

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD – Short Sharp Review of the Impact of Heatwaves

Terms of Reference as at March 2024

The Short Sharp review of the Impact of Heatwaves has been set up by the Overview & Scrutiny Board to carry out scrutiny of the Impact of Heatwaves.

1. The Task Group be made up of 6 Members with a quorum of 3. The Task Group will meet throughout the next three months at intervals to be decided by the Group.
2. The Task Group will be a standing item on the agenda of the Overview & Scrutiny Board and either a verbal or written report will be provided at each of the Board's meetings by the Chairman of the Task Group.
3. The Task Group is able to make recommendations to the Overview & Scrutiny Board who will then put forward its recommendations for consideration by Cabinet or directly to Cabinet/Council.
4. The Task Group is expected to complete the investigation, which is a short, sharp review within three months and provide its findings and recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Board in a written report at that time.

Aims and Objectives of the Task Group

The Short Sharp Review of the Impact of Heatwaves Task Group will cover the following areas:

1. Explore lessons learned by the Council and partner agencies from the heat events in Summer 2022.
2. Assess the level of co-ordination between agencies and their roles in emergency planning and response, including the Council's role in these responses.
3. Assess best practice guidance available in respect of this matter. This should include considering the governance guidance paper on hot weather and health from May 2023 and a report from the National Audit Office on Governmental Resilience in Extreme Weather from December 2023.
4. Explore potential ways in which to increase education of and information to the public about actions they could take in response to heat events and services available.
5. Explore opportunities to expand community and business resilience. This could include investigating the potential roles of cool hubs and other ways to keep people cool, awareness campaigns, community action groups and resilience measures.