



# Cherwell

DISTRICT COUNCIL  
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

## Climate Activity Review Group Scoping Document

This scoping template is designed to assist councillors and officers in establishing the focus of a scrutiny review group. It emphasises the need for scrutiny review groups to have a clear purpose, rationale and focus for their work, and to make the best use of the resources available within a given time frame.

This document will act as a reference guide throughout the review process to ensure the does not deviate from its intended purpose.

<b>Review Group Overview &amp; Scrutiny (O&amp;S) Committee Member Lead</b>	<p><i>Cllr Dr Isabel Creed, Chair of Group</i></p>
<b>Membership</b>	<p><i>Councillors Isabel Creed, John Broad, Ian Middleton, Patrick Clarke, Rebecca Biegel, John Donaldson, Simon Holland, Lesley McLean and Sean Woodcock, with Andrew McHugh attending as Portfolio Holder.</i></p> <p><i>This should remain a cross-party group. Councillors Matt Hodgson, Perran Moon and John Broad have expressed interest.</i></p>
<b>Officer Support</b>	<p><i>Jo Miskin, Climate Action Manager</i>  <i>Emma Faulkner, Democratic and Elections Officer</i>  <i>Ian Boll, Corporate Director Communities</i>  <i>Ed Potter, Assistant Director Environmental Services</i>  <i>Climate Action Manager when appointed (recruitment is in progress)</i></p>
<b>Background</b>	<p><i>At Full Council in July 2019 a motion was adopted which declared a climate emergency in Cherwell, and pledged to make Cherwell District Council carbon net zero by 2030.</i></p> <p><i>Work has been underway towards the net zero target, and through the award of £6m funding via the public sector decarbonisation scheme, air source heat pumps, a solar heat array and photo voltaic car ports have been installed in council buildings.</i></p> <p><i>Initially the group focussed on how the Council should adopt the principles of Bioregional's One Planet Living (OPL), recommending to Executive that the OPL principles be adopted. In addition, there was a motion to full Council in December 2022 on this topic, which was unanimously agreed.</i></p> <p><i>The group wishes to continue to retain a focus on the 10 principles, and to monitor progress made in adopting them into the council's policies and operational practice.</i></p> <p><i>During 2023, a Climate Action Plan was produced under the guidance of this group and the implementation of the plan will become a focus of this group. The Plan was approved by Executive on 6 November 2023.</i></p> <p><i>Bioregional were recently commissioned to review the council's activities against the 'One Planet Living' (OPL) framework. The</i></p>

	<p>O&amp;S Committee have recommended to Executive that the OPL approach be endorsed, and further work is now required to determine the implications of the 10 OPL principles, and which ones should be fully incorporated into council policy.</p>
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>Since the climate emergency declaration work has been underway towards the carbon net zero target, however there has initially been a unified update to Members on progress of the work. The endorsement of the OPL framework is an opportunity to restart conversations on climate activities taking place across the council <i>and the wider district</i>, whilst providing officers with additional resource to work through the detail of the framework and what can realistically be incorporated into policy. <i>This was developed further by the production of the Climate Action Plan.</i></p>
<b>Indicators of Success</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>To assist the Council to reach net zero, and encourage the reduction of emissions across the wider district</i></li> <li>• A clear action plan for the incorporation of OPL principles in council policy</li> <li>• Ongoing progress towards the 2030 net carbon target regularly reported to Members (format to be determined during the review)</li> <li>• <i>Updates on progress made on completing elements of the Climate Action Plan</i></li> </ul>
<b>Out of Scope</b>	<p>Although the OPL principles will impact on the ongoing Local Plan work, detailed Local Plan work will be picked up by the relevant Member and officer working groups. This working group will focus on understanding current and future climate activity work.</p>
<b>Method / Approach</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <del>Discussions with Bioregional to understand the details and potential complexities of the OPL principles.</del></li> <li>• Discussions with relevant CDC officers to understand how OPL principles can be aligned with existing and developing council policy, and how they may form the basis of future strategic priorities and delivery themes.</li> <li>• Individual working group members will be expected to carry out research on agreed areas between meetings</li> <li>• Virtual meetings and MS Teams to be primary method of meeting, as this offers more flexibility to all working group members.</li> <li>• Updates on progress to be provided to formal O&amp;S committee meetings.</li> </ul>
<b>Guest speakers / Witnesses / Experts</b>	<p>Bioregional, <i>and others who may be appropriate during the course of the work, as and when.</i>  <del>Councillor Dan Sames, Portfolio Holder for Cleaner and Greener Communities.</del></p>
<b>Evidence required and documents</b>	<p>One Planet Living Framework <i>Gap analysis</i>  Carbon Management Plan (O&amp;S 6 September)  <i>Climate Action Plan 2023 – 2024</i></p>

<b>Site Visits</b>	None anticipated at this stage.		
<b>Risks</b>	Budget implications of adopting OPL principles <i>Budget implications of implementing Climate Action Plan – business cases will be developed as and when required. Overall cost of the council meeting its 2030 target will need to be considered as part of the annual budget of the council.</i> Availability of councillors and officers to progress the work.		
<b>Projected Start Date</b>	As soon as possible <i>September 2022</i>	<b>Draft Report Deadline</b>	TBC
<b>Meeting Frequency</b>	As required <i>Quarterly</i>	<b>Projected Completion Date</b>	<del>December 2022</del> TBC

<b>Approved by Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>Date: 6 September 2022</b>
<b><i>Amended Terms of Reference submitted to Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</i></b>	<b><i>30 January 2024</i></b>