



**Northampton Town Council**  
The Guildhall  
St Giles Square  
Northampton  
NN1 1DE

**Tel No. 01604 349310**

# Northampton TOWN COUNCIL

## **Environmental Services Committee Meeting – 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

### **To: Members of the Environmental Services Committee:**

Councillors Stevens, (Chair), Kilbride (Deputy Chair), Alwahabi, Ashraf, Brown, Choudary, Haque, Joyce, Meredith, Miah, Soan, and Tarasiewicz

Distributed electronically to all other councillors for information

**You are summoned to attend the meeting of Environmental Services Committee of Northampton Town Council to be held in the Town Council Committee Room at Northampton Guildhall on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 18.00**

Public participation is in accordance with the Town Council's public participation policy. Members of public will need to contact the Town Clerk in advance if they wish to participate

**Stuart Carter**  
Town Clerk  
2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022

**Guildhall**  
**Northampton**  
**NN1 1DE**

## **A G E N D A**

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Declarations of Interest**
- 3. To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the last meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022 – not attached, sent out with Council agenda for 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022**
- 4. Northampton in Bloom**  
Assistant Town Clerk to give a verbal report
- 5. Climate Change Forum**  
Chair to give a verbal update

**6. Position Statements**

Committee asked to consider key views of the committee – report attached (p 3 – p 4)

**7. Climate Change Grants Scheme**

Update attached (p 5 – p 8)

**8. Next meeting – community venue**

Report attached (p 9)

**9. Items for future agenda**



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## Environmental Services Committee

### Position Statements

#### Report by Town Clerk

**Purpose of report:** To seek the Committee's positions on various issues that they think the Environmental Services Committee should have a view on

**Recommended: (i)** That, the committee consider what the committee should be considering with the view to further debate/policy

The committee will be aware that the Environmental Services Committee has been active in the formation of the Climate Change Forum, Grants, Bloom, etc. The Chair has requested that further consideration is given as to the committee's position on various issues affecting the town from an environmental perspective.

For example, tree planting has been promoted through the Queens's Garden Jubilee Scheme. Should the committee have a position on where tree planting should take place, a target of trees to plant.

The Committee had a presentation about active travel and the proposals to reduce car usage. Do the committee have a view on this and how the town council might go about encouraging active travel.

It is likely that in due course that the Town Council will look to have or use a fleet of vehicles, would the committee consider a statement on what the town council will do to ensure carbon emissions are minimal for any future vehicles it may purchase.

Procurement of good and services by the town council. Would the committee consider a position in terms of adding weight to companies who are net zero, local so that transportation is minimal etc.

These are examples to promote debate and not confirmed proposals.

This in essence is the beginning of formulating a broader environmental policy for the town council to consider, and it is likely that this would grow and evolve as the town council developed, took on services, facilities, assets etc.

Inserted below for information is the terms of reference for the committee. This may also help inform this discussion. Some of the terms have been set up in anticipation of what services may come over to the Town Council but obviously have not as yet.

## Environmental Services Committee

(12 members)

- i) To determine all matters relating to the provision and maintenance of, bus shelters, seats, litter bins and other items of street furniture
- ii) To consider the Council's response to the climate emergency
- i) To determine all matters relating to the provision and day to day running of allotments, closed churchyards, local parks and open spaces and play areas under the control of the Council.
- ii) To consider all matters relating to the physical environment of the town, including litter and dog control, re-cycling of waste materials and liaising with local interest groups on such issues.
- iii) To manage all matters relating to the Neighbourhood Warden scheme.
- iv) To consider all matters relating to the management of the Market and the Town Council's contribution towards town centre management activities.
- v) To assemble and submit to the Policy and Finance Committee an income and expenditure budget for each financial year in respect of all the services of this Committee..



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# Northampton TOWN COUNCIL

## Environmental Services Committee

### Climate Change Grants Scheme – Update

#### Report by Town Clerk

**Purpose of report:** To update the Committee on the Environmental Services Grants Scheme

**Recommended: (i)** That the committee note the report

Members of the committee will recall that it was agreed to establish a Climate Change Grants Scheme with a budget of £50,000.

The scheme is planned to be live at the start of September and the form and guidance notes should be downloadable from town council's website by the time of this committee meeting. A press release was sent out in mid-August and the story was covered in the Northampton Chronical and Echo <https://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/news/environment/northampton-town-council-to-donate-ps50000-to-environmental-projects-3804275>. This has generated a number of expression of interest for the scheme. Officers will start a more formal and sustained promotion of the scheme in the coming weeks.

Below are the guidance notes for the scheme which will be administered by the Climate Change Forum with recommendations to this committee. Members are asked to review for comment.

#### **Northampton Town Council Climate Change Grants Scheme DRAFT August 2022**

Northampton Town Council, via its Climate Change Forum, which is a sub-group of the Environmental Services Committee, wants to encourage, support and promote volunteer and other organisations such as community groups, charities, faith groups, friends' groups, & schools within its area to apply to a specific Climate Change Grants Scheme.

This Scheme is part of the Town Council's commitment to reduce emissions locally, due to the widespread challenges and increasing threats posed by Climate Change to the town's residents.

PLEASE NOTE that the Scheme is only open to Northampton Town Council area residents, so does not include these areas of the town that have their own Parish Councils: Billing, Duston, Collingtree, East Hunsbury, Far Cotton and Delapre, Great Houghton, Hardingstone, Hunsbury Meadows, Kingsthorpe, Upton, West Hunsbury, Wootton, Wootton Fields and Simpson Manor.

NB. A Map showing the new boundaries of the parish councils in Northampton is here:

<https://www.northamptontowncouncil.gov.uk/map-of-northampton1.html>

### **Small or large, your green ideas can have a big impact.**

Any decision to award a Climate Change Grant following an application being submitted will be decided by a sub-group of the Climate Change Forum at its regular meeting, and the policy below is designed to act as guidance for both applicants and Councillors who may wish to support such an application.

There are 2 levels of funding available up to a maximum of £5,000 for practical green ideas that have the potential to make a meaningful and lasting difference to the carbon footprint of local communities and/or biodiversity enhancement in these areas:

- Climate Emissions – Reduce carbon emissions and other climate warming gases, reduce households' carbon footprint
- Sustainable Energy – Reduce consumption of energy, install low carbon or renewable forms of energy
- Sustainable Transport – Reduce the amount of miles travelled by personal cars; for example, by increasing cycling, walking and use of public transport
- Biodiversity & Ecosystems – Increase, restore or enhance local biodiversity and wildlife
- Climate Change Mitigation – Reduce urban heat levels & water consumption, and reduce threats from flooding, increase local sustainable production of food or goods
- Waste – Reduce food and other waste, increase re-use and recycling

Other key considerations for the Forum in deciding on which applications to support include:

- Will the project increase awareness & education on climate change, and support behaviour change towards cleaner, greener ways of living?
- Is the project aimed at encouraging the local community to use renewable sources of energy, to reduce their energy use in homes, businesses, modes of travel and elsewhere?
- Does the project promote a wider community involvement and active engagement in environmentally aware behaviour change?
- Does the project have other spin-off benefits such as air pollution reductions, improved personal physical health and/or psychological well-being?
- Is there potential for longer term, environmental benefits from the project?
- We will not accept applications from individuals, or commercial organisations which aim to generate a profit
- Organisations may only apply once per calendar year for this grant
- Due to budget limitations a smaller amount than that applied for may be offered as a grant
- Grants will not be awarded to cover costs that have already been incurred.



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What levels of funding are available?

- up to £1,000 - for small projects that are 'ready to go' and which fit the criterion of being most a 'practical green idea with likely benefits to the community'
- up to £5,000 - for more ambitious projects, for some of which we may require applicants to contribute some funding themselves – e.g. to enable support for larger over £5,000 projects, or for less costly projects but which will lead to the applicant's group or organisation acquiring a longer term asset, such as a structural change to a property, or some other acquisition

The Scheme is a new venture for the Town Council, and we want to keep it flexible to encourage potential applicants. However, as a prompt for local groups and organisations to use their imagination, below are some projects that other Councils have awarded grants for:

- Schools or other organisations working towards the development of cycling and walking activities.
- Organising carbon footprint training for community groups.
- School and community groups developing food waste composting projects.
- Organising active travel events to encourage more low emissions travel, such as E-bike events.
- Street resident's associations implementing a community planting or waste reduction project.
- Solar PV systems installed at community facilities.
- Local community food sustainable growing and distribution schemes.
- A Community Centre replacing existing lighting with LED.
- Tree, hedgerow or perennial wildflower planting, insect pollination planting, especially in areas that are now notably deficient in these green features.

## **How To Apply**

Please complete the application form – [Climate Change Grant Application FORM](#)

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, until the annual budget has all been allocated (that is, there is no date deadline by which to submit).

Criteria for project selection. All applicants, in addition to taking into account the guidelines above on types of project that we wish to support, should provide whatever information they can on the form itself in the sections below. HOWEVER, we do want to encourage applications for these grants, so if any sections of the form require discussion or advice before submitting an application, please do contact the Council.

Please explain the project - This should explain BOTH the objectives (e.g. how you anticipate it having the potential to make a meaningful and lasting difference to the carbon footprint

of communities and/or biodiversity enhancement) AND the proposed method of implementation, including a description of the tasks involved and whether individual members of the applicant's group are identified as willing and able to deliver on these tasks.

Please set out what outcomes you believe your project will achieve – this should include, if possible, some estimates of the possible effects of the project. We recognise that this might be challenging, but we hope applicants will be able to think in detail about what their project aims are, and be able to provide some information. Some examples are:

- how many people – an estimated range is fine – are likely to make a behaviour change?
- what range of emissions reduction in CO<sub>2</sub>e Kilos/Tons do you hope might be the outcome of your project? (CO<sub>2</sub>e = carbon dioxide equivalent, and is a common unit of measurement in emissions calculators)
- what is the intended: square metres of wildflowers / number of trees / length of hedgerow planted?
- Some websites describe ways to make these sorts of numerical estimates, and may be of help to some applicants – e.g.  
<https://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx>



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## Environmental Services Committee

### Next Meeting – Community Venue

#### Report by Town Clerk

**Purpose of report:** To seek the committee's suggestions on a community venue for the next meeting

**Recommended: (i)** Suggested venues and agenda ideas are requested

Members will recall that it was agreed that each committee would look to hold a committee meeting at a community venue out with the Guildhall if possible.

Members are asked to consider appropriate facilities in their ward that could be used to host the meeting. Criteria that would need to be met in order to host a meeting include being open in the evening, able to have chairs and tables placed in a meeting arrangement and that the venue is accessible to the public. Parking would also be preferable. The next meeting is on 21<sup>st</sup> November and will include budgeting.

It would also be of value if on the agenda was included an item or items pertinent to the area the meeting is being held, and/or a local speaker who would like to address the committee about an appropriate subject for the area. Again, members are asked to give this consideration and feed back to the Chair and Clerk.