



# Agenda

Meeting: **Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group**  
Date: **17 September 2020**  
Time: **3.00 pm**  
Place: **Remote Meeting**

To: Councillors Gary Fuller, Jackie Meade, Ian Meyers, Stuart Peall, Lesley Whybrow (Chairman) and David Wimble

The Working Group will consider the matters, listed below, at the date and time shown above. **This meeting will not be open to the press or public.**

1. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Members of the Council should declare any interests which fall under the following categories:

- a) Disclosable pecuniary interests (DPI)
- b) Other significant interests (OSI)
- c) Voluntary announcements of other interests

3. **Minutes**

To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2020.

4. **Grounds Maintenance Initiatives**

A presentation will be provided to the Working Group.

5. **Update from Laser Energy**

Members will receive an update from Laser Energy and are requested to participate in a workshop to model options for reducing the Council's emissions.

**Queries about the agenda? Need a different format?**

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## **Declarations of Interest**

### **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI)**

Where a Member has a new or registered DPI in a matter under consideration they must disclose that they have an interest and, unless the Monitoring Officer has agreed in advance that the DPI is a 'Sensitive Interest', explain the nature of that interest at the meeting. The Member must withdraw from the meeting at the commencement of the consideration of any matter in which they have declared a DPI and must not participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter unless they have been granted a dispensation permitting them to do so. If during the consideration of any item a Member becomes aware that they have a DPI in the matter they should declare the interest immediately and, subject to any dispensations, withdraw from the meeting.

### **Other Significant Interest (OSI)**

Where a Member is declaring an OSI they must also disclose the interest and explain the nature of the interest at the meeting. The Member must withdraw from the meeting at the commencement of the consideration of any matter in which they have declared a OSI and must not participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter unless they have been granted a dispensation to do so or the meeting is one at which members of the public are permitted to speak for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the matter. In the latter case, the Member may only participate on the same basis as a member of the public and cannot participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter and must withdraw from the meeting in accordance with the Council's procedure rules.

### **Voluntary Announcement of Other Interests (VAOI)**

Where a Member does not have either a DPI or OSI but is of the opinion that for transparency reasons alone s/he should make an announcement in respect of a matter under consideration, they can make a VAOI. A Member declaring a VAOI may still remain at the meeting and vote on the matter under consideration.

#### **Note to the Code:**

Situations in which a Member may wish to make a VAOI include membership of outside bodies that have made representations on agenda items; where a Member knows a person involved, but does not have a close association with that person; or where an item would affect the well-being of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc. but not his/her financial position. It should be emphasised that an effect on the financial position of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc OR an application made by a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc would both probably constitute either an OSI or in some cases a DPI.

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# Minutes

## Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Held at:              | Remote meeting   |
| Date                  | Wednesday, 29 July 2020  |
| Present               | Councillors Gary Fuller, Ian Meyers and Lesley Whybrow (Chairman)  |
| Apologies for Absence | Councillor David Wimble  |
| Officers Present:     | Kate Clark (Case Officer - Committee Services), Sue Lewis (Case Officer - Committee Services), Hazel Sargent (Low Carbon and Sustainability Specialist), Charlotte Spendley (Director of Corporate Services) and Adrian Tofts (Strategy, Policy & Performance Lead Specialist) |
| Others Present:       | Steve Marks (LASER Energy)   |

### 6. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### 7. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2020 were agreed. The Chairman's signature will be added showing approval.

### 8. **Update from LASER Energy**

A presentation and net zero update were given to members by Steve Marks from LASER Energy.

Members noted:

- Gas use is particularly high, this is in part due to the number of sheltered/semi-sheltered establishments in the district. A suggestion was to use a greener supplier which would be a challenge.
- Grey fleet emissions seems high and Mr Marks explained this is probably due to the use of large diesel/petrol vehicles by staff.

- Electric vehicles – there are hidden costs in the manufacturing process of batteries.
- It is worth noting that mileage covered would be less since lockdown and beyond through home-working.
- Community wind farm projects could be a consideration.

Mr Marks explained the next steps are to schedule a project workshop for working group members, with a view to generating a first draft on carbon reduction, including high level scenarios to be shaped.

#### 9. **Draft Carbon Action Plan**

A draft Carbon Action Plan for the Council was presented to members. This highlighted some key questions that the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group were asked to consider. Comments would then be used to shape the next version of the plan. Potential actions will need to be first costed as well as assessed in terms of carbon emissions reduction and impact on working practices

Overall members were happy with the plan, finding it clear and concise. They made the following comments:

- Recycling hardware technology – the understanding is that this is carried out by the Council, however this will be checked.
- Technology decisions – software/hardware choices to reduce energy consumption.
- As part of the key area ‘Energy’ insulation to be added.
- Transport – encourage walking, cycling, use of public transport. Also, thinking of staff who are less mobile, the use of mobility scooters for shorter journeys.
- Homeworking is an important ongoing part of changing behaviours.
- A suggestion to add in a section showing what the Council has achieved so far.
- A subsequent Plan document could be produced which looks at the whole district.
- Timeline and priorities for action plans.

It was agreed the Carbon Action Plan needs to be a living document with regular reviews.

Various word additions and changes to be added at the Chairman’s suggestion. These will be amended in the document.

#### 10. **SCATTER data on Greenhouse Gas Emissions for Folkestone & Hythe District**

Members received a presentation on the SCATTER tool for greenhouse gas emissions and were given information describing the findings for Folkestone and Hythe district.

The presentation is attached to these minutes.

Air transport was mentioned and the effect this has on our district, page 5 of the presentation refers to this.

Road transport and traffic surveys are carried out using cameras, ordnance survey maps and the DVLA, which identifies vehicle types.

It was noted that all figures could change in the future and some aspects of the data is outside of the Council's control.

#### 11. **England Tree Strategy consultation**

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is currently consulting on an 'England Tree Strategy'. Members received a summary of the contents of the strategy. While some of the consultation is focused on the forestry industry, members of this working group were asked whether there are general comments that the council should make in response to the consultation.

Mr Tofts gave a short presentation which is attached to these minutes. He advised that the consultation closes on 11 September 2020 and relates to England only.

Points mentioned by members included;

- The importance of coppicing.
- Tree preservation orders – a suggestion to review rules locally and nationally.
- Tree planting and the importance of aftercare.
- Training internally and externally around tree preservation within the district.

It was agreed that a response is needed from the Council to the consultation. A draft response will be produced for sign off and submission.

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