

To: Scrutiny Committee
Date: 5 August 2025
Report of: Chair of the Scrutiny Committee
Title of Report: Recommendations from the Working Groups for endorsement at the Scrutiny Committee

Summary and recommendations	
Decision being taken:	To endorse the recommendations from the Working Groups.
Key decision:	No
Lead Member:	Chairs of the Scrutiny Working Groups
Corporate Priority:	A Well-Run Council
Policy Framework:	None

Recommendation(s): That the Scrutiny Committee resolves to:
1. Endorse the recommendations from the Climate and Environment, Housing and Homelessness, and Finance and Performance Working Groups.

Information Exempt From Publication	
N/A	N/A

Appendix No.	Appendix Title	Exempt from Publication
N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview and Summary

1. The Scrutiny Committee is asked to endorse the recommendations from the following Working Groups held since the previous meeting:

Climate and Environment Working Group – 22 July 2025

- Net Zero Masterplan Tracker
 - Local Plan 2042 Climate change and resilience
 - Annual Air Quality Status Report
2. Cabinet Members, in consultation with the relevant Officers, will either, agree, agree in-part, or disagree with the recommendations. The tables below detail the Working Groups' recommendations for endorsement by the Committee. No table was produced for items where no recommendations were suggested.
 3. The Climate and Environment Working Group would like to record:
 - Consideration around building cooling, particularly of public buildings, as an integral part of design. The Working Group suggested that, if not already included, the design checklist should feature examples of various cooling measures, including passive solutions to help guide future development proposals.
 4. The Working Groups wish to thank Cabinet Members and Officers who contributed to the presentation of reports and discussions.

Financial implications

5. Financial implications for the reports listed above were outlined within the reports presented at Working Groups.

Legal issues

6. Legal implications for the reports listed above were outlined within the reports presented at Working Groups.

Level of risk

7. Risk Registers, where appropriate, were linked to the reports presented at Working Groups.

Equalities impact

8. Equalities Impact Assessments, where appropriate, were linked to the reports presented at Working Groups.

Carbon and Environmental Considerations

9. Consideration for Carbon and Environmental impacts, where appropriate, were linked to the reports presented at Working Groups.

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**Table 1 – Recommendations of the Climate and Environment Working Group –
Local Plan 2042 Climate Change and Resilience**

The table below sets out the recommendations made by the Climate and Environment Working Group Working Group on 22 July 2025 for endorsement by the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 5 August 2025. The Cabinet will be asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree?</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Status</i>
1) That the Local Plan 2042 include clearer support for renewable energy schemes particularly the potential for solar panel installations on terraced houses through community-led energy schemes.			
2) That there is greater robustness demonstrated in the Local Plan 2042 supporting text acknowledging the urgency of climate action when balancing the need to address climate emergency through retrofitting heritage buildings to support decarbonisation against the need to minimise harm to heritage assets.			
3) That the Plan explicitly references the potential use of BNG offsetting funds from developers for retrofit improvements to schools and community buildings, recognising the wider public benefit of public buildings rather than individual residential buildings, and criteria applied to the allocation of these funds prioritises maximum community impact.			

4) That there is specific language acknowledging the potential for loss and damage associated with new and existing properties in areas of high flood risk, and that local plan policies take account of these potential impacts in future planning and climate resilience design features to minimise possible damage (e.g. positioning of plugs, use of specific materials on the ground floor that can cope with flood damage).			
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**Table 2 – Recommendations of the Climate and Environment Working Group –
Annual Air Quality Status Report**

The table below sets out the recommendations made by the Climate and Environment Working Group Working Group on 22 July 2025 for endorsement by the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 5 August 2025. The Cabinet will be asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree?</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Status</i>
1) That the Air Quality Action Plan incorporates specific measures addressing the use of diesel generators associated with street trading, construction and similar activities, reflecting the Council's regulatory responsibilities in relation to street trading and seek to reduce air quality impacts.			

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