

COUNCILLORS

Boyd Elliott (Chairman)
Glynn Gilfoyle (Vice-Chairman)

Mike Adams
Steve Carr - **absent**
Jim Creamer
Kate Foale
Mike Introna
Roger Jackson

Eric Kerry
John Ogle
Philip Owen
Francis Purdue-Horan
Dave Shaw

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor John Cottee Deputy Cabinet Member, Transport and Environment

OFFICERS

Sara Allmond	Advanced Democratic Services Officer
Joelle Davies	Group Manager, Growth, Infrastructure and Place
Martin Elliott	Senior Scrutiny Officer
Derek Higton	Interim Corporate Director, Place
Phil Keyes	Energy and Carbon Manager
Nigel Stevenson	Service Director, Finance, Infrastructure and Improvement and Section 151 Officer
Mark Walker	Interim Service Director, Place and Communities
Chennour Wright	Project Officer

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 24 JANUARY 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2024, having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chair with the following amendment:

Councillors Mike Adams and Mike Introna were present at the meeting rather than Councillors Nigel Moxon and Sam Smith.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

4. UPDATE ON THE COUNCIL'S CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIVITIES AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Mark Walker, Interim Service Director, Place and Communities presented the report which provided Members with an update on the Council's activities responding to the challenges of climate change and in response to the climate emergency declaration in May 2021.

The following information was provided in response to comments and questions asked by Members of the Committee:

- Members were advised that the Fleet Review was still underway and analytical work was ongoing to understand the financial implications of "greening" the fleet and determining future needs.
- In response to a question regarding the impact of home working on net-zero and what support was available for officers regarding net-zero when working at home, officers agreed to investigate and report back to committee members.
- In response to a question regarding decisions taken that were counter to the net-zero policy, such as the Freeport, and what their impact was on the carbon reduction figures, officers agreed to investigate and report back to committee members.
- In response to a question regarding the environmental impact of the new office near Hucknall, Members were advised that this was with the remit of a different team and the question would be passed over for them to provide an answer to committee members.
- In response to a question regarding table 1 on page 5 of the report, Members were advised that when data was looked at the following year, the previous data would be revisited and it could become clear that there were inaccuracies in the previous years data. The important factor is that the figures were improving. The data was adjusted to make the baseline figures more accurate.
- In response to a question regarding solar panels, Members were advised that it was the responsibility of the district and borough councils in relation to homes and supporting the councils would be part of the net-zero framework being developed.
- In response to a question regarding LED lighting for street signage and any grants, Members were advised that a proposal was being developed regarding street signage as there was a cost implication and the Council would apply for any grants available to support in the Council become net-zero.

- A Member commented that it was important to take into account the increased population in the area which would increase the level of services required and therefore emissions.

RESOLVED 2024/005

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That further information on:
 - a) the work that is being carried out on evaluating the Carbon impact of hybrid working,
 - b) the environmental impact of the construction and future operation of the Council's new office near Hucknall,
 - c) the current and potential future use of solar panels on Council buildings, be circulated to members of the Overview Committee.
- 3) That a further progress report on the Council's Climate Change Activities and Climate Emergency response be received at the March 2025 meeting of the Overview Committee.

5. THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NET-ZERO FRAMEWORK

Mark Walker, Interim Service Director, Place and Communities, introduced the report which introduced the draft net-zero framework, a presentation on the report was provided by Chennour Wright, Project Manager.

The presentation set out how the draft framework had been developed and its aim in enabling the Council to work with partner organisations to work towards net-zero for Nottinghamshire.

The following information was provided in response to comments and questions asked by Members of the Committee:

- A member commented that it was positive that Nottinghamshire were doing what it could to meet net-zero targets, however the UK only produced 2% of global emissions so there was also work required to send the message out worldwide about the need to make changes.
- Carbon capture was not explicit within the framework, and this would be looked at.
- In response to a question regarding net-zero requirements being part of procurement and any data regarding this, it was agreed to take this away and look at any data gathering and evidence regarding impact.
- In response to a question regarding any barriers to partnership working in this area, members were advised that organisations had the same issues that the Council had in terms of decarbonisation, technology investment and the balance between what could be achieved within the available resources. All partners were engaged and onboard with the ambition of net-zero.

- In response to a question regarding the British Geological Survey website, Members were advised that they would be contacted as a possible partner with regard to carbon capture.
- In relation to carbon capture, Members discussed the use of it and whether it was just delaying tackling with it, along with how technology was developing and the fact that things could now be manufactured out of captured carbon such as diamonds and how carbon capture was being developed such as embedding it in concrete.
- Members welcomed the flexibility of the framework to allow for technology development.
- In response to a question regarding the fact that the per capita emissions rate for Nottinghamshire compared to the East Midlands is now higher when it was historically lower and what impact the demographics and socio-economic structure of the county might have on that compared to other areas in the region, Members were advised that the data came through from central government and needed exploring to understand the change.

RESOLVED 2024/006

- 1) That the intentions and ambitions of the draft Net Zero Framework be endorsed.
- 2) That the comments made by members during consideration of the draft Net Zero Framework be considered in the preparation of the document's final draft.
- 3) That a progress report on the delivery and impact of the Net-Zero Framework be received at a future meeting of the Overview Committee at a date to be agreed by the Chairman of the Committee.

6. RESPONSE TO FULL COUNCIL MOTION – SUPPORT FOR FORMER WILKO STAFF IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the support provided by the Council for employees affected by the closure of Wilko, following a motion to Full Council.

The following information was provided in response to comments and questions asked by Members of the Committee:

- In response to question regarding whether the Council led on any work relating to support for former Wilko staff, Members were advised that it was the responsibility of the District and Borough Councils to lead on this area of work, and for the County Council to support them in that work. Much of what the Council did was to try and add value to the work being provided by the District and Borough Councils rather than duplicating it.

- Members commented that the impact of the closure of the Wilko stores was wider than just the individual stores as it also impacted other shops in the area and use of local high street shops should be encouraged.
- Members were advised that the outcomes of the work had been reviewed and a new employment and skills framework was being prepared, which Members may wish to look at.

RESOLVED 2024/007

- 1) That the work that has been carried out to date to offer support to former Wilko staff across Nottinghamshire be noted.
- 2) That the continuing support that is being provided to those residents seeking reemployment and/or training to be work ready be noted.
- 3) That members of the Overview Committee carry out further scrutiny work on the employment and skills framework in a format to be agreed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee in consultation with officers.

7. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMMES

The Senior Scrutiny Officer, Martin Elliott, introduced the Committee's current work programme. The work programmes for each of the select committees were also appended to the report.

Members asked that the following items be added to the Overview Committee work programme:-

- Employment and Skills Framework
- Freeport
- Contract extensions

RESOLVED 2024/008

- 1) That the Overview Committee work programme be noted.
- 2) That the work programmes of the three select committees be noted.
- 3) That Committee Members make any further suggestions for consideration by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for inclusion on the Overview Work Programme, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s) and senior officers, subject to the required approval by the Chairman of Overview Committee.

The meeting closed at 11.46am

CHAIRMAN

