

REPORT TITLE: UPDATE ON DIGITAL ECONOMY AND HOUSING FOR
YOUNGER PEOPLE TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

22 SEPTEMBER 2020

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON – COUNCILLOR WEIR

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WARD(S): ALL WARDS

PURPOSE

At its meeting held on 22 June 2020 the Policy Committee agreed that two Informal Scrutiny Groups be established – Housing for Younger People and A Digital Winchester District.

It was further agreed that the terms of reference, number of meetings required to complete their work, the resource implications and membership (to be appointed from the membership of the Business and Housing Policy Committee) would be agreed following consultation between the Chairpersons of the Scrutiny Committee, Policy Committees and Group Leaders.

This report provides an update on the formation of these Groups, which under the new Constitution are referred to as Task and Finish Groups (TFGs) rather than Informal Scrutiny Groups.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the progress on the formation of the Housing for Younger People and A Digital Winchester District Task and Finish Groups be noted.

1 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

As set out in the detail of each of the Task and Finish Groups in the Appendices to this Report.

2 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

Further to the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 22 June 2020 the Chairperson of this Policy Committee has met with the Chairpersons of the Scrutiny Committee the Health and Environment Policy Committee and Group Leaders.

The establishment of the Task and Finish Groups was supported and a method of work delivery was agreed upon. A Member Steering Group for each topic is to be established to oversee a number of proposed collaborative events.

The committee chairperson, Councillor Weir, has now met with lead officers and can update further verbally at the meeting. It was considered helpful if there were a small group of nominated Members to assist the chairperson and lead officers steer the task and finish group work. These small steering groups would consist of the chairperson plus one member from each political group.

Members will be appointed to the Steering Group following consultation with the Group Leaders and membership of the Steering Groups will include the committee chairperson

Further detail on the Task and Finish Groups is set out in the Appendices to this Report

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:-

Previous Committee Reports:-

None

Other Background Documents:-

None

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 - A Digital Winchester District

Appendix 2 - Housing for Younger People

Appendix 1 - A digital economy for Winchester

To:	Business & Housing Policy Committee – Task & Finish Group
Date:	22 September
Lead:	Cllr. Anne Weir
Project:	A Digital Winchester District - Public engagement and debate framework proposal
Contact:	Andrew Gostelow; Service Lead Economy & Tourism Susan Robbins, Corporate Head of Engagement

A Digital Winchester District – making the case

Winchester’s professional, technical and service-led economy thrives and is dependent on access to excellent digital infrastructure and highly qualified workforce. Access to high quality digital services is playing a rapidly growing and critical role in the economic health and resilience of the District. There is a need therefore for the Council to understand the changing needs of residents and employers, innovators and investors.

Objective: Making the case for a digital Winchester District.

This will be considered by exploring:

- what a digital Winchester means for the council, residents, businesses, students and communities;
- the benefits of 5G to the city and the district and articulating importance to the economy and its role in supporting carbon neutrality;
- the experience of digital connectivity during Covid-19 (e.g. working from home / on line business) and the lessons for Winchester District in the future.

Approach: To provide a “platform” for people to say why digital is important to them.

Adopting the style and approach used by Hampshire County Council for its Hampshire 2050 Commission of Inquiry it is proposed to hold a public debate and panel event. The online event will have expert speakers and local “witnesses” to debate key questions on the theme of “A Digital Winchester District”. This will be supplemented by a call for evidence and a public survey.

Outcome: Public feel engaged in shaping policies and decision making that will affect their lives.

- Build an informed consensus on the district’s needs.
- Clearer understanding of the technology and infrastructure implications for the local plan
- Inform the economic development strategy.

Output:

- A Panel report of the debate sessions
- An evidence base from a cross section of contributors
- A series of issues and opportunities identified to take forward / promote

Proposed Debate Panel

Framework	Steering group role
Pre-event engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Public opinion –online survey</i> • <i>Evidence base –</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Call for written submissions from experts</i> • <i>General public and residents</i> • <i>Gather and curate existing published research and papers</i> 	Propose and approve questions Agree list of experts to target Identify and share papers
Debate Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Winchester Cllrs (and suggested):</i> • <i>HCC</i> • <i>EM3 LEP</i> • <i>Others? Experts</i> 	Agree Panel membership Chair the session and introduce speakers Lead Q&A session Debate the key questions
Debate Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Online webinar style public event</i> • <i>Presentations and Q&A sessions</i> • <i>Debate by Panel</i> 	Approve final format to include duration, timings etc. Agree key questions for the debate
Presentation themes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Importance for business and innovation – business / digital provider</i> • <i>People needs and impacts – Government department / advisor</i> • <i>Future digital trends and demands – technology expert or researcher</i> • <i>Winchester experience of digital connectivity during COVID-19 – local speakers</i> 	Approve themes Suggest and agree speakers

Delivery timetable and resources (to be agreed)

Tasks	Timing	Resources
Agree proposals	22 Sept Policy Committee	Cllr Weir
Brief Communications Team	End September	Head of Engagement
Agree key questions / challenge to frame the call for evidence and presentations	30 th October	Cllr. Steering Group Economy Team – Sector Development Officer
Create webpage / landing page for event and engagement	30 th October	Sector Development Officer and Communications
Device public survey Launch survey Deadline for survey	20 th November 21 st December (4 weeks) Could extend over Christmas holidays)	Steering Group Sector Development Officer Engagement and Insight Officer Communications
Call for evidence Identify people / businesses / organisations to specifically request evidence from Create template for responses Issue call for evidence Deadline for submissions	30 th October 13 th November 20 th November 21 st December (4 weeks) Could extend over Christmas holidays)	Steering Group Sector Development Officer Engagement and Insight Officer Communications
Curate intelligence onto webpage Analyse public survey responses Collate evidence submissions Gather reports, published papers and research	 End January 2021	 Sector Development Officer Engagement and Insight Officer
Debate Panel Identify and invite panel members and speakers / presenters Promote event and registration to attend Agree online webinar format	February 2021 – specific date to be agreed	Steering Group Sector Development Officer Communications IT
Post event report Report to Scrutiny Committee / Business & Housing Policy Committee	End February	Steering Group Sector Development Officer Engagement and Insight Officer

Appendix 2 - Housing for Younger People

To:	Business & Housing Policy Committee – Task & Finish Group
Date:	22 September
Lead:	Cllr. Anne Weir
Project:	Housing for Young People
Contact:	Andrew Palmer, Service Lead New Homes Gillian Knight, Corporate Head of Housing (Interim)

Housing for Young People – making the case

The future will be lived by the youth of today. But house building has hardly changed in 100 years and often remains rooted in tradition. The council needs to transform the built environment and the way it plans and house builds for the younger generation across all tenures. To include digital technology, learning from housing models at home and abroad offering local housing options for a younger generation that are both affordable and attainable. As a council it's key to understand a younger generations housing vision and aspirations to attract and retain young households within the district, to effect change and inform place-shaping for future local communities.

Objective: Creating housing opportunities to enable young people and families to live and work within the district.

This will be considered by exploring:

- Place-shaping for a younger generation and what it looks like
- Looking at other models of housing for young people at home and abroad
- Lessons learnt from traditional housing planning and practice

Approach: To provide a “platform” for young people and families to influence housing policy for a generation.

Adopting the style and approach used by Hampshire County Council for its Hampshire 2050 Commission of Inquiry it is proposed to hold a young person’s digital conference. The online event will have expert speakers, local cross tenure housing providers, supported by other interested parties both public and private. Supplemented by on line survey opportunities.

Outcome: Young people and families engaged to influence the future of house building and local housing options for the younger generation to enjoy.

- Conduct a meaningful district consultation of housing need across all tenures.
- To understand what housing options can be delivered through local and national planning policy and the implications for the local plan.
- Inform the housing and development strategies.

Proposed Conference

Framework	Steering group role
<p>Pre-event engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Build a database of participants.</i> • <i>Collate opinion –online survey</i> • <i>Evidence base –</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Call for written submissions from experts, TACT, Universities and schools, housing providers and charities.</i> • <i>Gather and curate existing data published research and papers</i> 	<p>Identify intelligence options Propose and approve questions</p> <p>Agree list of experts to target</p> <p>Identify and share papers</p>
<p>Debate Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Winchester Cllrs (and suggested):</i> • <i>Cllr Learney</i> • <i>New Homes Lead</i> • <i>Mixer of housing experts</i> 	<p>Agree Panel membership Chair the session and introduce speakers Lead Q&A session Debate the key questions</p>
<p>Debate Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Online young persons’ conference event</i> • <i>Presentations and Q&A sessions</i> • <i>Debate by interactive Panel</i> 	<p>Approve final format to include duration, timings etc. Agree key questions for the debate</p>
<p>Presentation themes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Housing need and impacts - MHCLG advisor</i> • <i>Housing Models for young people, housing providers, architects, university student lead, shared ownership lead, private landlords. Tenant lead.</i> • <i>Workshop</i> 	<p>Approve themes Suggest and agree speakers</p>

Delivery timetable and resources (to be agreed)

Tasks	Timing	Resources
Agree proposals	22 Sept Policy Committee	Cllr Weir
Brief Communications Team	End September	Corporate Head of Housing
Agree key questions / challenge to frame the call for evidence and presentations	30 th October	Cllr. Steering Group New Homes Team Housing Policy Team
Create webpage / landing page for event and engagement	30 th October	Housing Policy Team Performance and Projects Manager Communications
Device survey Launch survey Deadline for survey	20 th November 31st December	Steering Group Housing Policy Lead Communications
Call for evidence Identified young people / housing providers, architects, universities, local and Town parishes councils, Data sources. Create template for responses Issue call for evidence Deadline for submissions	30 th October 13 th November 20th November 31st December	Steering Group Housing DMT Housing Policy Lead Communications
Curate intelligence onto webpage Analyse public survey responses, Collate evidence submissions Gather reports, published papers and research	 31 st January 21	 New Homes Lead Housing Policy Lead Performance and Projects Manager.
Conference Identify and invite panel members and speakers / presenters Promote event and registration to attend. Agree online format. Gather workshop evaluation.	February 2021 – specific date to be agreed	Steering Group Housing Policy Lead Performance and Projects Manager. Communications IT
Post event report. Report to Scrutiny Committee / Business & Housing Policy Committee.	End February	Steering Group New Homes Lead Housing Policy Lead