

## **Committee: Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

**Date: 16<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

Agenda item: 7

Wards: All

**Subject: Task Group - Scoping Report**

Lead officer: Rebecca Redman, Scrutiny Officer

Lead member: Cllr Russell Makin, Chair of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Contact officers: Rebecca Redman, Scrutiny Officer

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### **Recommendations:**

1. That Members consider and approve the proposed Terms of Reference, timescales, sources of evidence, and witnesses for the review of climate change and the green deal.
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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To make proposals to Members for their forthcoming task group review of Climate Change and the Green Deal, and to seek agreement on the proposed Terms of Reference, timescales, sources of evidence and witnesses for the review.

### **2. DETAILS**

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2013, Members considered and agreed their Work Programme for the 2013/2014 municipal year. Members proposed that climate change and the green deal be the focus of a Task Group review.
- 2.2 The following Members were nominated to sit on the Task Group: Cllr James Holmes, Cllr Russell Makin (Chair), Cllr Ian Munn, Cllr Suzanne Grocott and Cllr Ray Tindle.

### **3. AIM OF REVIEW**

- 3.1 The aims of the task group review are as follows:
  - To support the council in its refresh of the Climate Change Strategy 2013-2016;
  - To address the impact of climate change in Merton and determine how the council will support residents in relation to energy improvements; and
  - To support the council to agree a way forward for the Governments Green Deal initiative in Merton

#### **4. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE REVIEW:**

4.1 The terms of reference of the task group review as decided at the Task Group meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> September are as follows:

- To determine what the government's policy is on Climate Change and how Local Authorities are required to respond;
- To determine the impact climate change could have on the borough and the councils responsibilities to respond to this change;
- To determine what action Merton has taken to date, and proposals for the future, to tackle climate change in Merton (focusing on energy improvements: Merton RE:FIT Project, energy efficiency activities with schools and renewable energy);
- To determine what impact not implementing certain climate change measures will have on service delivery and the councils resources;
- To determine if the Governments Green Deal policy is suitable for Merton and how they should respond;
- To identify what funding streams the council has to support climate change activity, as outlined within the Climate Change Strategy, and which work streams are prioritised by the council;
- To explore potential funding streams to implement preventative measures to mitigate the impact of climate change;
- To determine how partner organisations can be more effectively engaged in supporting the delivery of the Climate Change Strategy for Merton;
- To determine how the council can work more effectively across departments to ensure that climate change objectives and measures are built into business planning and strategy development

#### **5. POTENTIAL SOURCES OF EVIDENCE AND WITNESSES FOR THE REVIEW**

5.1 Members can request a range of evidence and comparative information throughout the course of the review. Members can also invite a variety of people to attend to assist in the forming of evidence-based recommendations to the Executive, and where appropriate, to partner organisations.

5.2 Members may wish to consider the following in this review: -

- Detailed officer reports supplemented by verbal evidence;
- Best practice from neighbouring Local Authorities;
- Government legislation and guidance (national, regional and local policy);
- Site visits;
- Evidence from partner organisations and stakeholders;
- Research reports/briefing papers; and
- Consultation activities

5.3 It is proposed that the Task Group consult the following stakeholders in this review:

- Sustainable Merton (Tom Walsh and Kevin Godding – Co-opted Members)
- Neighbouring local authorities
- Housing Associations

## 6. OFFICER SUPPORT

6.1 Members of the Climate Change and Green Deal Task Group will be supported by:

**Rebecca Redman, Scrutiny Officer**

Rebecca.redman@merton.gov.uk, 020 8545 4035

## 7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

7.1 The Panel may choose to agree a different scope and terms of reference to those proposed in this scoping report.

## 8. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

8.1 Members are asked to give consideration to if, and how, they would like to engage witnesses in this review.

## 9. TIMETABLE

9.1 It is envisaged that the Task Group will undertake and complete its review within 6 months. The final report and recommendations from the review will be presented to the Sustainable Communities O&S Panel for endorsement at its meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

9.2 The following reporting timescale should be borne in mind when conducting the review to ensure completion by April 2014: -

Agree scope – Sustainable Communities Panel October 16 <sup>th</sup>
Evidence gathering and analysis – September 2013 to January 2014
Agree Draft Final Report and Recommendations – 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2014
Draft Final Report to be endorsed by Sustainable Communities Panel – 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2014
Final Report to be considered by Cabinet – 10th March 2014
Executive Response and Action Plan to Sustainable Communities Panel – June 2014

## 10. CO-OPTION

10.1 Members are asked to give consideration to co-opting representatives onto the Task Group for part, or the duration, of the review to assist the Task Group. In accordance with the Constitution any representative co-opted onto the Panel or

Task Group will be a non-voting member of the Task Group and will be required to adhere to the Council's Code of Conduct for Members.

## **11. PUBLICITY**

11.1 Members can publicise the review to encourage and facilitate resident and partner engagement and to promote the outcomes of the review upon completion. The following mechanisms for promotion/publication may be utilised throughout the review: -

- Press release in local press;
- My Merton;
- Community Forums;
- Merton council website;
- Ward councillors;
- Posters/materials in libraries and Merton Link;
- Staff bulletin board and plasma screens in civic centre; and
- Residents' panel and Centre for Public Scrutiny (outcomes)

## **12. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 There are none specific to this report. Any financial, resource and property implications arising from the review will be accounted for in the Task Group's Final Report.

## **13. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

13.1 None for the purposes of this report. Any legal and statutory implications arising from the review will be accounted for in the Task Group's Final Report.

## **14. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

14.1 None specific to this report. Any human rights, equalities and community cohesion implications arising from the review will be accounted for in the Task Group's Final Report.

## **15. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

15.1 None specific to this report. Any crime and disorder implications arising from the review will be accounted for in the Task Group's Final Report.

## **16. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

16.1 None for the purposes of this report. Any risk management and health and safety implications arising from the review will be accounted for in the Task Group's Final Report.

## **17. APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**

17.1 None

**18. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

18.1 None

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