

Report Number: SWT 11/22

Somerset West and Taunton Council

Community Scrutiny Committee – 27th January 2022

Report of the Task and Finish Group on Council Housing Zero Carbon Retrofit

This matter is under the responsibility of Executive Councillor for Housing, Cllr Francesca Smith

Covering Report Author: Marcus Prouse – Specialist – Governance and Democratic

1 Executive Summary / Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 On 3rd March 2021 the Scrutiny Committee resolved to establish a cross party Task and Finish Group for Council Housing Zero Carbon Retrofit to investigate this topic in further depth and to report back to the Scrutiny Committee. The Committee also approved Terms of Reference which are attached at Appendix C.
- 1.2 The Group and its members have met regularly since that date as detailed in their report (Appendix A).

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Community Scrutiny Committee recommend:
- 2.2 To note the report of the Task and Finish Group on Council Housing Zero Carbon Retrofit.
- 2.3 Further to noting the report, to decide on whether to further endorse the contents of the report in part, or in its entirety, and if so inclined to endorse, submit the formal report to the:
 - a) Leader/Executive/Council
 - b) And/or other organisations as appropriate.
- 2.4 If the Scrutiny Committee cannot agree a single final report, then one minority report may be prepared and submitted for consideration with the majority report.

3 Risk Assessment (if appropriate)

- 3.1 There are potential risks associated with this issue and these are identified in Appendix B. The 2030 Carbon Neutrality target is identified on the Corporate Risk Register.

4 Background and Full details of the Report

- 4.1 As its title suggests a Task and Finish Group is set up for the specific purpose of undertaking a review and reporting back within a defined timescale.
- 4.2 Now the evidence has been gathered, the Task and Finish group's report is submitted to the relevant Scrutiny Committee outlining details of the review process, evidence gathered, conclusions and subsequent recommendations. The Scrutiny Committee can then consider the report and decide whether to recommend the report on to the Executive, or Council as appropriate.

5 Links to Corporate Strategy

- 5.1 This topic clearly relates to two of the Strategic Themes 'Our Environment and Economy' and 'Homes and Communities' in the Council's Corporate Strategy 2020-2024 which aim for "a low-carbon, clean, green and prosperous district that attracts high quality employment opportunities and encourages healthy lifestyle." Also, "A district which offers a choice of good quality homes for our residents, whatever their age and income, in communities where support is available for those who need it." The topic and report specifically looks to address the first objective of the Environment and Economy theme to "Work towards making our District carbon neutral by 2030 - deliver projects based on a Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan that work toward this goal (for example installing electric vehicle charging points across the District)".

6 Finance / Resource Implications

- 6.1 This report does not directly contain any resource implications and therefore no assessment of costs has been carried out to date.
- 6.2 However, should the Scrutiny Committee recommend the partial or inclusive adoption of the Task and Finish Groups report recommendations a full calculation of the costs associated with the proposal would need to be undertaken to allow members to make informed decisions.
- 6.3 The Task and Finish Groups Report recommendations have not been calculated and therefore the impact on the HRA Business Plan or SWT is unknown. It should be noted that the HRA Business Plans short term pressures are significant in part reflecting its ambitious programme of compliance, decent homes works, small scale, retrofit projects and a large housing development programme.
- 6.4 The Housing service is preparing a retrofit strategy and delivery plan which aims to achieve zero carbon and any statutory milestones en-route to zero carbon. The Retrofit and Delivery plan is timetabled to complete by March 2023. The Delivery Plan will be aligned to many of the recommendations of the Task and Finish Groups report, be costed, be aligned to the HRA Business plan and presented to Members for approval.

7 Legal Implications (if any – delete if not applicable)

- 7.1 None as a direct result of establishing this Group. The final report and any decision will need to consider the principles of decision-making.

8 Climate and Sustainability Implications

8.1 There are clear climate and sustainability implications considered in both the report of the Group and the Officer response (Appendices A and B).

9 Safeguarding and/or Community Safety Implications (if any – delete if not applicable)

9.1 None as a direct result of this report at this stage.

10 Equality and Diversity Implications (if any – delete if not applicable)

10.1 None as a direct result of establishing this Group. Members of the Group are responsible for making the recommendations in the final report (Officers are not part of the decision-making process) and in so doing must observe the equality and diversity policies of the Council.

11 Social Value Implications (if any – delete if not applicable)

11.1 None as a direct result of this report at this stage.

12 Partnership Implications (if any – delete if not applicable)

12.1 None as a direct result of this report at this stage.

13 Health and Wellbeing Implications (if any – delete if not applicable)

13.1 None as a direct result of this report at this stage.

14 Asset Management Implications (if any – delete if not applicable)

14.1 None as a direct result of this report at this stage.

15 Data Protection Implications (if any – delete if not applicable)

15.1 None as a direct result of this report at this stage.

16 Consultation Implications (if any – delete if not applicable)

16.1 None as a direct result of this report at this stage.

17 Scrutiny/Executive Comments / Recommendation(s)

17.1 N/A

Democratic Path:

- **Scrutiny – Yes – 27/01/21**

Reporting Frequency: Once only

List of Appendices (background papers to the report) (delete if not applicable)

Appendix A	Report of the Task and Finish Group
Appendix B	Officer Response Document
Appendix C	Terms of Reference

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