



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **CLIMATE EMERGENCY OVERVIEW
AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** will be held in
David Hicks 1 - Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40
1BN on **MONDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7.00 PM**

Susan Parsonage
Chief Executive
Published on 15 September 2023

The role of Overview and Scrutiny is to provide independent “critical friend” challenge and to work with the Council’s Executive and other public service providers for the benefit of the public. The Committee considers submissions from a range of sources and reaches conclusions based on the weight of evidence – not on party political grounds.

Note: Non-Committee Members and members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting or participate in the meeting virtually, in line with the Council’s Constitution. If you wish to participate either in person or virtually via Microsoft Teams, please contact Democratic Services. The meeting can also be viewed live using the following link:

<https://youtube.com/live/LTZZmVe-ujE?feature=share>

This meeting may be filmed for inclusion on the Council’s website. Please note that other people may film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting. The use of these images or recordings is not under the Council’s control.

Our Vision
<i>A great place to live, learn, work and grow and a great place to do business</i>
Enriching Lives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion excellent education and enable our children and young people to achieve their full potential, regardless of their background. • Support our residents to lead happy, healthy lives and provide access to good leisure facilities to enable healthy choices for everyone. • Engage and empower our communities through arts and culture and create a sense of identity for the Borough which people feel part of. • Support growth in our local economy and help to build business.
Providing Safe and Strong Communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and safeguard our children, young and vulnerable people. • Offer quality care and support, at the right time, to reduce the need for long term care. • Nurture our communities: enabling them to thrive and families to flourish. • Ensure our Borough and communities remain safe for all.
Enjoying a Clean and Green Borough
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play as full a role as possible to achieve a carbon neutral Borough, sustainable for the future. • Protect our Borough, keep it clean and enhance our green areas for people to enjoy. • Reduce our waste, promote re-use, increase recycling and improve biodiversity. • Connect our parks and open spaces with green cycleways.
Delivering the Right Homes in the Right Places
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer quality, affordable, sustainable homes fit for the future. • Ensure the right infrastructure is in place, early, to support and enable our Borough to grow. • Protect our unique places and preserve our natural environment. • Help with your housing needs and support people, where it is needed most, to live independently in their own homes.
Keeping the Borough Moving
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and improve our roads, footpaths and cycleways. • Tackle traffic congestion and minimise delays and disruptions. • Enable safe and sustainable travel around the Borough with good transport infrastructure. • Promote healthy alternative travel options and support our partners in offering affordable, accessible public transport with good transport links.
Changing the Way We Work for You
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be relentlessly customer focussed. • Work with our partners to provide efficient, effective, joined up services which are focussed around our customers. • Communicate better with customers, owning issues, updating on progress and responding appropriately as well as promoting what is happening in our Borough. • Drive innovative, digital ways of working that will connect our communities, businesses and customers to our services in a way that suits their needs.
Be the Best We Can Be
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be an organisation that values and invests in all our colleagues and is seen as an employer of choice. • Embed a culture that supports ambition, promotes empowerment and develops new ways of working. • Use our governance and scrutiny structures to support a learning and continuous improvement approach to the way we do business. • Be a commercial council that is innovative, whilst being inclusive, in its approach with a clear focus on being financially resilient. • Maximise opportunities to secure funding and investment for the Borough. • Establish a renewed vision for the Borough with clear aspirations.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Councillors

Andy Croy (Chair)
Michael Firmager
Norman Jorgensen

Chris Johnson (Vice-Chair)
Catherine Glover
Charles Margetts

David Cornish
Graham Howe
Ian Pittock

Substitutes

Andrew Mickleburgh
Andrew Gray
Alistair Neal

Jane Ainslie
Pauline Helliar-Symons
Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey

Anne Chadwick
Laura Blumenthal
Shahid Younis

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
19		APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence.	
20		MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11 July 2023.	5 - 12
21		DECLARATION OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest.	
22		PUBLIC QUESTION TIME To answer any public questions. A period of 30 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions submitted under notice. The Council welcomes questions from members of the public about the work of this Committee. Subject to meeting certain timescales, questions can relate to general issues concerned with the work of the Committee or an item which is on the Agenda for this meeting. For full details of the procedure for submitting questions please contact the Democratic Services Section on the numbers given below or go to: www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions	
23		MEMBER QUESTION TIME To answer any Member questions.	
231		Councillor Gary Cowan has asked the Chair the following question: The Climate Emergency Overview and Scrutiny Committee is set up to scrutinise the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan and reports to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee. I asked the Head of Planning and Policy by email if a	

blanket temporary Tree Preservation Order could be put on Hall Farm while the proposals for the site are evolving. The answer was a definite no but he did add that any trees on the boundary that warranted protection might be considered in their own right. This would suggest that houses are more important than the protection of our trees including our environment. Flora, fauna and the risk of flooding all play second fiddle to housing, putting trees within any proposed development site in Wokingham all at risk.

There are many examples to date, where the lack of urgency by the Councils Planning, Tree and Landscape Departments has led to the wholesale destruction of many trees and the consequences of that on the climate emergency is immeasurable. Houses first, trees and the environment second.

My question is: will the Climate Emergency Overview and Scrutiny Committee request that the Local Plan update emerging policy adds such a policy to the plan as it will be a significant move designed to protect our environment against climate change? To do so will show a genuine commitment to fighting climate change and not to do so will indicate to our residents that Wokingham Borough Council's Lib Dem administration can talk the talk, but not walk the walk.

24	None Specific	PROCUREMENT REPORT ON CEAP ACTIONS To consider an update on progress relating to the achievement of more effective Procurement processes which supports delivery of the CEAP.	13 - 20
25	None Specific	BARKHAM SOLAR FARM UPDATE To consider progress relating to the development of a solar farm at Barkham.	To Follow
26	None Specific	WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24 To consider the Committee's Work Programme for 2023/24.	21 - 24
27	None Specific	ACTION TRACKER To consider the regular Action Tracker report.	25 - 26

CONTACT OFFICER

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