



## TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OF ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

### 1. LEGAL

Unless a statutory prohibition applies, the performance of the statutory powers and functions and related work of a local council can be delegated to a committee.

This Committee is appointed in accordance with the provisions of Section 101, subsection 1 (a) of the Local Government Act 1972.

The powers, duties and functions of this Committee **were approved at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023.**

### 2. CONSTITUTION

- The committee is called the Climate Change & Environment Committee.
- Membership includes all councillors.
- A third of the membership of this Committee shall constitute a quorum (6).
- If the number of Councillors present falls below the required quorum, the meeting shall be adjourned, and business not transacted shall be placed before the next meeting of this committee.
- The Committee shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair from its membership at the first meeting of the Committee after the Council's Annual Meeting.
- **The committee agrees to meet at least four times a year.**
- Full council agrees the remit of the committee.
- The committee has full delegated powers of decision making and spending in regards all items within its remit and agreed budget.
- The committee may consider other issues outside its remit referred to it by full council.
- The committee may agree a sub-committee and the terms of reference of that sub-committee.
- As a committee a formal summons for each meeting is required, in line with council standings orders.
- A draft report of each meeting will be presented for approval at the next meeting.

### 3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### ***Engagement and Partnership***

- To promote Climate Change and Environmental issues within the town via all town council media and events.
- To engage with local businesses, schools, places of worship, community groups and other establishments to prioritise climate change.
- To run competitions in schools to promote climate change initiatives.
- To promote other climate conscious groups.
- To liaise directly with the NCC Climate Change Team on County-Wide proposals and initiatives.

#### ***Encouraging Biodiversity***

- To propose ways in which the Council can promote biodiversity.
- To actively seek to be involved in projects that promote biodiversity.
- To ensure the consideration of biodiversity in all Town Council plans and projects.



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### ***Reducing Emissions***

- To propose ways in which the Council can support the reduction of emissions internally, and to the wider community.
- To actively seek to be involved in projects that contribute to the reduction of emissions.
- To ensure the consideration of carbon emissions in all Town Council plans and projects.
- To receive and consider the detailed breakdown of carbon emissions for Ashington, expected from Northumberland County Council, and the recommendations therein.

### ***Renewable Energy***

- To ensure the work of the Council is taken forward with energy efficiency as a priority.
- To actively seek to be involved in projects that contribute to renewable energy and energy efficiency.

### ***Carbon Sequestration***

- To consider the management of town council land assets with carbon sequestration as a priority.
- To actively seek to be involved in projects that contribute to carbon sequestration.
- To ensure the consideration of carbon sequestration in all Town Council plans and projects.
- To encourage the community to get involved in projects that support carbon sequestration, i.e., NCC free tree scheme.

### ***Waste and Recycling***

- To ensure the work of the Council is taken forward with waste reduction and recycling as a priority.
- To propose ways in which the Council can support the reduction of waste and the benefits of recycling to the wider community.
- To actively seek to be involved in projects that contribute to the reduction of waste and increase recycling.
- To ensure the consideration of reducing waste and increasing recycling in all Town Council plans and projects.