

AGENDA 11, Enc vi) Proposal for ECO Fair - Initial Concept and Request for Delegation

We present to the Climate Change and Environment Committee an initial concept for an ECO Fair, with the understanding that these ideas are preliminary and will be refined through consultation with Councillors and community groups. To move this project forward efficiently, we request that the Council delegate authority to the Communication and Engagement Officer to progress the planning according to ongoing discussions and consensus.

Proposed Event Overview

Date: Wednesday 19th February 2025

Time: 10:30am to 3:30pm

Suggested Venue: Ashington Hirst Welfare (subject to confirmation)

Initial Concept

The ECO Fair aims to raise awareness about environmental issues, inspire sustainable action, and showcase local environmental initiatives. Preliminary ideas include:

- ❖ Local exhibitors and vendors offering sustainable products and services
- ❖ School project displays focused on reducing carbon emissions
- ❖ Educational workshops and presentations on various environmental topics
- ❖ Interactive demonstrations and activities
- ❖ Participation of local environmental organisations
- ❖ Local, sustainable food and refreshments
- ❖ Children's environmental education activities
- ❖ Eco-themed entertainment

These elements are flexible and open to adjustment based on input from Councillors and community stakeholders.

Next Steps

1. Agree those Cllrs who wish to be directly involved.
2. Conduct consultations with Councillors and relevant community groups to gather input and refine the concept.
3. Hold a planning meeting in the council chamber for all interested parties.
4. Establish a communication channel for regular updates and feedback.

The Committee is asked the following:

- √ To receive the initial ECO Fair concept.
- √ To Delegate authority to the Communication and Engagement Officer to:
 - Further develop the event concept based on consultations and feedback.
 - Coordinate planning efforts and stakeholder engagement.
 - Make necessary decisions to progress the event planning, in line with council policies and within agreed budgetary limits.

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- √ Approve an initial working budget of £3,500 from the Events and Engagement Budget, with the understanding that a more detailed budget will be presented for approval as plans develop.

The Communication and Engagement Officer will provide regular updates as part of Officer updates to the FGS and Climate and Environment Committees and will seek further approvals if required.

We believe this approach will allow for a collaborative and efficient planning process, ensuring that the final event reflects the needs and aspirations of our community while maintaining progress towards our environmental goals.

ECO Fair Concept

Purpose

The ECO Fair aims to:

- ❖ Raise awareness about environmental issues and sustainable solutions in our local community.
- ❖ Inspire and empower individuals and organisations to take action to reduce their environmental impact.
- ❖ Provide a platform for local schools and community groups to showcase their environmental initiatives.

Key Features

Exhibitors and Vendors: An outdoor market (weather permitting) featuring local businesses offering sustainable products and services.

Climate Project Showcase: Displays of school projects focused on strategies to lower personal and household carbon emissions.

Workshops and Presentations: Educational sessions on topics such as renewable energy, composting, zero waste practices, and climate change. This will include repair services and vegetarian cooking classes.

Demonstrations and Activities: Interactive displays and hands-on activities, including a climate change hack-a-thon and wildflower seed distribution.

Environmental Organisations: Local groups will share information about their work and volunteer opportunities.

Local Food and Refreshments: Provided by local farmers and organic food providers.

Kids' Activities: Educational workshops and games for children.

Live Entertainment: Local talent performances and eco-themed art displays.

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Objectives

Distribute informational materials on energy conservation, sustainable living, and green transportation.

Conduct feedback surveys and encourage attendees to make environmental pledges.

Quantify the event's impact on increasing community awareness and interest in environmental action.