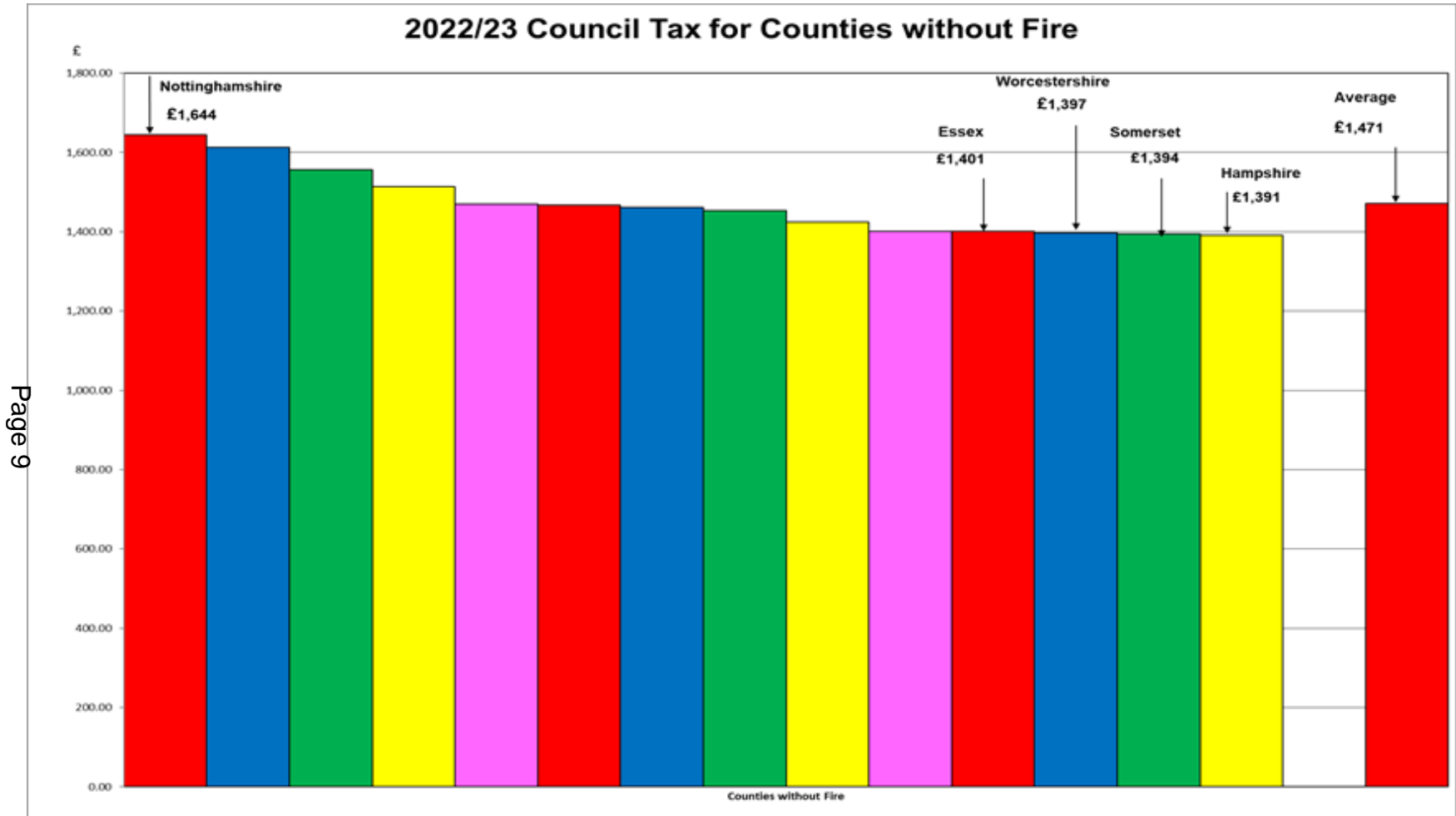
2.94% - to provide financial support to continue to fund investments in those areas that the public have consistently highlighted as important.

Page 8

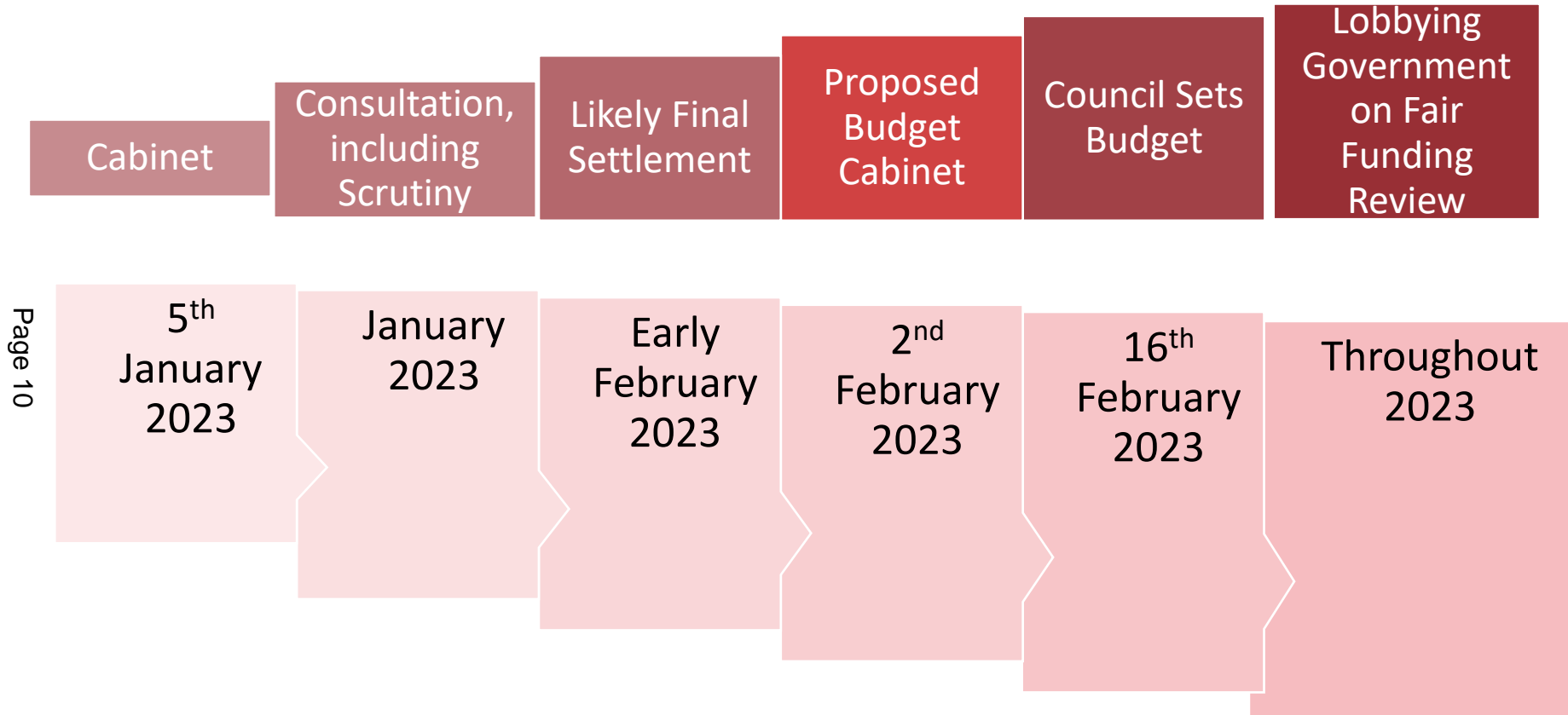
An increase of 4.94% which is an average £1.33 per week for a Band D householder.

Worcestershire is likely to remain in the lower quartile for level of Council Tax for comparable councils.

2022/23 Council Tax for Counties without Fire



Budget Planning Timeline for 2023/24



Page 10

Specific 2023/24 budget information

Areas within remit of Environment Panel

Summary Net Revenue Investment (1)

- £500k revenue increase to maintain highways and tree pruning ([paragraph 4.5](#))
- £434k increase relating to waste demand ([Table 11](#))
- Pay Inflation - £519k
- Contract inflation including waste - £3.631m
- Rebase budgets to reflect full cost of Waste PFI Financing and remove use of one-off funding - £7.4m ([Table 1](#))

Page 12

Total investment and inflation of £12.5m

Summary Net Revenue Investment (2)

Offset by

- £567k Income generation from increases in fees and charges for streetworks ([Appendix 3](#))
- Proportion of savings related to vacancy management - £414k
- Total reductions = £981k

Page 13

There has also been a transfer of services from Highways and PROW to areas within the Economy Panel - £120k

Overall there has been a net investment of £11.4m

Environment Revenue Budget – Extract of Appendix 1

SERVICE	Revised Budget 2022/23	Directorate Virements	Changes in Grants & Funding	Pay Inflation	Contract Inflation	Growth (Investment)	Growth (Demand)	Savings	Rebase Budgets	Net Budget 2023/24
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Environment										
Road Lighting	4,736	0	0	21	1,063	0	0	-14	0	5,807
Waste Management	29,408	0	0	36	1,567	0	434	-22	7,408	38,831
Development Management	29	0	0	51	34	0	0	-33	0	81
Network Management	91	0	0	153	63	0	0	-701	0	-394
Highways Operations & PROW	8,103	-120	0	258	904	500	0	-211	0	9,434
	42,367	-120	0	519	3,631	500	434	-981	7,408	53,759

Capital Investment

- Currently approved programme for the Environment of £174m alongside £104m for Open for Business ([Appendix 2](#))
- Investment of £5.5m in the overall programme to ensure cost of inflation does not affect deliverability ([para 2.2](#)) including £2.5m relating to highways and footways ([para 2.12](#) and [5.2](#))

Proposed Capital Programme for areas within this panel -1

The Environment	Revised Capital Programme 2022/23 +	2022/23 Forecast	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 + Forecast	Total 2022/23 + Forecast
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Structural Carriageway / Bridgeworks Programme	90,941	35,341	33,800	21,800	90,941
Pavement Improvement Programme	12,273	4,273	4,000	4,000	12,273
Integrated Transport Block	9,562	5,416	2,073	2,073	9,562
Highway Flood Mitigation Measures	3,773	1,773	1,000	1,000	3,773
Toronto Close EA Flood Alleviation scheme	758	758	0	0	758
Natural Networks (Love Your River)	867	867	0	0	867
Street Column Replacement Programme	2,664	1,800	864	0	2,664
Street Lighting LED conversions	6,000	4,800	1,200	0	6,000
Public Rights of Way	52	52	0	0	52
Public Rights of Way - Project Funding	564	564	0	0	564
Local Members Highways Fund	5,011	1,250	1,261	2,500	5,011
Traffic Signals Maintenance Specific Grant	493	493	0	0	493
Infrastructure and Highways Spend - Capitalised Revenue	4,500	2,000	2,000	500	4,500
Small Works Package	379	79	150	150	379
South Littleton to Blackminster Cycleway / pedestrian scheme.	191	191	0	0	191
Walking and Cycling - Kepax Bridge	13,524	7,016	6,508	0	13,524
Walking and Cycling - Sabrina Bridge	56	56	0	0	56

Appendix 2

Proposed Capital Programme for areas within this panel -2

The Environment	Revised Capital Programme 2022/23 +	2022/23 Forecast	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 + Forecast	Total 2022/23 + Forecast
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Hampton Bridge, Evesham	11,900	1,000	500	10,400	11,900
Hoobrook Link Road - Pinch Points	1	1	0	0	1
Cutting Congestion Programme	1,104	1,104	0	0	1,104
Cutting Congestion Worcester NPIF	44	44	0	0	44
Cutting Congestion Bromsgrove NPIF	216	216	0	0	216
Cutting Congestion - A456 Stourport Road Junction	480	480	0	0	480
Cutting Congestion - A38 Upton crossroads Proposed	4,037	4,037	0	0	4,037
Cutting Congestion - Bromsgrove Town Junction eff	280	280	0	0	280
Road Safety Improvements	1,339	539	400	400	1,339
Traffic Management Capital - formerly revenue funded.	21	21	0	0	21
Covid19 Emergency Active Travel Fund	79	79	0	0	79
Highways Strategic Investment Fund	100	100	0	0	100
Worcester Transport Strategy	279	279	0	0	279
Green Deal Communities	3	3	0	0	3
Investment Initiatives to Support Business and /or Green Technology	323	223	100	0	323
Energy Efficiency Spend to Save	462	231	231	0	462
Business Energy Efficiency Programme - 2	450	450	0	0	450
Warm Homes Fund	56	56	0	0	56
Public Sector Decarbonisation	554	554	0	0	554
Vehicle Replacement Programme	1,109	100	1,009	0	1,109
TOTAL	174,444	76,525	55,096	42,823	174,444

Appendix 2

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ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

18 JANUARY 2023

WORK PROGRAMME

Summary

1. From time to time the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel will review its work programme and consider which issues should be investigated as a priority.

Background

2. The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel is responsible for scrutiny of:
 - Environment including Net Zero Plans
 - Highways
 - Flooding
 - Waste
3. The Work Programme, which is part of the Council's rolling Annual Work Programme (attached at Appendix 1) was discussed by the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) on 29 June 2022 and was agreed by Council on 14 July 2022.

Dates of Future Meetings

- 23 March 2023 at 10am
- 26 May 2023 at 10am
- 19 July 2023 at 10am
- 25 September 2023 at 2pm
- 30 November 2023 at 2pm

Purpose of the Meeting

4. The Panel is asked to consider the 2022/23 Work Programme and agree whether it would like to make any amendments. The Panel will wish to retain the flexibility to take into account any urgent issues which may arise.

Supporting Information

- Appendix 1 – Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2022/23

Contact Points

Alyson Grice/Alison Spall, Overview and Scrutiny Officers, Tel: 01905 844962/846607
Email: scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager (Interim Monitoring Officer)), the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

[Agenda for Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board 29th June 2022](#)

[Agenda for Council on 14th July 2022.](#)

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Work Programme 2022/23

Date of Meeting	Issue for Scrutiny	Date of Last Report	Notes/Follow-up Action
18 January 2023	Highways Innovations		Requested by Panel 19 July 2021
	Scrutiny of 2023/24 Budget		
23 March 2023	Performance (Q3 October to December) and In-Year Budget Monitoring		
	Draft Rail Investment Strategy		
	Flood Risk Management Annual Report		
26 May 2023	Performance (Q4 January - March) and In-Year Budget Monitoring		
19 July 2023			
25 September 2023	Net Zero Plan Update		Regular update requested by Panel Nov 2022
	Performance (Q1 April to June) and In-Year Budget Monitoring		
30 November 2023	Performance (Q2 July to September) and In-Year Budget Monitoring		
Possible Future items			
TBC	Update on buses, including update on Bus Service Improvement Plan, co-operative transport.		Requested by Chairman April 2022

TBC	Demand Responsive Transport		Requested by Panel on 7 October
TBC	Environment Act - update on developments when further guidance has been provided by Central Government		Requested by Panel on 7 October
TBC	Worcestershire Streetscape Design Guide		To be considered by Panel before going to Cabinet
TBC	Waste Management Service Contract	8 November 2022	Update report once contract extension has been agreed
TBC	The Council's Net Zero Carbon Plan	8 November 2022	Update report
TBC	Road Diversion Signs		Requested by Chairman 22 November 2022
TBC	Cycling and Walking Infrastructure	13 May 2022	Update in 12 to 18 months
TBC	Cutting Congestion Programme	13 May 2022	Update in 12 to 18 months
TBC	Road Safety and Reduction of Speeding by use of Built Highways Infrastructure	13 May 2022	Update in 12 to 18 months
TBC	Environment approach: partnership working		Suggested by CMR June 22
TBC	Rainbow Crossings		Suggested at OSPB on 29 June 2022
Standing Items			
March/July/ Sept/Nov	Budget and In-year performance monitoring		
November/January	Budget Scrutiny Process		

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