



**John Wright**  
Town Clerk

**Lyme Regis Town Council**

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**Environment Committee**

**Core Membership:** Cllr P. May, Cllr S. Cockerell, Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold, Cllr S. Larcombe, Cllr A. Wood, Cllr M. Denney, Cllr G. Turner, Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr G. Stammers

Notice is given of a meeting of the Environment Committee to be held at the Council Offices, St Michael's Business Centre, Church Street, Lyme Regis on Wednesday 16 July 2025 commencing at 7pm when the following business is proposed to be transacted:

John Wright  
Town Clerk  
10.07.25

*The open and transparent proceedings of Full Council and committee meetings will be audio recorded and recordings will be held for one year by the town council.*

*If members of the public make a representation to the meeting, they will be deemed to have consented to being audio recorded.*

*If members of the public have any queries regarding audio recording of meetings, please contact the town clerk.*

Members are reminded that in reaching decisions they should take into consideration the town council's decision to declare a climate emergency and ambition to become carbon neutral by 2030 and beyond.

**AGENDA**

**1. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**

To allow the committee to receive nominations and elect its chairman and vice-chairman for the council year 2025-26

**2. Terms of Reference**

To allow the committee to receive its terms of reference

### **3. Public Forum**

Twenty minutes will be made available for public comment and response in relation to items on this agenda

*Individuals will be permitted a maximum of three minutes each to address the committee*

### **4. Apologies**

To receive and record apologies and reasons for absence

### **5. Minutes**

To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 23 April 2025

### **6. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Members are reminded that if they have a disclosable pecuniary interest on their register of interests relating to any item on the agenda they are prevented from participating in any discussion or voting on that matter at the meeting and to do so would amount to a criminal offence. Similarly if you are or become aware of a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter under consideration at this meeting which is not on your register of interests or is in the process of being added to your register you must disclose such interest at this meeting and register it within 28 days.

### **7. Dispensations**

To note the grant of dispensations made by the town clerk in relation to the business of this meeting.

### **8. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 April 2025**

To update members on matters arising from the previous meeting that are not dealt with elsewhere on this agenda and to allow members to seek further information on issues raised within the minutes of the previous meeting.

### **9. Update Report**

To inform members about progress on significant environmental developments

### **10. Environment Committee – Objectives**

To allow members to review progress of the committee's 2025-26 objectives

### **11. Co-option**

To allow members to consider a process for co-opting members on to the committee

### **12. Appointment of Members to the Net Carbon Zero Emissions Working Group**

To appointment members to the working group to oversee the action plan to achieve net carbon zero emissions by 2030

**13. To receive the minutes of the Bating Water Quality Meeting on 24 June 2025**

**14. Action Plan for Achieving Net Carbon Zero Emissions by 2030**

To allow members to consider the action plan for achieving net carbon zero emissions by 2030

**15. EcoVend Reverse Vending Recycling Machines**

To provide members with an overview of reverse vending recycling technology and to seek approval to explore the feasibility of the installation of for EcoVend machines in key locations in Lyme Regis

**16. Planning and Costings for the Biodiversity Plan**

To provide members with an overview of the costings and planning phases for a biodiversity study, involving 11 council sites

**17. River Lim Action Group Report**

To allow members to receive a report from the River Lim Action Group

**18. Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy**

To inform members about opportunities to obtain information and comment on Dorset Council's draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy and to submit an online survey response to Dorset Council ahead of the consultation closing date of 30 July 2025

**19. Food Security**

To introduce a discussion paper submitted by Janet Breeze, a member of the Environment Committee's Net Zero Working Group, for members to note and review

**20. Solar Roofs Update**

To allow members to receive an update on the solar roofs event and to share information about the forthcoming Greener Open Homes event in September 2025

**21. SAS Paddle Out Protest**

To allow members to consider an update on the Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) paddle out protest, submitted by Grenville Barr, a representative of Turn Lyme Green

**22. Exempt Business**

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 16 July 2025

**Title:** Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

**Purpose of Report**

To allow the committee to receive nominations and elect its chairman and vice-chairman for the council year 2025-26

**Recommendation**

- a) The committee receives nominations for the chairman of this committee and elects its chairman for the council year 2025-26
- b) The committee receives nominations for the vice-chairman of this committee and elects its vice-chairman for the council year 2025-26

**Background**

- 1. The terms of reference for the council's committee structure state each committee will elect its chairman and vice-chairman from among its membership.
- 2. Consequently, nominations are sought for the chairman and the vice-chairman of this committee.
- 3. The relevant standing orders that inform and govern the election of chairmen and vice-chairmen are detailed below.
- 4. Standing order 3.t states:

'Unless standing orders provide otherwise, voting on any question shall be by a show of hands. At the request of a councillor, the voting on any question shall be recorded so as to show whether each councillor present and voting gave their vote for or against that question. Such a request shall be made before moving on to the next item of business on the agenda. If at least two members request, voting may be by signed ballot.'

- 5. Standing order 8.a states:

'Where more than two persons have been nominated for a position to be filled by the council and none of those persons has received an absolute majority of votes in their favour, the name of the person having the least number of votes shall be struck off the list and a fresh vote taken. This process shall continue until a majority of votes is given in favour of one person. A tie in votes may be settled by the casting vote exercisable by the chairman of the meeting.'

- 6. Standing order 8.b. states:

'As the first business of a council is to elect a chairman (the mayor in the case of Lyme Regis Town Council) who is also an ex-officio voting member of all committees, they are in a position to open and chair a sub-committee meeting temporarily, with the benefit of a casting vote, until a committee chairman is elected. In the Mayor's absence, the Deputy Mayor could officiate in

the same way, The town clerk or other officer cannot open or chair a committee or sub-committee meeting.

7. The election of the chairman and vice-chairman of the Environment Committee will be reported to the Full Council on 6 August 2025.

John Wright  
Town clerk  
July 2025

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 16 July 2025

**Title:** Terms of Reference

**Purpose**

To allow the committee to receive its terms of reference

**Recommendation**

The committee receives its terms of reference

**Background**

1. The terms of reference for the Environment Committee, along with the general terms of reference that apply to all the council's committees is attached, **appendix 2A**.
2. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 6 August 2025.

John Wright  
Town clerk  
July 2025

**Terms of Reference****2. Committees – General**

- 2.1 The purpose of the council's committees is to consider issues under their remit. Issues will normally be outlined in a report prepared by officers and each report will normally include a recommendation.
- 2.2 Any recommendation(s) from a council committee will be considered at the subsequent meeting of the Full Council. Any decision or recommendation from a council committee has no status until it has been adopted by the Full Council by way of a resolution. This is unless a committee has devolved powers, i.e. Planning in respect of making recommendations direct to Dorset Council on planning applications.
- 2.3 Each committee will:
- 2.3.1 Elect its chairman and vice-chairman from among its membership;
  - 2.3.2 Confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the last committee meeting;
  - 2.3.3 Agree and review the terms of reference for sub-committees, working or advisory groups that report to the committee;
  - 2.3.4 Receive nominations to existing sub-committees, working or advisory groups that report to the committee;
  - 2.3.5 Elect chairmen and vice-chairmen to existing sub-committees, working or advisory groups that report to the committee;
  - 2.3.6 Appoint any new sub-committees, working or advisory groups, confirmation of their terms of reference, the number of members (including, if appropriate, substitute councillors), receipt of nominations and the election of chairmen and vice-chairmen to them;
  - 2.3.7 To examine on behalf of the council various policies, strategies and plans relating to its subject area and to report these to the Full Council;
  - 2.3.8 To undertake reviews or policy development tasks in relation to any matters falling within the remit of the committee;
  - 2.3.9 To work with other relevant committees of the council where an area of work is shared with that committee.
- 2.4 Council-approved projects and objectives will be delegated to the relevant committee.
- 2.5 No business may be transacted at a committee meeting of the Full Council unless at least one third of the whole number of members of the committee are present and in no case shall the quorum of a meeting be less than three.

**4. Environment Committee**

- 4.1 The purpose of the Environment Committee is to:

4.1.1 Research and advise the council on environmental issues.

4.1.2 Consult external bodies on environmental issues.

4.1.3 Make recommendations on the council's policy on environmental issues.

4.1.4 To identify and monitor progress against environmental objectives.

4.1.5 To contain spend to approved budget.

4.2 Up to six non-members may sit on the committee, with no more than two people from one organisation. Non-members will not have voting rights.



LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23 APRIL 2025

**Present:**

**Chairman:** Cllr S. Cockerell

**Members:** Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr P. May, Cllr M. Denney, Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr A. Wood, Cllr S. Larcombe, Cllr G. Stammers

**Other members:** J. Breeze

**Officers:** K. Newman (administrative and community engagement assistant), P. Williams (acting operations manager), J. Wright (town clerk)

**Guests:** M. Morrow (River Lim Action Group)

**Absent:** Cllr G. Turner

**24/73/ENV Public Forum**

There were no members of the public present.

**24/74/ENV Apologies**

V. Elcoate  
G. Barr

**24/75/ENV Minutes**

The chairman said he had not yet checked when last the council reviewed its adherence and performance against its own environment policy but said he would do so for the next meeting.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr M. Denney, the minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2025, were **ADOPTED**.

**24/76/ENV Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

There were none.

**24/77/ENV Dispensations**

There were none.

## **24/78/ENV Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 March 2025**

### **Carbon Literacy Organisation Accreditation**

The town clerk said Speak Carbon Collective had been appointed to deliver the carbon literacy training for the organisation.

A member wanted clarification on the cost of the training to be provided and asked if the decision was made due to a disagreement with a member of Dorset Climate Action Network, because he wanted to be careful about how the council's funds were being spent.

The town clerk said the matter deserved a degree of sensitivity and he did not want to discuss it at the meeting. If any members wanted to discuss the decision with him, they would be welcome to do so in a separate meeting.

### **Environment Policy**

A member asked if there was any further action needed from officers or if a proposal was needed regarding the wording in the environment policy for the scope 3 emissions discussed in 26/67/ENV. He said he would like the wording provided by officers to be included.

## **24/79/ENV Update Report**

### **Bathing Water Quality Meeting**

The acting operations manager said the meeting on 15 April 2025 was not as well attended as previous meetings but was a productive meeting that was attended by South West Water and Dorset Council representatives.

Those who attended the meeting gave an update on the topics discussed.

It was noted that a purpose of the bathing water quality meeting was discussed and would be recorded in the minutes of that meeting, that a council member would chair the meeting, and a representative from the River Lim Action Group (RLAG) would take the minutes, and then combined with the recording, the council would draft the minutes.

It was also agreed that the group would try to encourage a representative of the Uplyme Parish Council to attend the meetings. It was noted Surfers Against Sewage was a data source but hadn't been asked to attend any of the meetings.

## **24/80/ENV Environment Committee – Objectives**

A member asked if trees could be planted along Strawberry Fields where hedges were accidentally cut down.

The acting operations manager said the hedges weren't cut down accidentally but were cut back because of ash dieback so they needed to be removed for safety purposes.

The town clerk said a decision would be made in autumn 2025 regarding the future of the site, and it would be a good idea to have these discussions first before planting any trees. He suggested the first budget setting meeting in October would be a good time to establish a budget for this.

## **24/81/ENV River Lim Action Group Report**

M. Morrow from RLAG presented the report and highlighted the concerns the group had about data uncertainty and increases of discharge hours at the sewage treatment works and Horn Bridge. He asked if the town council could write to South West Water to ask for an explanation of these anomalies.

M. Morrow said the two meetings they had held with the public and with farmers went very well and thanked the council for its continued support.

M. Morrow answered members' questions regarding the monitoring of sewage from each area and how the new housing estate was coping with the extra demand.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr S. Larcombe, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the council write to Southwest Water expressing concerns about the data provided by the environment agency and the uncertainty within it and the increased discharges from the Uplyme sewage treatment works and the Horn Bridge pumping station.

The town clerk asked for sight of any previous correspondence from RLAG to South West Water.

## **24/82/ENV Action Plan for Achieving Net Carbon Zero Emissions by 2030**

The acting operations manager said another meeting would be taking place on 8 May 2025 to progress the plan.

He said with regards to action point 7.2 relating to food security, supply chains and local growing and production, he wasn't clear on where members wanted to go with this point and how they would like it to work, but it could be discussed further in the working group.

It was noted the community garden and other small initiatives might eventually lead to improvement or a change of behaviour. It was suggested the allotments could also be an option to educate the community, potentially by giving a plot to the school.

## **24/83/ENV Lighting in the Lister and Langmoor Gardens**

The town clerk said a metered supply in the gardens would be preferred because the council was currently two times more than was necessary for electricity. He said the cost would likely be between £10k and £12k and it would take around 10 years to pay back the amount, which wasn't ideal, but it was liveable. In 10 years' time the council could be benefitting from cheaper electric if it commissioned a metered supply.

A member asked if solar would be a better option than a metered supply.

The town clerk said he wasn't convinced that a solar option would be adequate; he thought it might be possible during summer months but storage and battery capacity to supply the gardens in the winter might not work. However, it could be considered.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge that members **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to instruct officers to pursue the installation of a metered electricity supply for the footway lighting in the Lister and Langmoor gardens.

*The meeting closed at 7.40pm.*

DRAFT

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 16 July 2025

**Title:** Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 April 2025

**Purpose of Report**

To update members on matters arising from the previous meeting that are not dealt with elsewhere on this agenda and to allow members to seek further information on issues raised within the minutes of the previous meeting.

**Recommendation**

Members note the report and raise any other issues on the minutes of the previous meeting that they require further information on.

**24/81/ENV – River Lim Action Group Report**

A letter has been sent to South West Water expressing the council's concerns about the data provided by the environment agency and the uncertainty within it and the increased discharges from the Uplyme sewage treatment works and the Horn Bridge pumping station.

**24/83/ENV – Lighting in the Lister and Langmoor Gardens**

Further to the report presented at the previous meeting of this committee, officers can confirm that the footway lighting in the Lister and Langmoor Gardens has already been converted to LED. The next step is either to request a new metered electricity supply from National Grid, which would involve an estimated installation cost of between £10,000 and £12,000, or to approach the council's existing energy supplier to review and update the charge codes on the current unmetered supply to reflect the lower consumption of the new LED units. The existence of the second possible option has only recently come to light and, although it would still involve paying the higher per unit and standing charges indicated below, it would reduce the overall cost to the council and significantly extend the payback period for the switch to a metered supply.

The current unmetered supply is charged at approximately £0.32 per kilowatt hour, with a daily standing charge of around £2.80. In contrast, a typical metered supply would be charged at around £0.24 per kilowatt hour, with a standing charge of approximately £0.53 per day. Officers are assessing both options to determine which approach provides the best long term financial and operational benefit to the council.

Sam O'Connell  
Operations manager  
July 2025

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 16 July 2025

**Title:** Update Report

### **Purpose of the Report**

To inform members about progress on significant environmental developments

### **Report**

#### **Updates from Community Organisations**

Members of any local community organisations present at the meeting will be asked if they wish to update the committee on their initiatives. A maximum of three minutes will be allowed for each organisation to present to the committee.

#### **Battery Powered Landscaping Tools**

As part of the council's ongoing efforts to evaluate the suitability of battery-powered landscaping equipment, two successful trial demonstrations have already taken place with leading commercial suppliers. The first was conducted with Milwaukee, a recognised manufacturer of professional battery-operated tools, widely used across the grounds maintenance sector. The second trial was held with Etesia, a well-established company known for producing reliable and efficient electric mowing and landscaping equipment suitable for local authority use.

A third trial is scheduled to take place on 29 July 2025 with Stihl, another respected supplier offering a comprehensive range of battery-powered tools specifically designed for commercial landscaping operations. This final demonstration will allow officers to compare equipment performance, ease of use, and overall suitability across a range of operational settings.

These three trials will provide the council with a clear comparative overview of available products. Once all trials are complete, officers will seek formal quotations from each supplier to inform next steps. This process will support the council's aim of reducing emissions from its operations and progressing towards more sustainable and environmentally responsible grounds maintenance practices.

#### **Electric Vehicles**

As part of the council's ongoing review of electric utility vehicles to support more sustainable operational practices, a trial has recently been carried out with the Etesia Lander, a high-specification electric utility vehicle widely regarded as a top-tier option on the market. While the vehicle demonstrated strong performance and build quality, its cost has raised concerns. A used model is priced at approximately £40,000, while a new vehicle would cost in the region of £55,000. Given the scale and nature of the council's usage, this level of investment is considered disproportionate at the current time.

Officers are continuing to explore alternative options that offer greater value for money. A used HiSun utility vehicle, which closely matches a model already operating within the council's fleet, has been located for sale at £12,000. This presents a significantly more cost-effective option and may better meet the council's operational and financial requirements.

The review of available battery and electric utility vehicles is ongoing, with a focus on identifying models that provide a practical balance between reliability, performance, and affordability. The outcome of this review will inform future recommendations regarding fleet upgrades or replacements.

### **Electric vehicle charging**

Following a more general discussion with a projects team manager at Dorset Council about its plans for additional EV charging points in Lyme Regis, an offer was made for Dorset Council's EV charging partner, Joju, to carry out a full feasibility study into the possibility of achieving additional rapid (21 kWh) chargers in the town council's car parks at Monmouth Beach and Woodmead Halls.

These studies would be free-of-charge and entirely without prejudice, and would look at issues of present and future grid capacity as well as all of the other 'usual' issues around implementation and delivery. If the town council wished to proceed and if sufficient grid capacity existed, then the installation would be entirely without cost to the town council and with all project management work undertaken externally and also without cost. The equipment supplier would be MER, with whom Dorset Council has a working arrangement. The machines would be on a 15-year lease, fully managed and maintained by MER and with the town council receiving an index-linked income share, currently 1.5p per kWh dispensed. This works out at about £100 per year on a well-used fast charger, although it could be more.

The offer of the study has been accepted, on an entirely free-of-charge and without prejudice basis.

### **Carbon Literacy Organisation Accreditation**

A further 14 employees attended the recent Carbon Literacy training sessions delivered by Speak Carbon Collective, bringing the total number of carbon literate employees to 21. No members attended the recent training, so the total number of members trained remains at four. Officers are discussing with Speak Carbon Collective the possibility of online training in the evening, over three sessions. This is likely to take place in September and more details will be provided when this is confirmed.

### **Use of Biodiesel/HVO in council vehicles**

The operations manager is progressing with the planned switch to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) for all fleet vehicles, as part of the town council's commitment to reducing emissions and supporting more sustainable operations.

To ensure value for money in line with procurement requirements, three suppliers have been approached – Crown Oils, Beesley Fuels, and Southern Fuels. Crown Oils have submitted pricing, and Beesley Fuels are still yet to confirm. Southern Fuels have confirmed they are unable to quote due to difficulties securing a third-party delivery partner for the area. They stated that we would need to purchase a minimum of 6,000L, and that they only have the capability to deliver HVO on an artic lorry.

HVO pricing is subject to market fluctuation. As of the latest quotation, 3,500 litres is priced at £1.2680 per litre. A deadline of 11 July 2025 has been set for Crown and Beesley to confirm final pricing and delivery timescales. An order will be placed immediately after a supplier is selected.

### **Review of Environment Policy**

The policy was amended to include further information on Scope 3 emissions. The updated policy is available on the council website.

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 16 July 2025

**Title:** Environment Committee – Objectives

**Purpose**

To allow members to review progress of the committee's 2025-26 objectives

**Recommendation**

Members note the report

**Background**

1. During the 2025-26 budget-setting process, objectives were agreed for the year and a budget estimate identified against each project.
2. At the Full Council meeting on 3 April 2025, the objectives were formally assigned to committees.

**Report**

3. Members can review progress on the objectives at each meeting.
4. This committee's 2025-26 objectives, along with the allocated budget, completion date and lead officer, are at **appendix 10A**. Updates are highlighted in yellow.
5. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 6 August 2025.

Adrianne Mullins  
Assistant town clerk  
July 2025



## APPENDIX 10A

Objective	Budget	Lead officer	Committee	Target completion date	Updates/comments
To progress the 2030 carbon net zero plan		SO	Environment	March '25	<p>The action plan and a summary of what's been achieved was presented to the Environment Committee on 12 March 2025. The plan will be populated with further actions and target dates and presented to the Environment Committee on 23 April 2025.</p> <p>On 12 March 2025, the Environment Committee made a recommendation to the Full Council on 3 April 2025 to establish a working group for the council's strategic plan to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030. One of the purposes of the working group is to monitor the delivery of the action plan.</p> <p>The plan was considered by this committee on 23 April 2025 and a working group meeting took place on 8 May 2025 to further develop the plan. An update report is elsewhere on this agenda.</p>
Support River Lim Action Group projects	7,9	SO	Environment	March	<p>The council has approved annual funding of c.£7,000pa to projects from April 2025 to 2030.</p> <p>A plan of how the funding will be spent has been provided to the council by the River Lim Action Group. Funding will be issued on receipt of evidence of expenditure.</p>
Migrate to electric hedge trimmers	1.4	SO	Environment	April '25	Demonstrations of equipment have been arranged for the external works' team.
Undertake tree planting schemes	5	SO	Environment	TBC	Officers are investigating suitable areas for tree planting along the boundary of the footgolf, due to the removal of diseased trees.
Follow up on EPC recommendations	5	SO	Environment	TBC	Assessments will be undertaken of all recently refurbished or reprovisioned buildings.

					Discussions are taking place with the council's tenants about changes they can make to improve their EPC ratings.
Undertake a hydro feasibility study	3	SO	Environment	TBC	Officers will seek comparisons to establish feasibility before potentially commissioning a consultant. Officers have found a report commissioned by the council c2007 to establish the feasibility of hydro-electric, the report concluded it was not feasible.
Undertake biodiversity projects	5	SO	Environment	June '25	<p>Projects identified in a biodiversity report considered by the Environment Committee will be undertaken by June 2025. A comprehensive biodiversity audit will be considered by the Environment Committee 16 July 2025, with a view to putting it forward for consideration as a funded objective for 2026-27.</p> <p>Officers have purchased bat and bird boxes for the woodland walk. Officers have sought advice from the council's geotechnical engineer, who has confirmed a pond is not viable due to stabilisation works in the gardens.</p>
Undertake further investigation into rainwater harvesting	2	SO	Environment	TBC	A 1,000 litre water butt has been purchased for the amenities hut, in addition to the one on the Garden Pavilion. The water butt at the amenities hut was fitted 9/7/25.
Support River Lym improvement projects	7	SO	Environment	March '26	
Install garden signs	5	SO	Environment	June'25 September '25	A project to link QR codes on signs at the flower beds in the gardens to the council's website will commence in June 2025 and completed in September 2025. The website will feature plans of each flowerbed and a full list of the plants within.

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 16 July 2025

**Title:** Co-option

### **Purpose of Report**

To allow members to consider a process for co-opting members on to the committee

### **Recommendation**

Members note the report, approve a co-option process for non-members as detailed in appendix 9D, thank Grenville Barr, Janet Breeze and Vicki Elcoate for their applications and encourage them to reapply in accordance with the council's co-option procedure

### **Background**

1. The town clerk has received requests from Grenville Barr, **appendix 11A**, Janet Breeze, **appendix 11B**, and Vicki Elcoate, **appendix 11C**, to join this committee.

2. The terms of reference for this committee state in paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3:

‘Up to six non-members can sit on the committee, with no more than two people from one organisation<sup>1</sup>. Non-members do not have voting rights.’

3. The following rules apply to the co-option of non-members:

Each individual must be co-opted by majority vote of the committee. A CV for the nominated person must be made available to the committee to assist in the selection process.

Each individual co-opted may sit on the committee for the remainder of the council year but must be co-opted again in each council year.

Members may vote non-members off the committee at any time by majority vote.’

4. The terms of reference do not detail the co-option process for non-members to this committee, nor do they fully explain other considerations that come with the co-option of non-members.

### **Report**

#### **The process**

5. Before any non-member is appointed by this committee, the committee should agree in advance a process; this creates transparency, allows all members of the community an equal opportunity to apply to join the committee, it is consistent with democratic principles, and it protects the committee, council and non-members from accusations of favouritism.

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<sup>11</sup> Section 102(3) of the 1972 Local Government Act.

6. The council already has a procedure for co-opting councillors, and it seems the most appropriate method for appointing non-members. A copy of the procedure is attached, **appendix 11D**.
7. The town clerk is aware this advice is unpopular with some members of this committee, so further advice has been sought from Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils (DAPTC). The advice from DAPTC's chief executive in 2024 concurred with the town clerk's and is detailed below:

'With regard to the appointment – it is best to have something similar to the process for co-opting councillors. A clear unambiguous step by step guide as to what is required and how appointment will be voted upon.'

8. The advice received from DAPTC's chief executive in 2025 is the same.

### **Other considerations**

9. The committee needs to consider the number of non-members it wishes to appoint. Although up to six non-members can be appointed to the committee, the committee should think about the optimum balance of members versus non-members and the influence non-members can exert over the committee. To some extent this should be informed by the number of councillors on the committee; there are currently nine councillors on this committee.
10. The committee needs to consider how it manages any conflicts of interests that could occur with non-members, e.g., if a non-member represents an organisation that receives funding from the council, and the adverse public perception that could arise out of this.
11. The committee must satisfy itself that any non-member is not disqualified from being a member of a local authority. In summary, a non-member cannot sit on a committee if they:

'hold any paid office or employment (other than the office of chair, vice-chair or deputy chair) to which they have been appointed by the council or any committee or sub-committee of the council, or by a paid officer of the council, or by any joint committee on which the council is represented; or

are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim bankruptcy order; or

have within the five years before the day of the election, or since their election, been convicted in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man of any offence and had passed on him a sentence of imprisonment of at least three months (whether suspended or not) without the option of a fine; or

have been found guilty of corrupt or illegal practices or were responsible for incurring unlawful expenditure and the court order their disqualification.

are subject to the notification requirements of Part 2 of the Sexual Offences act 2003 (section 81A of the 1972 Act, in England)<sup>2</sup>

12. The committee needs to be clear that non-members must be excluded from exempt business.
13. Non-members are not included in the council's induction training programme and are not currently subject to other requirements, e.g., the code of conduct, declarations of interests.

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<sup>2</sup> National association of Local Councils LTN 7 – Non-councillor member of committees, para 6a to 6e, July 2022.

The town clerk strongly suggests that any non-members appointed to this committee should be expected to comply with the general conditions applicable to elected members.

14. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 6 August 2025.

John Wright  
Town clerk  
July 2025

**CV Grenville Duncan Barr BSc. FRICS.**

**Fieldside Rhode Lane Uplyme DT7 3TX.**

[grenvillebarr@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:grenvillebarr@yahoo.co.uk)

DOB 28/11/1959

**Career summary**

Commercial manager, Uplyme based building contractor.

Consultant project manager

Director housing association

Property and development manager for corporate employer

Consultant chartered surveyor

BSc in Quantity Surveying Bristol Polytechnic (UWE)

**Since retirement**

Chair of Plastic Free Regis and Treasurer of Turn Lyme Green

Surfing, swimming, sailing, walking, gardening.

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I have enjoyed a varied career managing the development and construction of buildings. From modest social housing to large corporate facilities. In all of these activities consideration of our natural environment has been a key element both for ethical and economic reasons.

I would hope that my experience and profession might be of value to the environment committee of Lyme Regis town Council.

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September 2024

Stuart

I am writing to ask if I might once again be considered for co-option onto LRTC's Environment Committee at the July meeting.

My background is primarily in corporate responsibility and partnerships for development. I am currently a member of Turn Lyme Green, organising regular litter picks in Lyme Regis as well as being a River Lim water quality and riverfly monitor. I also volunteer at the Seaside Store and am a Trustee at the Boat Building Academy with particular focus on sustainability. I recently completed the Carbon Literacy training organised by LRTC. I confirm I am eligible to stand.

Many thanks.

Yours

Janet Breeze  
Sent from my iPhone

Dear Stuart

I am writing to ask the LRTC Environment Committee to consider me for co-option to the Environment Committee for another year.

I am a trustee of Dorset Climate Action Network, which helped organise the recent solar roofs session in the town, a coordinator and founder member of the River Lim Action group and on the steering committee of Turn Lyme Green.

My background is originally as a journalist (print and TV). I have been the Director of the Council for National Parks and the Director of the UK Environmental Law Association.

If co-opted I have the support of Dorset CAN to represent their interests in climate action and nature recovery.

I confirm that I'm eligible to stand.

Thank you for considering my application at the July meeting.

Kind regards

Vicki Elcoate



**Procedure****Co-option**

1. This procedure must be read in conjunction with the council's co-option policy.
2. Following notification from Dorset Council that there are fewer than 14 candidates for an ordinary election or fewer than 10 electors have called for a by-election following a casual vacancy, the full council will be notified, and the co-option process will start.
3. If a casual vacancy occurs within six months of an election, there is no requirement to co-opt a councillor.
4. Following Full Council notification, a public notice will be issued seeking candidates for co-option. The notice will be published in a local newspaper and posted on the council's website and notice board, and on social media. The public notice will give candidates at least two weeks to submit an application for co-option.
- 5.. Those considering applying for co-option will be given the opportunity to meet with the town clerk.
6. Each candidate's application must be accompanied by a qualifying address, a nominator and seconder, and a 250-word supporting statement.
7. Each candidate must also provide a written declaration to certify they meet the eligibility criteria set out in s79 of the Local Government Act 1972 and are not disqualified under s80 of the 1972 Act.
8. Receipt of applications will be confirmed, and candidates will be given a copy of the co-option policy and procedure to appraise them of the decision-making process.

**The decision-making process**

9. If there is only one candidate for co-option, the applicant is appointed, automatically.
10. if there is more than one candidate, the co-option appointment must be made by the full council. If appropriate, an extraordinary meeting of the full council can be arranged to consider and approve the co-option of a councillor.
11. Candidates will be invited to meet councillors 45 minutes before the start of the Full Council meeting.
12. At the Full Council meeting, applicants will be given the opportunity to give a five-minute presentation on why they are seeking co-option, and to detail their skills and experience.
13. When the candidates have made their presentations, they will be invited to adjourn to the mayor's parlour.
14. The council will vote on and move into exempt business to allow members to consider the candidates and start the process of voting for their preferred applicant.
15. If there are two candidates, members will consider each application and return to open session to vote on their preferred candidate.

**The voting processes**

16. If there are three or more candidates, a two-stage voting process will be entered into. At the end of stage one, two candidates will remain.

17. At any time in the process and in line with standing orders, members can request either a signed ballot or a recorded vote.

### **Stage one**

18. Stage one of the process takes place in exempt business. The aim of this stage of the process is to reduce the number of candidates to two.
19. Members cast a single vote for their preferred candidate in one or more rounds of voting. The purpose of each voting round is to eliminate the candidate with the lowest number of votes until two remain.
20. At any stage in the process, if more than one candidate has zero votes, they will all be eliminated.
21. For illustration, if five candidates are being considered and more than one candidate has the lowest number of votes, e.g., in the first round of voting candidate A has 3 votes, candidate B has 3 votes, candidate C has 2 votes, candidate D has 2 votes and candidate E has 2 votes, then candidates A and B will go through to the next round and a further vote will take place between candidates C, D and E to establish who has the lowest number of votes. In this instance up to 12 votes will be divided among three candidates.
22. It is possible that a second vote at this, or any, stage of the elimination process may not produce a candidate for elimination, i.e., two candidates could tie with the lowest number of votes (6:3:3) or the three remaining candidates could receive the same number of votes (4:4:4).
23. In the first instance, the candidate with the highest number of votes would go through to the next stage of the process and a further round of voting would take place between the two remaining candidates. If there was a further tie, (6:6) the mayor would exercise their casting vote in favour of their preferred candidate and the remaining candidate would be eliminated.
24. In the second instance, the mayor would exercise their casting vote in favour of a candidate and a further vote would be held between the remaining two candidates.
25. The process will repeat itself until two candidates are left.

### **Stage two**

26. The council will move back into open session; the candidates will be invited back into the council chamber and they will be informed of the council's decision, i.e., who has been eliminated and the two remaining candidates.
27. A vote is taken on the two remaining candidates and the successful co-option candidate approved by resolution of the council.
28. On request, the town clerk will provide feedback to unsuccessful candidates.

### **Declaration of acceptance of office**

29. The successful candidate will be asked to sign their declaration of acceptance of office.

**Implementation date:** 16 December 2021

**Review date:** December 2024

**Author:** John Wright, town clerk

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 16 July 2025

**Title:** Appointment of Members to the Net Carbon Zero Emissions Working Group

**Purpose of Report**

To appointment members to the working group to oversee the action plan to achieve net carbon zero emissions by 2030

**Recommendation**

Members consider the report and appointment of members to the working group to oversee the action plan to achieve net carbon zero emissions by 2030

**Background**

1. On 12 March 2025, this committee made the following recommendations to the Full Council:
  - ‘that non-members are allowed to vote at working group meetings.’
  - ‘that the Environment Committee establishes a working group aiming to help Lyme Regis Town Council establish net zero emissions by 2030 and beyond and that the town council adopts the terms of reference, with all members being able to vote.’
  - ‘Cllr P. May, Cllr S. Cockerell, Cllr C. Aldridge, V. Elcoate, and J. Breeze be appointed to the working group for the achievement of net zero carbon emissions by 2030.’
2. These recommendations were approved by the Full Council on 3 April 2025.

**Report**

3. If this committee wishes to retain the working group to oversee the action plan to achieve net carbon zero emissions by 2030, it needs to determine its membership.
4. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 6 August 2025.

Sam O’Connell  
Operations manager  
July 2025

## Minutes of meeting on 24 June 2025

A meeting to determine the impacts on water quality and take action to improve the bathing water quality of Front Beach and Church Beach, and to improve the water quality and ecology of the River Lim, Lyme Regis through collaborative effort of all agencies and councils.

**Chair:** Councillor Phillip May (LRTC)

**Location:** Guild Hall

**Time:** 12.00 – 13.30

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, 9 September 2025, 12:00–13:30, New Office Meeting Room (LRTC Office - St Michaels Business Centre Church Street, Lyme Regis, Dorset, DT7 3DB)

1. Minutes of meeting on 15 April 2025 – accepted as a true record
2. **In Attendance:** Pete Williams (LRTC), Sam O'Connell (LRTC), Vicky Elcoate (RLAG), Liz Davies (RLAG), Belinda Bawden (DC), Stuart Cockerill (LRTC), Jim Flory (EA), Pete Hackett (UPC), Sarah Sharpe (SWW), Kate Newman (LRTC Minute Taker).

**Apologies:** Sean Norsworthy & Adam Steele

The group was disappointed because a member of DC was not in attendance

- The group requested that the previous minutes and Agenda be received earlier prior to the meeting.

### 3. Actions From Meeting 15 April 2025:

- a. EA new reporting tool. RT has continued to use this since the last meeting. Testing to continue - ACTION RT – *VE stated that the agency reporting tool has been tested and was fine but did not work after it went live.*
- b. Water Quality Notices at the beaches - After some discussion it was made clear that it is a DC responsibility to display notifications as soon as they're received from the EA; these can either be a pollution risk forecast or an actual incident - ACTION BB - *Belinda stated she had arranged for Rob Thomas to put signs up if DC agreed it. He put wrong signs up. Crazy to put up no swim notice if based off forecast rather than an actual incidence.*
- c. CA explained that the planned drone survey of the river in 2025 would not now happen, so it will be done on foot instead. This would take place in peak season - ACTION CA - **Ongoing**
- d. Re: the contamination coming out of the storm water drain at the end of the groyne, SN reported there were no misconnections but was advised that the issue remains. - ACTION SN – *BB read a statement from SN, who said there was no timescale and BB would go back to SN to obtain dates. (To be added to actions - BB)*
- e. There was discussion about the blocked drains in areas of Lyme that are causing problems, including at Ware Lane and Mill Green. PW and PM confirmed that these had been reported to DC online (LRTC have marked them with white arrows on the tarmac). BB asked PW to report them to her in addition to reporting them online. ACTION PW – *PW to follow-up with BB (To be added to actions – PW)*
- f. After the five days last year, RLA are organising more Himalayan Balsam pulling days in summer 2025. JE again offered SWW staff help. VE gave JE the dates - ACTION VE/JE – *SWW and EA were asked by VE to attend, SS from SWW said no, but JF from EA said they will ask the team. VE to follow-up with JF (To be added to actions – PW)*

- g. Funding has been secured to have studies done on the potential five fish passes required for the river. RLA will liaise with EA. - ACTION RLA - **Ongoing**
- h. VE reported that RLA had run two engagement events, funded and supported by FIPL. Over 100 people had attended the public one and 28 farmers and landowners had attended one tailored to them. FWAG presented at both events too. AB requested feedback notes of the events - ACTION VE – **Noted for Information**
- i. JF had circulated the draft EA action plan for Church Beach. VE asked when it would be issued in its final form and also that if JF wanted joint publicity then this needed to be planned - ACTION CA – EA stated that the action plan will be shared with RLAG to make the data more transparent. – **(To be added to actions – EA)**
- j. VE expressed concern at the recently released Event Duration Monitor data both in terms of its accuracy and extent. She has written to Sarah Sharpe on both counts. JE offered to chase up a response - ACTION JE – **Ongoing (To be added to actions – JE)**
- k. VE raised the subject of when does a spill that has been going on for more than 24 hours become a dry spill. AB was anxious that this shouldn't be discussed in this forum as it was a legal area. CA agreed to look up the definition of a dry spill from an EA perspective - ACTION CA - **A dry day spill is when a storm overflow is used on a 'dry day' – which is defined as no rainfall above 0.25mm on that day and the preceding 24 hours. Storm overflows should not spill on dry days, but there are exceptions. For example, some overflows will be in very large catchments where water falling in a location far upstream of an overflow will take a significant amount of time to drain down or reach it.**
- l. BB will see if the Lyme Regis Harbour Master wishes to attend future meetings - ACTION BB - **Belinda asked harbour master to the meeting/to send someone else. He just asked for details/to be on circulation list going forward. (To be added to actions – LRTC to add to circulation list.)**
- m. SC again asked about issues at Colway Lane. JE agreed to investigate - ACTION JE - **Colway overflowing into the road. Liz said that housing estate was meant to put attenuation tank on estate – she doesn't think they have. Stuart said it was eroding the gravel. Belinda has a meeting with head of planning (To be added to actions – BB.)**
- n. The EA will be doing Microbial Source Testing and promised to advise RLAG when and where this would be happening - ACTION CA- **Env agency said they would look at that, complicated to run the process, would do as soon as they can – just the one location and not Spring Head Road, it will happen it just takes time. (To be added to actions – EA.)**
- o. **SWW**

**SS from SWW stated she will send out an email to update on all points. Email received 03/07/25, requesting availability for a meeting with members of this group for SWW to advise on their future programme of works in Lyme Regis. This meeting will be held online or in person if preferred, with all relevant stakeholders. They are looking at a potential date towards the end of July. SS has requested come back to me in due course with some dates which might be suitable. (To be added to actions – All members of group.)**

- In Uplyme there's still a private misconnection opposite the Village Hall directly into a tributary. They had asked the owner to address before the last meeting, so RT requested an expected timescale for this to be rectified - ACTION JE - **No date or timescale to get this resolved - Ongoing**

- Woodmead Road – still investigating (could be misconnection or run-off). Ecoli reading was 10,000 in April 2024. Nothing reported since. - ACTION JE – **SWW still investigating – no further misconnections but will continue to monitor- Ongoing**
- Outflow from pipe below path by weir in Jericho. There's a SWW surface line misconnected - ACTION JE – **Still waiting for the report - Ongoing**
- 1410 - JE said that the pipe was to be relined tomorrow but that there was still a property with private sewer issues that SWW were endeavouring to address - ACTION JE - **Ongoing**
- TK has discovered multiple outflows of E.coli through the wall adjacent to the disused outflows adjacent to (upstream of) Gosling Bridge SWO 1312. Since then, SWW had discovered two holding chambers. Investigative work on-going - ACTION JE – **SWW continuing to investigate to see if it was holding tanks or missed connection. - Ongoing**
- Mill/Brewery – leaking from wall. Still investigating and struggling. It is still leaking from the wall but is sporadic. It's not coming from the Mill or the Gallery. The cellar turned out to be a red herring as there is no cellar. There are no mapped sewers in that vicinity. So, planning to liaise with the EA and get a fresh team out there. - ACTION JE/CA - **Ongoing**

p. **DORSET COUNCIL**

- SN was briefed about the background to regarding the lack of remedial action to date to address the drainage situation by the Royal Standard. He will follow up. - ACTION SN - **BB said that the project was now in process, but she didn't know the timescale or what the process was. (To be added to actions – BB)**

q. **Updates**

- Results of bathing water monitoring and plans for MST – EA  
 - **Church cliff is looking very good.**  
 - **Showed presentation – of River Lim at beach showing gradual stepping down on graph.**
- Pollution signage on beaches – BB (Dorset Council) Signs –  
 - **BB Arranged for RT to put signs up. RT put the wrong signs up.- ACTION– BB to remove incorrect sign for the bathing water quality notice board**
- Update on pollution hotspots – EA & SWW  
 – **VE requested SOM data more frequently from SWW (Monthly) – ACTION SWW**
- Seafront drains – EA  
 - **Dorset Council to feedback update on status (In front of kiosks between Royal Standard and Kiosk – ACTION EA and DC**
- Permeability survey and other plans to cut CSO discharges – SWW  
 - **SWW to update on new plans for broken pipe detection in CSO's and funding to fix the pipes once found – ACTION SWW**
- Dairy farms action update – EA –  
 - **VE asked how work with the farmers was going - JF said ongoing in a positive way.**

- g. Himalayan Balsam – EA & SWW  
- SWW and EA were asked by VE to attend, SS from SWW said no, but JF from EA said they will ask the team. VE to follow-up with JF – **ACTION VE and EA**
- h. Any other updates from organisations present.  
- N/A

DRAFT

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 16 July 2025

**Title:** Action Plan for Achieving Net Carbon Zero Emissions by 2030

**Purpose of Report**

To allow members to consider the action plan for achieving net carbon zero emissions by 2030

**Recommendation**

Members consider the report and suggest amendments to the plan

**Report**

1. On 8 May 2025, the working group met and considered the action plan for achieving net carbon zero emissions by 2030. The action plan is attached, **appendix 14A**.
2. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 6 August 2025.

Sam O'Connell  
Operations manager  
July 2025



**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 16 July 2025

**Title:** EcoVend Reverse Vending Recycling Machines

### **Purpose of Report**

To provide members with an overview of reverse vending recycling technology and to seek approval to explore the feasibility of the installation of for EcoVend machines in key locations in Lyme Regis

### **Recommendation**

Members note the report and instruct officers to undertake a feasibility review, including potential locations, indicative costs, and funding opportunities of the installation of EcoVend machines in key locations in Lyme Regis, with a view to putting this project forward as a potential objective for 2026-27

### **Report**

1. Officers have been exploring options to improve recycling facilities in public areas and reduce the volume of plastic and aluminium waste. One such option is the installation of EcoVend reverse vending machines, which are designed to accept used plastic bottles and cans and reward users with an incentive, such as a voucher, discount or charitable donation.
2. EcoVend is a UK-based provider of reverse vending machines, currently supplying to local authorities, retailers and transport hubs across the country. Machines are available in freestanding or wall-mounted models and operate via mains electricity.

### **Key Features**

3. The key features are as follows:
  - Accepts PET plastic bottles and aluminium cans
  - Barcode scanning to verify eligible items
  - Touch screen interface for user interaction
  - Internal compaction to reduce emptying frequency
  - Remote monitoring for operational efficiency
  - Optional digital display screens for advertising or public messaging purposes.

### **Reward Mechanisms**

4. The following reward mechanisms are available:
  - Users receive an incentive for each item deposited
  - Vouchers can be tailored to support local businesses, offering discounts or promotions and encouraging local economic activity
  - Alternatively, users may choose to donate their reward to selected charities

## Benefits for the council

5. There are potential benefits for the council:

- Promotes recycling and responsible disposal habits
- Reduces litter and contamination in general waste bins
- Enhances the council's environmental profile and public engagement
- Offers an opportunity for collaboration with local businesses and community groups
- Allows the council to deliver sustainability messaging through on-screen displays

## Cost Options

6. EcoVend has provided indicative pricing for a range of machine models suitable for town centre or seafront use. The following table outlines purchase and lease options:

Models	Material Types Accepted	Outright Purchase	5 Year Lease (Monthly)	3 Year Lease (Monthly)
RVM 100	PET Bottles and Cans	£9,903.60	£214.58	£323.52
RVM 100	PET Bottles and Cans	£11,278.40	£244.37	£368.43
RVM 100	PET Bottles and Cans	£12,927.60	£280.10	£422.30
RVM 100	PET Bottles and Cans	£14,403.20	£312.07	£470.50

'X' models - High Performance Specification incl 360 Degree camera and uprated compactor. Processes up to 40 units per minute

## Next Steps and Considerations

7. Members need to consider the following:

- Installation: Requires flat, accessible surfaces with power supply
- Servicing and collection: Can be included within lease or partnership agreements
- Funding: Options to explore environmental grant funding or business sponsorship
- Trial Locations: Suggested areas include the seafront, Marine Parade Shelters, and key town entry points

8. There is no budget for this project so members are asked to consider putting it forward as a potential objective for 2026-27.

9. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 6 August 2025.

Sam O'Connell  
Operations manager  
July 2025

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 16 July 2025

**Title:** Planning and Costings for the Biodiversity Plan

**Purpose of Report**

To provide members with an overview of the costings and planning phases for a biodiversity study, involving 11 council sites

**Recommendation**

Members note the report and put forward a biodiversity study of council-owned sites as a potential objective for 2026-27

**Report**

1. Following initial discussions on the development of a biodiversity strategy, officers sought professional advice and a costed proposal to conduct a biodiversity baseline mapping study for 11 council-owned sites across Lyme Regis.
2. Darwin Ecology Ltd. has provided a detailed quote to carry out Phase 1 of the study, which includes site assessments, data gathering, mapping and reporting of potential habitat creation or enhancement opportunities.
3. The full breakdown of the proposal is as follows:

**Site Visit – £2,000**

Two ecologists will carry out site visits across two days to assess existing habitats and species on 11 identified council sites.

**Reporting Costs – £960**

Production of habitat maps and tables identifying biodiversity creation and enhancement opportunities for each of the 11 sites.

**Biological Records – £627**

Data will be sourced from Dorset and Devon Environmental Records Centres to establish local species' presence (supplied at cost).

**Data Review Time – £220**

Consultant time to analyse biological records and incorporate findings into biodiversity recommendations.

**Subtotal – £3,807**

**VAT (20%) – £761.40**

**Total – £4,568.40**

4. Additional project management time may be incurred at a rate of £50 per hour (plus VAT), if any changes are made to the scope of work once underway.
5. This baseline study will support future planning of biodiversity improvements on council land, inform environmental policy, and provide clear, site-specific recommendations for habitat enhancement. The study is an important first step in ensuring a structured and evidence-based approach to local biodiversity gain.
6. There is no allocation in the 2025-26 budget for this work so members are asked to consider putting this forward as a potential objective for 2026-27.
7. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 6 August 2025.

Sam O'Connell  
Operations manager  
July 2025

**Committee:** Environment Committee

**Date:** 16 July 2025

**Title:** River Lim Action Group Report

**Purpose of the Report**

To allow members to receive a report from the River Lim Action Group

**Recommendation**

Members note the report from the River Lim Action Group

**Report**

1. The River Lim Action Group has provided a report on their latest activities. The report is attached, **appendix 17A**.
2. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 6 August 2025.

Sam O'Connell  
Operations manager  
July 2025

Paper for LRTC Environment Committee

July 16<sup>th</sup> 2025

### River Lim Action update

This is an update paper from the River Lim Action group about pollution in the river and sea, and steps being taken to improve the ecology of the river catchment.

#### **Pollution incidents**

Front Beach had a high bacterial level reading according to the Environment Agency (EA) monitoring on May 15<sup>th</sup>. This did not follow heavy rain. The cause is unclear. The EA has assured us that a one off incident like this would not affect Front Beach's "good" water quality classification as the last four year's results are taken into account (and this was an exception).

However on June 28<sup>th</sup>, a particularly hot and busy Saturday, notice was received of a "pollution incident" at Front Beach and Church Cliff Beach. The incident lasted three hours in the afternoon. The RLA has written to the EA to establish the cause. No water monitoring was due by the EA so we do not know the impact on water quality.

The EA repeated at the last bathing water quality meeting that the biggest threat to water quality on Front Beach is contamination of the rainwater groyne. The RLA are working with the ward member for Dorset Council, Belinda Bawden, to secure a meeting with their staff member who is working on solutions for the beachfront drainage issues.

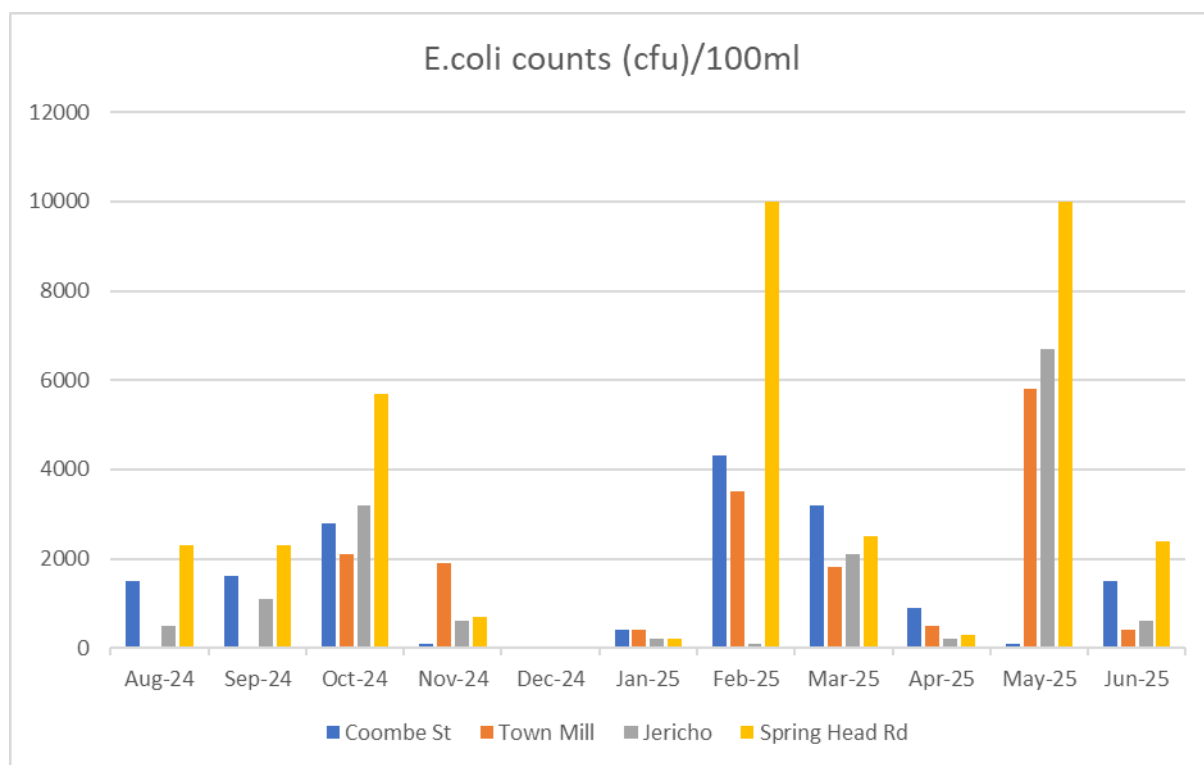
#### **Water monitoring**

The results of the EA weekly monitoring at Church Cliff beach so far this bathing season are good. South West Water took various steps before the bathing season started to help reduce the risk of poor water quality. However there has been very low rainfall at the time of writing so the system hasn't been fully tested.

Microbial Source Tracking, which identifies the DNA source of the polluting bacteria, is being carried out by the EA at the river mouth. The RLA welcomes the efforts to share these results earlier this year.

The RLA's own monitoring is still showing high levels of bacterial contamination in the river, particularly at Springhead Road. The testing that takes place at Springhead Road is upstream of any CSOs and therefore it is very important to find the cause of the high readings. SWW have visited Springhead many times so must be aware that there are problems there. A housing development is awaiting approval in Springhead Road and if this goes ahead it will only put more pressure on a defective sewer system.

These results are being shared with SWW and the EA and the EA is due to carry out a walk down the river in August to investigate the hotspots. The RLA has welcomed the new addition to the SWW team of an on the ground person (to replace the previous role holder) who will carry out the forensic analysis of problems, and instigate work to address them.



### **Invertebrate monitoring**

Additional Riverfly monitors have now been trained up and have joined the team – monthly kick samples are being carried out at 8 sites and two more monitoring sites will be added.

### **SWW investment programme for Lyme Regis**

The RLA is looking forward to a stakeholder session which SWW is organising to share next steps in its investment programme for the town. This follows on from the Permeability Survey, which led to brightly coloured road graffiti all over town, and which, the RLA hopes, will lead to better separation of sewage and rainwater, a huge drop in Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) discharges and more storage at the Uplyme Sewage Treatment Works.

### **CSO discharge data**

At the April meeting the RLA reported its concerns about accuracy of the CSO discharge data produced annually and audited by the EA. It asked LRTC to write to the EA about this. The RLA's own investigations have shown that an apparent decrease was non-existent as the Mill Lane CSO didn't discharge at all in 2023, having been reported to have discharged for 653 hours. There was instead an overall increase in discharges from 634 hours to 834 hours – nearly all the additional discharges were from Uplyme STW and Horn Bridge pumping station. This confirms the need for urgent action on increased storage and better separation.

### **RLA programme of ecological improvements**

1. Working with farmers and landowners to reduce pollution. Following the meeting with 30 farmers and landowners in March, a funding bid has been made to the East Devon National Landscape to support further work by the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group. They will work with individual farms over the summer to help them improve farming practices and provide opportunities they might not be aware of.

2. Himalayan Balsam removal. Up to four volunteer sessions a month are being held to remove this invasive species, focusing this year higher up the river catchment. Following last year's efforts there is already less Balsam to remove but it is still prevalent in some areas which are being targeted by the volunteer sessions. It has also spread further downstream and can be found on many stretches below Windsor Terrace. **Are the Council happy for us to start its removal there?**

Dates for volunteer sessions can be found here:

<https://www.turnlymegreen.co.uk/news/himalayan-balsam-pulling-river-lim-p2s8a>

3. Japanese Knotweed. The RLA and specific landowners are working with contractors to treat the worst patches of Knotweed. There is already less appearing in the catchment after last year's treatment, but it does appear to be popping up in more locations this summer. After the heavy winter rain there has been a noticeable spread downstream. Where treatment was started last year reductions are happening. More new areas have been brought in this year and second treatments are also happening. RLA are continuing to highlight plants to LRTC who are then taking action. **Could LRTC provide some training to staff to look out for it and deal with it themselves?**
4. Fish passes. The RLA has walked the barriers to fish passage with the EA with a view to carrying out feasibility studies to improve it. The weir at Gosling Bridge is critical to address first. We understand there are ongoing issues associated with this site. A full report will be brought to the next meeting.
5. Bird and bat boxes. Sourcing and locating bird and bat boxes will be carried out to implement over the winter. An individual has been found who will be doing monthly bird surveys of the catchment and produce an annual report. Concern has been raised about the lack of Dippers and Kingfishers which are considered keystone species. Turn Lyme Green has also offered funding for bee boxes after a successful project in Bridport.

Graham Roberts will be at the meeting to provide more information about these items if needed.

## Publicity

The Paddle Out, organised by Surfers Against Sewage and supported by River Lim Action, in Lyme on May 16<sup>th</sup> was well supported. It received good media coverage as part of a national campaign with 40 locations participating. This annual event helps shine a light on the continuing problems of sewage pollution around our coastline and the lack of investment to fix it.

## Funding and other Town Council support

The RLA is grateful to the Town Council for funding the water monitoring and programme of ecological improvements. The TC also carries out a valuable role in organising the quarterly meetings with the EA, DC, RLA and SWW. **It is suggested that earlier confirmation of the date and reminders of the agenda and date nearer the time might result in better attendance.**

Vicki Elcoate July 2025, on behalf of the RLA coordinators



**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 16 July 2025

**Title:** Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy

### **Purpose of Report**

To inform members about opportunities to obtain information and comment on Dorset Council's draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy and to submit an online survey response to Dorset Council ahead of the consultation closing date of 30 July 2025

### **Recommendation**

Members consider Dorset Council's draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy, offer their views and delegate the final online survey response to the town clerk in consultation with three members identified by this committee

### **Report**

1. Dorset Council's draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy is attached, **appendix 18A**, along with a copy of the online survey, **appendix 18B**.
2. The draft local nature recovery strategy provides a 10-year framework to help everyone work together towards a shared vision for nature recovery in Dorset.
3. The draft strategy is committed to the national and international '30by30' target to protect and manage 30% of land and rivers for nature by 2030.
4. The draft strategy has been co-produced with local organisations and people, it identifies key pressures and opportunities for nature recovery and sets 12 nature recovery priorities along with the activities required to support them.
5. The consultation process is supported by drop-in sessions; there is a drop-in session at Dorchester Library, 10am to 4pm ON Tuesday 15 July.
6. There is also a Facebook LIVE session on Thursday 17 July at 6pm. Questions can be submitted in advance by emailing [LNRS@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:LNRS@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) with the subject 'Facebook live question'.
7. The consultation opened on 7 May and closes on 30 July 2025.
8. Members are asked to offer their views on Dorset Council's draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy and delegate the final online survey response to the town clerk in consultation with three members identified by this committee.
9. Any recommendations from this committee will be reported to the Full Council on 6 August 2025.

John Wright  
Town clerk  
July 2025

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 16 July 2025

**Title:** Food Security

**Purpose of Report**

To introduce a discussion paper submitted by Janet Breeze, a member of the Environment Committee's Net Zero Working Group, for members to note and review

**Recommendation**

Members note the report and review the accompanying discussion paper

**Report**

- 1 At a meeting of this committee's Net Zero Working Group held on 8 May 2025, it was agreed that further research would be undertaken by co-opted member Janet Breeze, to explore ways in which Lyme Regis Town Council could support the following objective:

*To work with partners to promote local food security, shortening supply chains and encouraging local food growing and production.*

2. Janet Breeze has prepared a discussion paper, **appendix 19A**, which summarises recent research into food security and provides examples of relevant initiatives currently underway within Dorset.
3. The paper includes several suggestions that could be considered in Lyme Regis, with the aim of encouraging sustainable local food production and increasing community resilience.
4. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 6 August 2025.

Sam O'Connell  
Operations manager  
July 2025

## Environment Committee Food Security - Discussion Paper

At the Environment Group Net Zero working group meeting in May, I agreed to research possible ways in which LRTC could meet its objective *“to work with partners to promote local food security, shortening supply chains and encouraging local food growing and production”*.

Below I give a couple of links to recent research on food security and some examples of Dorset initiatives that are underway. I also suggest some possible initiatives in Lyme Regis for consideration by LRTC.

### General Information

The links below provide some general information on challenges and possible approaches to building food security at national and local levels.

*Local Food Plan: a collaborative plan for action*

([www.localfoodplan.org](http://www.localfoodplan.org) /

[www.sustainweb.org/assets/local-food-growth-plan-1748336069.pdf](http://www.sustainweb.org/assets/local-food-growth-plan-1748336069.pdf)

*Bridport Food Security Plan: How can the Bridport Local Area increase food security, now and in the future?* commissioned by Bridport Town Council.

[www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Bridport-Food-Security-Plan-FINAL-150123.pdf](http://www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Bridport-Food-Security-Plan-FINAL-150123.pdf)

### Dorset – example activities

- On 14 June a Food Festival in Bridport brought together local food producers and hosted talks / panel discussions and displays to promote local food production / sourcing. The event was organised by *Bridport Food Matters*, an umbrella organisation for food security in Bridport and part of a national network working to make healthy, sustainable food central to community life. It carries out a range of activities e.g. distribution of the *Love our Food, Hate our Waste* leaflet, which gives top tips to save food from our bin; a Garden Glut and Grow Your Own Facebook Group; an Ambassador Allotment scheme where experienced home growers share their tips. They plan to establish a Bridport Local Food Hub (*Nourish*), a multi-functional space in the town centre where they share food / educate / provide an outlet to local producers and a café; publicise what produce is available locally, including new products; provide land and support for new producers. ([www.landworkersalliance.org.uk/supporting-new-entrants](http://www.landworkersalliance.org.uk/supporting-new-entrants)) ([www.bridportfoodmatters.net](http://www.bridportfoodmatters.net)). Contact: [bridportfoodmatters@gmail.com](mailto:bridportfoodmatters@gmail.com)
- The Friendly Food Club publishes recipes and hosts free educational events to promote cooking at home. ([www.thefriendlyfoodclub.org](http://www.thefriendlyfoodclub.org))
- Help and Kindness provides emergency and affordable food and cost of living support ([www.helpandkindness.co.uk](http://www.helpandkindness.co.uk)). Contact [hello@helpandkindness.co.uk](mailto:hello@helpandkindness.co.uk)
- Edible Bridport (formerly We Dig No-Dig) supports individuals and groups to grow food in accessible places around town with food free for anyone to harvest (inspired by [www.incredibleedible.org.uk](http://www.incredibleedible.org.uk)). Contact: [ediblebridport@gmail.com](mailto:ediblebridport@gmail.com)
- On 18 June volunteers held a session at the community allotment to ask for feedback regarding how to provide gardening and nature workshops for parents and small children. The Brit Valley Project, which supports sustainable farming and enhance community wellbeing across West Dorset is also conducting a survey to garner local views. ([www.britvalley.org/survey](http://www.britvalley.org/survey))

- The Peasant Evolution Producers' Cooperative – a collective of small-scale producers in West Dorset, South Somerset and East Devon who have joined together to help each other make a viable living off the land ([www.peasantevolution.co.uk](http://www.peasantevolution.co.uk))
- The Cowshed, near Bridport Medical Centre, hosts Wellbeing Gardening sessions on Fridays from 1000-1200 when people can join seated and sheltered or raised bed and mini plot growing, or just have tea and a chat. Contact: 07769720773.

Funding for these initiatives has come from, amongst others, Dorset Council, the National Lottery Fund, Bridport Town Council, Wessex Water and individuals. Most are also supported by a vibrant group of volunteers.

Food-related initiatives in Lyme Regis have also had community involvement and LRTC funding e.g. vegetable growing in Langmoor Gardens, the Turn Lyme Green's SeedSaturday seed swap and talks on sustainable food production, and the Seaside Store (aiming to provide support to low income families and reduce waste). It is unknown what appetite there is in Lyme Regis to support a wider range of activities aimed at:

- Increasing local food and vegetable consumption
- Enhancing affordability / accessibility to healthy food options
- Supporting local food production and supply chains
- Climate resilience

Examples of possible LRTC / partner supported initiatives could be:

- A weekly, easily accessible (with nearby parking) food market with local produce, serving primarily residents, not the tourist market. Country Market ([www.country-markets.co.uk](http://www.country-markets.co.uk)) provides guidance on opening a new country market. ([www.country-markets.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Opening-a-New-Country-Market-1.pdf](http://www.country-markets.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Opening-a-New-Country-Market-1.pdf))
- Promoting / publicising local producers and spending in local food outlets e.g. local produce box delivery schemes such as Trill Farm Garden and In My Backyard; a campaign *Totally Locally Lyme* providing lists of local producers / organising visits to local farms.
- Setting up a reward and recognition scheme for food outlets sourcing locally and an extension of the Gateway Card scheme to include local producers.
- Supporting a community food hub – perhaps at LRDT, a further development of the Community Café / Seaside Store, along the lines of Bridport's Nourish (educational food outlet / community kitchen). The food hub could also be made available once a week for consumers to pick up produce delivered from a variety of local vegetable and meat suppliers and possibly a supplier of unpackaged dry foods.
- Mentorship programme to marry up experienced vegetable growers from e.g. Uplyme Horticultural Society / allotment holders with aspiring growers / educational visits to model horticultural plots.
- Extending public procurement schemes to prioritise local producers e.g. for LRTC events, and implementing policies that require town schools to prioritise local food procurement, with targets set for the percentage of locally sourced food.
- Public information campaigns through LRTC's social media / Lyme Life magazine e.g. how to reduce food waste / recipes for seasonal produce including local fish / how to grow, freeze, ferment food.
- Working with nearby colleges and organisations to develop training programmes for adult cookery, children's food classes, family nutrition sessions, and bread making collaborating with The Town Mill and The Real Bread Campaign.
- Engaging with local producers in order to plan for Emergency Food Response in the case of another e.g. COVID crisis.

- Introducing targeted subsidies for nutrient-rich foods to enhance their affordability for consumers and providing financial incentives and support to local and sustainable agricultural practices.

Other initiatives that have previously been considered by Turn Lyme Green and local food outlets e.g. collection and composting of waste would be difficult to set up due to stringent government regulations. They are also perhaps unlikely to succeed unless set up as a commercial enterprise.

A key to Bridport Food Matters' success has been its focus on partnership / networking / information and resource sharing. LRTC can also play a key role in this field, perhaps by establishing a Food Strategy Steering Committee with invited representatives of local organisations / producers / businesses who could advise on needs, draw up a strategy for further sustainable food production and help with the implementation of any plans.

In compiling this paper, my thanks go to Suzy Gallina, Turn Lyme Green Steering Group member, for her valuable suggestions.

Janet Breeze

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 16 July 2025

**Title:** Solar Roofs Update

**Purpose of Report**

To allow members to receive an update on the solar roofs event and to share information about the forthcoming Greener Open Homes event in September 2025

**Recommendation**

Members note the report and appendix provided

**Report**

1. Lyme Regis Town Council supported a community event on 20 March 2025 to promote domestic solar installations, organised in partnership with Dorset Climate Action Network and Turn Lyme Green. Local installers and energy experts attended, and feedback from those who took part was very positive.
2. Vicki Elcoate has provided an update on the event, **appendix 20A**, and has shared information about the upcoming Greener Open Homes event planned for September 2025, which will offer residents the chance to visit homes with renewable technologies and speak to homeowners.
3. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 6 August 2025.

Sam O'Connell  
Operations manager  
July 2025

Paper for LRTC Environment Committee

Feedback from Solar Roofs event on March 20<sup>th</sup> 2025 and Greener Open Homes event in September

Vicki Elcoate

LRTC has been supporting an initiative to encourage more residents to get solar panels on their roofs. This aims to cut carbon emissions, lower residents’ energy bills and provide leadership on taking climate action. An event to promote domestic solar installations was held on March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Pine Hall in the Baptist Church. This was a partnership between Dorset Climate Action Network, Turn Lyme Green and the Town Council.

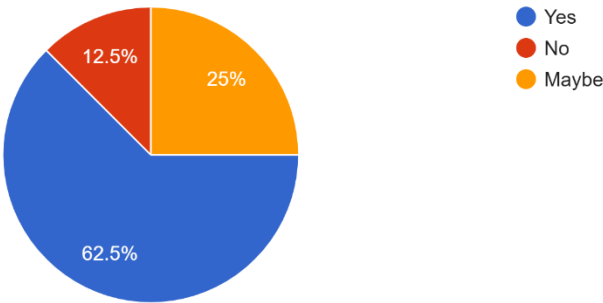
Cllr Matthew Denney contacted installers and three came along – Evergreen from Lyme Regis, Flex Eco from Axmouth and Total Renewable Solutions from Axminster. In addition Richard Fuell, acting as an independent consultant, explained more about solar energy and how it works. Peter Bywater of Ridgewater Energy provided information on funding opportunities and other help available. Vicki Elcoate provided the facilitation for the evening and Cllr Philip May helped with the planning and logistics.

The Town Council helped with promoting the event with staff making a poster and including it in the first edition of Lyme Living. It was also publicised via a leaflet which volunteers delivered to nearly 2000 homes. Not all homes would be suitable for solar installation so the delivery was selective.

About 30 people attended with others getting in touch who had been unable to attend.

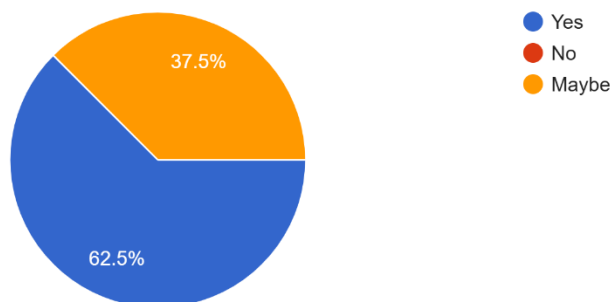
Feedback about the event was requested and about a third of attendees replied. They all found the event very useful.

As a result of attending the solar event are you considering making some changes to your home?  
8 responses



Have you or will you be making contact with any of the installers present at the event?

8 responses



#### Comments:

"I have been thinking about these matters for a very long time, but my home is grade II listed and substandard regarding energy efficiency and comfort. It is possible to make some sensitive improvements to our home and I understand Historic England has recently given some helpful advice in this area so, hopefully, we shall be able to incorporate some solar PV and ASHP technology in the next 2 years. Thank you for organising the event".

"We had surveys done by two companies, but their quotations and payback calculations made it clear to us that we are too far on in life to justify the investment required. The two companies (Total and Evergreen) were very helpful, but the cost/payback balance was not attractive to us".

"Thank you for putting on this really informative evening. We had already contacted one of the suppliers prior to the event but the information provided during the evening answered all our questions so we then went ahead and placed an order for solar panels and batteries."

"I really appreciated the personal touch of all the installers present and recommendations from local people".

"Very well organised and informative evening, I learned a lot, without feeling any sales pressure"

#### Conclusion and request

The event was a lot of work to organise and promote and the take up was relatively small. However evidence suggests that change spreads in neighbourhoods via practical examples and word of mouth – so the event should act as a catalyst for further action. Another opportunity will be the Greener Open Homes event which is being held locally in September. Dorset Climate Action Network aims to have a few homes offering a chance to view renewables in place and for visitors to talk to homeowners about their experiences. **It would be helpful if the Town Council would help promote this event.**



**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 16 July 2025

**Title:** SAS Paddle Out Protest

**Purpose of Report**

To allow members to consider an update on the Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) paddle out protest, submitted by Grenville Barr, a representative of Turn Lyme Green

**Recommendation**

Members note the report and the appendix provided

**Report**

1. On Saturday 17 May 2025, the second annual nationwide paddle out protest against sewage pollution took place. The event was organised by Surfers Against Sewage, with support from Turn Lyme Green, and included a local demonstration in Lyme Regis.
2. Grenville Barr, on behalf of Turn Lyme Green, has submitted an update, **appendix 21A**, outlining the purpose of the protest, the scale of local participation, and the event's connection to the wider national campaign for cleaner rivers and seas.
3. The paddle out aims to raise awareness of sewage discharge issues and to call for stronger environmental protections and accountability within the national and water industry.
4. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 6 August 2025.

Sam O'Connell  
Operations manager  
July 2025