

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WORKPLAN SCOPING DOCUMENT

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| TOPIC | Carbon Offsetting |
| PROPOSED COMMITTEE DATE | 12 September 2023 |
| BACKGROUND | <p>Carbon offsetting is a process that involves a reduction in, or removal of, carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere in order to compensate for emissions made elsewhere.</p> <p>Carbon offsetting should be used as a last resort where it is impossible to reduce emissions further, for example in sectors where low or zero carbon technologies do not exist.</p> <p>There are various methods to offset a carbon footprint. The most often used is planting trees through reforestation (replanting previously existing woodland) or afforestation (creating completely new woodland).</p> |
| FOCUS FOR SCRUTINY | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If the council achieves a "net zero" measure due to carbon offsetting how is the actual increase in real everyday pollution on the Island measured?• Should the Council be working towards an "absolute zero" measure, that gives a figure with and without offsetting, that also negates offsetting that is off Island or at least not within the UK.• What measures are in place to ensure that all possible offsetting is taking place on land on the Island?• What is in place to ensure that any offset purchases by the Council are effective amid growing scrutiny of the current carbon offset market? |
| EXPECTED BENEFITS/ OUTCOMES | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The committee to ensure that the Council's carbon offsetting is efficient and effective• The committee to make any suggestions or recommendations for improvements |
| APPROACH | Committee Report |
| WITNESSES/ EVIDENCE REQUIRED | Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment, Heritage, Human Resources and Legal and Democratic Services |

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| LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN | <p>Core values</p> <p>Our purpose is to work with and support the Island's community, finding ways to help it to satisfy its needs independently or to provide services directly where necessary. We value:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Being community focused: This means, wherever possible, putting the needs of our residents first.2. Working together: This means engaging realistically with partners to make the most of integrated working, helping communities to help themselves and being a strong council team that delivers on these values.3. Being effective and efficient This means being the best that we can be in how we organise and deliver our services, using all our limited resources wisely and carefully, getting on with things where we can.4. Being fair and transparent This means making decisions based on data and evidence and in an open and accountable way. |
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