

## Report from Environment and Community Services PDS Committee

**Chairman: Cllr. William Harmer**

**Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Robert McIlveen**

Following on from a challenging year under Covid, the committee resumed its work during the municipal year with regular packed agendas and high levels of interest from both committee members and members of the public. As always I would like to thank our clerk Mr. Wood and the team who ensure our meetings are kept running smoothly.

As always, I would also like to thank:

- Our committee members whose questioning and contributions have shaped and improved the proposals coming through the committee;
- The Director of Environment and Community Services, Mr. Colin Brand, and his team for their contributions both to the reports and to the meetings;
- Cllr Huntingdon-Thresher for his courteous and knowledgeable responses to the large number of committee questions as Portfolio Holder;
- Our partners who help us deliver our services all of whom participated in different committee meetings during the year; and
- The members of the public who in asking their own questions supported the committee in holding the Executive to account and demonstrated a clear passion for enhancing the neighbourhoods in which they live.

This year marked a bounce back after a difficult year under Covid. The Committee were focussed on ensuring the return to normality of many of the key service items but also took time to develop and scrutinise policy across a host of key areas outlined below. We also had all the major suppliers of services visit the committee where their performance and plans were closely scrutinised.

Minutes of all meetings are available on the Council website for those who are interested.

### Key PDS Achievements 21/22



**OPEN SPACE STRATEGY**  
2021 - 2031



A new Open Spaces Strategy: The Borough's fantastic parks and open spaces are repeatedly highlighted by residents as one of the key things loved about the Borough. The 10-year strategy attracted a huge amount of public interest and following extensive feedback was significantly edited before being finally released.

**2**

A Net Zero Council: The Committee scrutinised and enhanced the Borough's commitment and progress to be a carbon neutral council by 2029. This was well received by members. On top of this we pushed our suppliers to match our net

zero ambitions and towards the end of the year we scrutinised the Council's exciting tree planting programme that will see 5000 new trees planted across the Borough and the implementation of a new electric charging strategy.

2

Borough Wide Road Safety and Active Travel improvements The Committee scrutinised a series of improvements on crash cluster sites and schemes designed to improve road safety across the Borough. This included a review of the Crofton Road Cycle Scheme, changes to Albermarle Road and a review of our temporary school streets.