Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND

Date: Wednesday, 12 July 2023

Committee:

Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Thursday, 20 July 2023

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: Shrewsbury/Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury,

Shropshire, SY2 6ND

You are requested to attend the above meeting. The Agenda is attached.

There will be some access to the meeting room for members of the press and public, but this will be limited. If you wish to attend the meeting, please email democracy@shropshire.gov.uk to check that a seat will be available for you.

Please click <u>here</u> to view the livestream of the meeting on the date and time stated above.

The recording of the event will also be made available shortly after the meeting on the Shropshire Council YouTube Channel: <u>Here</u>

Tim Collard

Assistant Director - Legal and Governance

Members of Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Joyce Barrow (Chairman) Nick Hignett
Steve Davenport (Vice Chairman) Pamela Moseley

Garry Burchett Ed Potter
Rosemary Dartnall Rob Wilson
Julian Dean Paul Wynn

Roger Evans

Your Committee Officer is:

Sarah Townsend Committee Officer

Tel: 01743 257721

Email: <u>sarah.townsend@shropshire.gov.uk</u>



AGENDA

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Disclosable Interests

Members are reminded that they must declare their disclosable pecuniary interests and other registrable or non-registrable interests in any matter being considered at the meeting as set out in Appendix B of the Members' Code of Conduct and consider if they should leave the room prior to the item being considered. Further advice can be sought from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

3 Minutes of Previous Meetings (Pages 1 - 10)

To consider the minutes of the following previous meetings:

- Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 11th May 2023. (Attached).
- Place Overview Committee meeting held on 23rd March 2023. (Attached).
- Communities Overview Committee meeting held on 22nd March 2023. (Attached).

Contact: Sarah Townsend (Tel: 01743 257721)

4 Public Question Time

To receive any questions or petitions from the public of which notice has been given. The deadline for notification for this meeting is 5.00 p.m. on Friday, 14th July 2023.

5 Member Question Time

To receive any questions of which Members of the Council have given notice. The deadline for notification for this meeting is 5.00 p.m. on Friday, 14th July 2023.

6 Social Housing and Reviewing the Housing Strategy

To receive a report that sets out the key findings and recommendations arising from work by the former Communities Overview Committee and following the all Member workshop on 5th June 2023, to inform the refresh and review of the

Council's Housing Strategy. (To Follow).

Contact: Tom Dodds (Tel: 01743 258518)

7 Work Programme (Pages 11 - 24)

To receive the new work programme for the committee arising from their work programming sessions, commission the first pieces of work and confirm the expected flow of the work over the coming 12 to 24 months. (Attached).

Contact: Tom Dodds (Tel: 01743 258518)

8 Date/Time of Next Meeting of the Committee

The Committee is scheduled to next meet on Thursday, 9^{th} November 2023 at 2.00 p.m.



Agenda Item 3



Committee and Date

Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

20th July 2023

ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2023 In the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND 11.30 - 11.35 am

Responsible Officer: Sarah Townsend Committee Officer

Email: sarah.townsend@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257721

Present

Councillor Joyce Barrow (Chairman)
Councillors Roy Aldcroft (Substitute) (substitute for Ed Potter), Garry Burchett,
Rosemary Dartnall, Steve Davenport (Vice Chairman), Julian Dean, Roger Evans,
Nick Hignett, Pamela Moseley, Rob Wilson and Paul Wynn

1 Election of Chairman

Councillor Joyce Barrow and Councillor Pam Moseley were both proposed and seconded as Chair of the Committee. On being put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED: that Councillor Joyce Barrow be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

2 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ed Potter. Councillor Roy Aldcroft attended as substitute.

3 Appointment of Vice-Chairman

Councillor Steve Davenport and Councillor Rosemary Dartnall were both proposed and seconded as Vice-Chair of the Committee. On being put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED: that Councillor Steve Davenport be appointed as Vice-Chair for the ensuing year.

Signed		(Chairman)
Date:	Page 1	





Communities
Overview Committee

25 January 2023

10.00 am

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Public

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 MARCH 2023 1.30 P.M. TO 3.10 P.M.

Responsible Officer: Emily Marshall

Email: emily.marshall@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257717

Present

Councillor Robert Macey (Chairman)
Councillors Ted Clarke, Nick Hignett (Vice Chairman), Duncan Kerr, Christian Lea,
Dan Morris, Vivienne Parry, David Vasmer (Substitute for Mark Williams)

77. Apologies for absence and substitutions

Apologies have been received from Councillor Mark Jones and Councillor Mark Williams. Councillor David Vasmer was in attendance as a substitute for Councillor Williams.

78. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Councillor Viv Parry declared that her daughter owned a Connexus Property.

79. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

80. Public Question Time

No public questions or petitions had been received.

81. Member Question Time

A question had been submitted by Councillor Julia Evans in relation to short term lets. A copy of the question and the response given in the meeting are attached to the signed minutes and have been published on the Committee web pages.

82. Social Housing in Context: Understanding Shropshire's Housing Market

Jane Trethewey, Assistant Director Homes and Communities presented the report that followed on from a report presented to the Committee in January 2023, 'Understanding the social housing market in Shropshire', and sought to set out an understanding of the housing market as a whole.

The report considered evidence which was not restricted to housing supply and demand, but population change and demographics, health, well-being, deprivation and the economy.

The report set out housing pressures, including barriers to accessing open market housing and the role of social housing, especially in meeting the Council's statutory responsibilities.

The report proposed a range of questions which Members are asked to consider in preparation for a proposed workshop to be held in Summer 2023.

Councillor Duncan Kerr joined the meeting at 13:44.

The Chairman thanked the Assistant Director, Homes and Communities and her team for such a comprehensive report.

The Committee felt that it would be helpful to understand the data more thoroughly. A breakdown of the barrier to housing was requested, data to show a comparison to other rural counties who might have the same challenges, a breakdown by parish, the increase in Airbnb's and the impact this was having on availability of housing for families. It was requested that information in relation to the elderly and those entering residential care, rough sleepers, young offenders and those fleeing domestic violence would be informative for the proposed workshop.

The Committee requested that action points and a brief summary of the topics discussed be prepared and the Scrutiny Officer stated that he would pull something together ahead of the workshop as a vast area had been covered.

The size and complexity of housing and how it cuts across so many topics was acknowledged. Officers reported that they were pleased to work with the Committee to and welcomed their engagement.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

83. Work Programme

The Scrutiny Officer reported that Social Housing and Affordable Housing would be the main focus of the next meeting and the workshop after.

The Scrutiny Officer explained that moving forward, after the annual Council meeting, Work Programming workshops would be arranged, to which Portfolio Holders could be invited.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

84. Date/Time of next meeting

The next meeting of the Communities Overview Committee will take place on Wednesday, $3^{\rm rd}$ May 2023 at 10.00 a.m.





Place Overview Committee

23 March 2023

2.00 pm

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Public

MINUTES OF THE PLACE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23 MARCH 2023

2PM - 3.15 PM

Responsible Officer:

Email: Amanda.holyoak@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257721

Present

Councillors Steve Davenport (Vice Chairman), Julian Dean, Geoff Elner, Roger Evans, Pamela Moseley, Peggy Mullock and David Vasmer

46 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Joyce Barrow. Councillor Steve Davenport substituted for her.

47 Disclosable Interests

None were declared

48 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2023 were confirmed as a correct record.

49 Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

50 Member Question Time

Councillor Rob Wilson had submitted a question in relation to attendance at Active Travel England regional engagement sessions. The full question and response provided is available from the web page for the meeting.

51 **LED Lighting Programme**

Andy Wilde Head of Highways introduced the report summarising the key points within it and acknowledged that from a Salix finance delivery programme perspective the programme had not been delivered as quickly or as effectively as the council would have liked.

He explained that at the time the council received the money it was not well equipped to deliver the programme and was also dealing with a significant amount of failure demand with core services under huge pressure. Resources had been stressed which made delivery of the programme very difficult. On receipt of the funds there had been no available revenue funding to build up the team to deliver the programme of work. This had meant heavy reliance on consultants, who had not been well placed to support the council with this piece of work.

Amendments to the initial business case gave the council much better control, had tightened up governance procedures and recent progress in reshaping the streetlighting service was ensuring that the programme moved forward.

During discussion, members made comments and asked questions including: What were the skills or capacity missing and would learning from this experience help inform future projects; was the key issue the lack of in-house capacity; was there a current shortage of parts; was 28 day repair target currently achievable and if not when would it be; when would phase 2 of the project be announced; would lamps be fitted with sensors that automatically reported lamp failure; how often were columns inspected and how often should they be replaced; and what were the plans for the heritage columns in the county?

Responding to questions and comments the Head of Highways explained that there had been a number of issues when the funding had been received, including the need for an asset register to capture energy drawn from a lantern when it was replaced so that this could be fed into the carbon calculator. Without a team and the appropriate software this had not been possible. The street lighting team had been made up of just one officer whereas other authorities had more staff with the range of skills required. There had also been issues at that time with the supply chain due to the number of authorities acquiring funding.

He confirmed that there had been a shortage of parts during the pandemic but that this was no longer an issue, with a four week lead in time for the lanterns being used. He confirmed that it had been a struggle to hit the 28 day repair during the winter as resources across highways were focused on winter maintenance. This would improve moving on from the winter period and consideration was being given to the split of resources allocated to programmed works and reactive works going forward. A communications plan would be issued explaining the extent of phase 2 installations shortly. It had not been possible to include the fitting of a remote sensor to inform of lantern failure as costs had not stacked up - if this had been included in the business case then would not have been received. He also explained that structural testing of columns was part of the programme but he would have to look into the detail around the heritage columns in the county outside of the meeting.

He went on to answer questions about changes to the Kier contract and explained that there was a much clearer understanding of where they could add value and where selfinitiated direct work would be more effective.

Members thanked the Head of Highways for the clear and honest explanation and agreed to note the report and to recommend that a briefing session on a wider set of issues be provided to all members from which issues for scrutiny could be identified.

52 Update on Review of Winter Service Plan

The Head of Highways provided an update on how the highways service had put into place the committee's recommendations following its review of Shropshire Council's highways winter service policy. He also reported on further initiatives in relation to the winter maintenance service and on emerging issues.

The committee welcomed the report and particularly the improvements related to drainage assets maintenance, with significantly less failure and 800 enquiries dropping down to 300 in a short space of time. They were also pleased to hear of the new grit bin inventory and restocking of all grit bins over the summer which had meant being more resilient at the start of the winter. Other initiatives welcomed included the mini gritter trial and weather forecast information and push along hand spreaders being provided for schools.

Community participation had improved demonstrated by close working with Shrewsbury Town Council during a period of snow in the town centre. The bulk of the gritting service was delivered through Kier but the council had learnt a lot from its own initiatives and trials and was now both more resilient and responsive, with a more positive and proactive social media presence thanks to a dedicated communications officer in the service.

Members asked about the plan to review the defined network and heard that this work had been scoped but not yet started because it had been necessary to wait to understand the location of depots. There was still discussion around the role that snow warden schemes might take and it was acknowledged what would work in one parish could be very different to what would work in another.

It was confirmed that there was a risk assessment used to evaluate requests for grit bins, and there was a stock of them available at no cost to parish councils where risk criteria were met.

It was confirmed that details of snow plough contractors in more rural electoral divisions could be supplied.

Members discussed nervousness of businesses and homeowners to clear paths outside their own property when covered in snow and ice and it was thought that clear communication with regard to this would be helpful. Discussion also covered the successful use of mini gritters in pedestrianised areas.

The Head of Highways reported on refinements to the next phase of Fix My Street which was welcomed.

Members noted the report and welcomed the encouraging progress and the intention for closer working with town and parish councils.

53 Place Overview Committee Work Programme

The Scrutiny Manager explained the plans for work programming sessions for the new committees following the annual council meeting.

<TRAILER SECTION>

Signed	(Chairman)

Minutes of Place Overview Committee held on 23 March 2023

Date:

Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/24

Topic to be included at the appropriate point in the programme – Community Safety

Topic	Shropshire Council Priority(ies) and Strategic Objective(s)	Objectives for the topic (what it will it involve)	Expected Impact/added value (what will it achieve)	How will the expected impact/added value be identified/measured?	Committee meeting date(s)	Information/ evidence required	Witnesses (in person/written)
River Water Quality Task and Finish Group	Healthy People Healthy Environment	Current live O&S work delivering an agreed terms of reference	•	•		•	•
Renewable Energy and Planning	Healthy Environment	 Rapid T&F Group To investigate the pros and cons associated with developing renewable energy and energy storage sites To learn from national legislation, guidance and draw on case studies of what has worked or not worked in other areas. To make evidence-based recommendations on how policy could be developed to clarify planning decision 	 Provide a clear steer on what members would like to be set out in a council policy on the development of new renewable energy and storage sites Greater clarity for developers Fewer delays in the 	Reduction in the number of planning committee meetings required to reach a decision on proposals to develop new energy generation or storge sites Member satisfaction and recognition that the process is improved because of the policy development		Examples of best practice/policies from other LAs that have already looked at renewable energy generation and storage Legally set/caselaw-based requirements that must be addressed Current Shropshire Council policy and preferred future policy content	Internal Assistant Director Planning Policy officers Development Management (Planners) Officers Legal Services Officers Portfolio Holder External NFU (as it is often agricultural land involved) National Grid

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making on proposals planning	Planning
for such developments process	Inspector?
• To engage with decision	Developer?
stakeholders to inform making	Developel:
a leader on identifying	
opportunities to use	
more renewable	
energy generation in energy generation in	
communities e.g.	
engaging with T&PCs	
on the social benefits	
of solar panels on	
T&PC buildings	
Developer Healthy • All member briefing More Fewer situations • The guidan	ce to Council officers
contributions Economy session followed by informed where there is a gap stakeholde	ers to involved in
Task and Finish Group stakeholders between available inform the	ir identifying social
Healthy • To consider and who make and/or funded identificati	on of impact and need
People understand the develop provision and social impa	cts and
upcoming changes to contribution demand following the amoun	t or type Council officers
Healthy developer requirements new housing of develop	er involvedion
Environment contributions and that are more developments. contribution	on confirming
how these should be in line with required to	address developer
confirmed and future needs them	contribution
communications and demand • Evidence or	f the type requirements
To understanding of guidance	, .
how the social that stakeh	
impacts of significant identify the	
housing make more	- 1
developments are	
being identified by social impa	
stakeholders and	

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Climate	Healthy	Holding to account –	Timely	Confirmed areas of	Annual report	Executive
Change	Environment	Whole committee	opportunity to	focus to tackle		Director
		working and then full	review	climate change by the	Evidence of the actions	
	Healthy	meeting in public	progress and	Council in the future	taken by Shropshire	Assistant
	Economy	 To be informed by 	plans		Council to address	Directors
		the Annual Report	Confirmation		climate change against	
	Healthy	2023	that the		the	Portfolio
	People	 To request an All- 	forward focus		outcomes/priorities to	Holders
		Member briefing on	on Climate		be addressed and the	
		the annual report to	Change is		impact achieved	Climate Change
		help to confirm	future ready			Team Manager
		identify where the	Identification		Planned actions to be	
		committee can add	of learning		taken in Shropshire	Passenger
		value.	from other		and the desired	Transport
		 To consider the 	areas that		impact, including	Group Manager
		council's	could help in		measures of success	
		commitment to	Shropshire		and timeframes	Local
		climate change,	Identification			stakeholders
		including through the	of good		Evidence of effective	including River
		delivery of the 8	practice in		climate change actions	Severn
		resolution points	Shropshire to		taken by other similar	Partnership,
		(September 2021)	be highlighted		local authorities	VCSE
		and the May 2019	and shared		Views from .	organisations
		Climate Emergency			stakeholders on what	and
		To develop			they want to see in	Marches Energy
		conclusions on and			place, what is stopping	Agency
		recommendations on			them from achieving	
		next steps that the			them, and what they	Others –
		Council could take			believe could help to	dependingon
		forwards including			deliver changes.	focus e.g. NFU,
		whether the current				T&PCs, LEP and
		Board arrangement			 	

		remains fit for			Local business
		purpose/is having the			groups
		impact required			groups
		To provide critical			
		friend challenge and			
		ask			
		whetherthe			
		council going as			
		far and as fast as it			
		could,			
		what could it do			
		more of,			
		what other places			
		are doing that			
		could be learned			
U		from, or			
Page		whether			
ĕ		Shropshire leading			
15		the way and what			
Ω		should be			
		celebrated and			
		highlighted?			
		• Within this			
		consideration, some			
		specific points for			
		exploration are:			
		What			
		arrangements			
		could Shropshire			
		Council confirm or			
		put in place to			
		provide			
		information and			

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			advice and help to				
			close the skills gap				
			to facilitate				
			retrofitting				
			properties to				
			improve energy				
			efficiency?				
			What is being				
			done/can be done				
			to de-carbonise				
			transport?				
			What influence				
			can and should				
			the council have				
וכ			on external				
			partners?				
)							
2	Engagement	Healthy	Task and Finish Group	Reinforce a	A more consistent	Shropshire Council	Chief Executive
		Organisation	• To confirm how the	consistent	approach to	guidance and	
			council defines	approach to	engagement by the	standards for	Assistant
			effective engagement	engagement	Council	engagement and	Director
			and what it wants to	by the council		consultation	Transformation
			achieve by carrying it	_,	Local Members		and
			out? How does this	The promotion	identify that they are	Examples of how the	Effectiveness
			compare to best	of effective	informing how	Council has carried out	
			practice?	engagement	engagement with	engagement	Head of
			To confirm what	to help inform	their communities is		Communications
			legally needs to be	transformation	taking place.	Examples of how the	and Engagement
			consulted on and	by the Council	E . 1	Council would like to	- " '
			where and how		Evidence of the	carry out	Feedback and
			engagement adds	To provide a	engagement taking	engagement/improve	Insight Team
			value.	clearsteeron	place to information	engagement, what this	Leader
				what	transformation work	would achieve/enable,	

		council uses effective	Wouldexpect	useu.	nappen to acmeve it.	
		engagement to	from effective			
		inform its strategy	engagement		Best practice and	
		development, service	and what they		guidance/requirements	
		planning and decision	they will be		for effective	
		making	looking for in		engagement –	
		• To consider how well	their work		including innovative	
		the council delivers			examples of what can	
		effective engagement	To confirm and		be used for	
		based on its own	communicate		engagement with	
		definition?	options and		different groups	
		 To evaluate the 	opportunities			
		strengths and	where local		Benchmarking with	
		opportunities to	Members		othersimilarlocal	
Page		improve how the	should be a		authorities on what	
бe		Council carries out	route to		and how they carry out	
Ө		engagement?	inform		effective engagement	
17		 To understand what 	effective		– to include:	
7		quality standards are	engagement		purpose and	
		in place and they	with their		views on	
		compare to good	communities		effectiveness,	
		practice? How			 how engagement 	
		effective is the			findings are used	
		Council at following			and people are	
		them and enforcing			keptinformed	
		them?			(you said/we	
		 To understand: 			did/will be doing),	
		How people and			 approaches used, 	
		communities are			tools/systems,	
		engaged in ways			 standards and 	
		that best enables			enforcement	
		to them to			within the council,	

and how it is being

used.

• To explore how the

council uses effective

Members

would expect

Portfolio Holder

and what needs to

happen to achieve it.

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	contribute,	• corporate v.
	identify priorities	operational,
	and how they can	capacity and
	be delivered, and	structures etc
	by whom? When,	
	on what, why and	
	how are they	
	enabled to be	
	involved?	
	■ How is	
	engagement (in all	
	forms and	
	purposes) being	
	developed to	
ן ו	shape the	
ט ב ס	transformation	
Ď	programme	
<u>x</u>	development,	
ρ	options	
	identification and	
	delivery?	
	■ How the council	
	ensures that all	
	areas of the	
	community are	
	getting a voice –	
	not just the usual	
	suspects/those	
	who shout loudest	
	etc?	
	How the priorities	
	of communities	
	and organisations	
	and Organisations	

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		are being			
		identified and			
		confirmed? How is			
		this being used to			
		help understand			
		who can do what,			
		wants to do more,			
		might fund more,			
		or should be doing			
		more?			
		How should the			
		council use this			
		information to			
		deliverthe			
		outcomes			
ט		differently,			
9		includingin			
Page		partnership, with			
19		the collective			
9		resources			
		available?			
		Whetherthe			
		council has			
		enough of the			
		right people with			
		the right skills and			
	tight tools, in the				
	right place, to				
	deliver the work				
		that is required?			
		What Members			
		expect to see in			
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	transformation work in terms of effective engagement activity, outputs and outcomes, and why? What difference can/will it make? • To make evidence based recommendations				
Delivering effective outcomes in partnership	 Task and Finish group To understand the opportunities that working in partnership can officer to the Council to deliver outcomes for the people and communities of Shropshire. To Focus will be on exploring services/outcomes within the remit of the committee e.g. Environmental Maintenance and Leisure provision including swimming 	Highlighting opportunities and benefits of delivering outcomes in partnership at different scales. Confirmation of the importance of effective engagement to underpin identification of shared outcomes, manage expectations,	An increase in the number of occasions where outcomes are delivered through effective partnerships	The opportunities for partnership working/a shared outcome focus in the big transformation challenges the council (and systems) is facing What are the smaller opportunities that communities, VCSE and T&PCs identify Approaches that the council takes to identify and deliver working in partnership Examples of best practice and	Chief Executive Executive Director Assistant Director Housing and Communities Assistant Director Transformation and Effectiveness Relevant HoS/Council officers to the

Page 21	pools and sports centres. Focus to be on working with T&PCs and VCSE What are the different opportunities that T&PCs and VCSE identify? What are the opportunities that Shropshire Council identify? Link to work on how the Council engages with people and communities: Have communities been asked about priorities for them and what they would want to see progressed? Could local members play a role in carrying out this work in their communities? Are there any opportunities that	and opportunities to deliver outcomes together differently Providing evidence of opportunities to draw on different sources of funding to deliver outcomes with communities	opportunities for partnership working/delivering shared outcomes from other local authorities Examples of other/additional funding opportunities and where they might be appropriate for Shropshire	focus of the work VCSE SALC Other partners – depending on case studies
	communities?			

Transport To learn from all				
member briefings on	Transport			

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	topics achimeanitine		
	Member Development		
	Programme		
	To establish whether		
	there is evidence of a		
	coherent, cross cutting		
	and integrated		
	transport strategy for		
	Shropshire, drawing on		
	the transport strategies		
	and plans as well		
	relationships and		
	interdependences with		
Page	other key areas of focus		
	including housing,		
ОE	health and well-being,		
	education and		
23	employment, and		
ω	climate change		
	Understanding how		
	evidence has and is		
	underpinning strategy		
	development and		
	decisions		
	To learn from examples		
	of best practice by other		
	Local Authorities		
	To make evidence based		
	recommendations		

the transport related topics identified in the

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