

Report of the Chairman on the work of Environment and Sustainability Committee

The Environment and Sustainability Committee has met on two occasions since the previous report to Council. This report gives an overview of the main items considered by the Committee at its meetings on 3 and 9 November.

1. Extraordinary meeting 3 November 2021

- 1.1 This meeting was held at the request of the Committee, following potential new evidence relating to the death of Zane Gbangbola, to consider how the Council could progress a site investigation of the land to the rear of Thames Side.
- 1.2 The Committee considered a report setting out historical information and details of action taken or intended, to obtain and analyse relevant information and to establish whether the Council had any legal powers to instigate a site investigation.
- 1.3 The Committee noted the report and requested a further verbal update was provided at their next meeting in January 2022.

2. Meeting 9 November 2021

- 2.1 The Committee agreed the proposal that the Council should re-join as members of the Colne Valley Regional Park.
- 2.2 The Committee discussed the proposed Housing Delivery Test Action Plan and agreed to:
 - Approve the Housing Delivery Test Plan subject to the changes outlined during discussion of this item at the meeting.
 - Delegate authority to the Planning Development Manager to approve the changes in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee.
 - Publish the agreed final version of the Housing Delivery Test Plan on the Council's website.
- 2.3 The Committee agreed to delegate the decision on the tendering exercise for the provision and installation of Outdoor Gym equipment for 10 sites in the Borough to the Group Head of Neighbourhood Services in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee.
- 2.4 The Committee received and noted the revenue and capital monitoring reports for the period July to September 2021.
- 2.5 The Committee received updates on the work of the following task/working groups:
 - The Local Plan Task Group

- The Staines Development Framework Task Group
- The CIL Local Spending Boards
- The Climate Change Working Group

2.6 Council had referred the petition “Prevent tower-block developments in the Staines Conservation Area or overlooking the riverfront and spread the planning housing growth target more evenly across the borough” to this Committee for consideration.

The issue was discussed at length, and it was agreed that as the Local Plan Task Group and Staines Development Task Group were currently assessing these matters it would be appropriate to refer the petition to those task groups to consider as part of their work.