



John Wright
Town Clerk

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Environment Committee

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

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 8 October 2025 commencing at 7pm when the following business is proposed to be transacted:

John Wright
Town clerk
03.10.25

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. 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

2. Apologies

To receive and record apologies and reasons for absence

3. Minutes

To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 16 July 2025

4. 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.

5. Dispensations

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

6. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 July 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.

7. Update Report

To inform members about progress on significant environmental developments

8. Environment Committee – Objectives

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

9. Budget Proposals 2026-2027

To allow members to consider this committee's objectives for 2026-27 ahead of the formal launch of the budget-setting process at the Strategy and Finance Committee on 15 October 2025

10. Co-option of Non-Members

To allow the committee to co-opt three non-members

11. Bathing Water Quality Meeting Minutes

To allow members to receive the minutes from the Bathing Water Quality meeting held on 9 September 2025

12. Town and Parish Climate and Nature Workshop

To inform members about the town and parish climate and nature workshop that took place on 27 August 2025, and about future activities and events organised by Dorset Council's climate and ecology sustainability team

Members may wish to consider collaborations between Solar Communities and Solar Together, individual applications to become Climate Ambassadors, an employee volunteering scheme for Climate Ambassadors, the provision of a host site for Low Carbon Dorset's touring exhibition and suggestions for webinar topics

13. Climate Response of the Year

To inform this committee of the council's application to the National Association of Local Councils for its Climate Response of the Year award 2025 and to retrospectively recommend to Full Council the approval of the application to the National Association of Local Councils for its Climate Response of the Year award 2025

14. EcoVend Reverse Vending Recycling Machines

To update members on the feasibility of installing EcoVend reverse vending machines in Lyme Regis, following the committee's instruction on 16 July 2025 to explore potential locations, indicative costs, and suitability

15. Round Britain eRIB – Commemorative Noticeboard

To inform members of a proposal to install a commemorative noticeboard or plaque in Lyme Regis recognising the electric world record achieved by the Round Britain eRIB project

16. Action Plan for Achieving Net Carbon Zero Emissions by 2030

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

17. Low Carbon Dorset Impact Survey

To inform members of the survey responses sent to Low Carbon Dorset in response to the advice it provided to the council on the building of the amenities hut and the refurbishment of the harbour store

18. Progress on Energy Performance Certificates

To inform members about the outcome of the process undertaken in 2023 to obtain EPC ratings for most of its commercial properties and any actions taken subsequently

19. River Lim Action Group 2024-25 Budget Spend

To allow members to consider the River Lim Action Group's spend against a 2024-25 budget allocation of £7,908.32 which was accrued to 2025-26

20. Exempt Business

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 JULY 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

Officers: K. Newman (administrative and community engagement assistant), S. O'Connell (operations manager), J. Wright (town clerk)

Guests: G. Roberts (River Lim Action Group), Vicki Elcoate (River Lim Action Group)

25/01/ENV Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers that Cllr S. Cockerell is chairman of the Environment Committee.

Cllr S. Cockerell was duly **ELECTED** as chairman.

It was proposed by Cllr A. Wood and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers that Cllr P. May is vice-chairman of the Environment Committee.

Cllr P. May was duly **ELECTED** as vice-chairman.

25/02/ENV Terms of Reference

Members agreed to receive the terms of reference.

25/03/ENV Public Forum

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

25/04/ENV Apologies

Sean Larcombe – family commitment

25/05/ENV Minutes

It was noted Cllr G. Stammers was recorded as being in attendance twice.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, the minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2025, with the above amendment, were **ADOPTED**.

25/06/ENV Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

25/07/ENV Dispensations

There were none.

25/08/ENV Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 April 2025

Environment Objectives

A member asked the chairman when last the council reviewed its own performance against its environmental policy.

The operations manager said he would find out and advise at the next meeting.

Lighting in the Lister and Langmoor Gardens

A member asked if there was any further progress on the lighting in the gardens.

The operations manager said this was currently in review.

25/09/ENV Update Report

Electric vehicle charging

A member asked about the feasibility for a Dorset Council (DC) rapid charger, even if it was only 50kw.

The operations manager said he would discuss the capacity issue this with the deputy town clerk but any decisions on the capacity of electric vehicle charging points would be Dorset Council's.

Use of Biodiesel/HVO in council vehicles

The operations manager said biodiesel should be in use by 25 July 2025.

Carbon Literacy Organisation Accreditation

A member asked if there was a carbon literacy renewal course that needed to be taken every few years.

The town clerk said this was optional but not compulsory. The town clerk said the last round of training was not taken up by any members. He said up-to-date training slides could be sent to members and evening training dates were being considered for members.

25/10/ENV River Lim Action Group Report

The chairman brought this item forward on the agenda.

G. Roberts from River Lim Action Group presented the report and thanked the town council for their continued support.

He said whilst there was a slight improvement in water quality there were still issues with discharge from Marine Parade. He said river water quality was improving slightly and there was a better response from South West Water.

He said the Environment Agency had notified owners along the River Lim that it was no longer responsible for maintenance and that a fee would apply going forward. G. Roberts said the RLAG would be seeking political input and legal advice and had already written to the local MP. He hoped the town council would adopt the same stance and write to the Environment Agency and challenge them on the matter.

The town clerk said legal advice needed to be sought first but his opinion was the Environment Agency was likely acting lawfully.

G Roberts said Himalayan balsam was starting to appear below Gosling Bridge and asked the council if it could remove it as the location was inaccessible and slightly dangerous.

The town clerk said the standing arrangement was for volunteers to remove the Himalayan Balsam and the council to then remove the debris.

G. Roberts asked for confirmation of the arrangement in writing.

G. Roberts gave an update on the fish passage and said there was an ongoing dispute between the Environment Agency and the Town Mill.

Cllr P. May declared a non-pecuniary interest as was a Town Mill trustee.

It was suggested a meeting could be held between the Town Mill, the Environment Agency, RLAG and the town council to progress this.

Proposed by Cllr C. Aldridge seconded by Cllr M. Denney, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the town council facilitates a meeting between the Environment Agency, Town Mill, River Lim Action Group and Lyme Regis Town Council to discuss issues with the fish passage in the river.

Cllr P. May abstained from voting.

G. Roberts said the grant from East Devon National Landscape to support further work by the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group to work with farmers and landowners to reduce pollution had been approved.

25/11/ ENV Environment Committee – Objectives

2030 Carbon Net Zero Plan

It was noted further clarity was required on the funding set aside for improvements to the river and the term grant to RLAG.

The town clerk said he would present a report to the next meeting.

Electric hedge trimmers

The operations manager said the next demonstration would take place on Friday 18 July 2025.

Follow up on EPC recommendations

The town clerk said work on EPCs had been undertaken and details on the proposed improvements would be presented to the next meeting.

Undertake biodiversity projects

The operations manager said bird boxes had been installed in the woodland walk and an owl box would be added soon.

Undertake a hydro feasibility study

The town clerk said a report from c.2007 had been found during the office move, which stated that hydroelectric power was not feasible.

25/12/ENV Co-option

It was proposed by Cllr P. May that the council adopts the following policy for co-opting members to the Environment Committee:

1. At the last Environment Committee meeting of the council year members can decide how many places they wish to advertise for non-members to sit on the committee in the following council year. If members do not make a decision, the default number of places is 6 (as stipulated in the committee's terms of reference).

2. The availability of the agreed or default number of places for non-members to sit on the committee will be publicised in suitable accessible local media at least 4-6 weeks before the first Environment Committee Meeting of the new council year [the Meeting]. Officers will decide the appropriate means of publicising the places, however, options could include the council's website and the council's magazine.

3. Non-members who wish to apply to sit on the committee must supply a CV and a declaration (see clarification below) that they meet the requirements to be appointed, at least 1 week before the Meeting. No more than two people from one organisation can apply.*

4.1 If the number of valid applicants is less than or equal to the number of agreed spaces, then they will automatically be appointed as non-voting members of the Environment Committee.

4.2 If more applications than the advertised spaces are received, then at the Meeting, a two- or more stage voting process will be entered into.

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 the number remaining is equal to the available spaces. Those remaining applicants will then be appointed as non-voting members of the Environment Committee.

5. Members of the Environment Committee will have the right to vote to remove non-members in any subsequent Committee meeting by a majority vote.

**Each candidate must 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.*

This motion was not seconded.

The town clerk said the committee needed to decide arrangements for the remainder of this year.

The town clerk said his priority was to protect the council and members and non-members of this committee, especially as previous non-members of the committee were members of community groups in receipt of funding from the council. He advised members to take his advice and that of the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils. He said it was possible the council could come under scrutiny from the auditor and/or the public if it pursued the proposal outlined earlier.

The town clerk suggested the starting point should be for the council to issue a public notice, asking for applications from those interested in becoming non-members and that applications should be considered at the next meeting of this committee.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr M. Denney, members **RESOLVED** to issue a public notice for the co-option of non-members to the Environment Committee and that applications should be considered at the next meeting of the Environment Committee.

Proposed by Cllr M. Denny and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members **RESOLVED** the co-option of three members.

As the previously co-opted members were no longer on the committee, it was clarified that they could continue to contribute as guests.

25/13/ENV Appointment of Members to the Net Carbon Zero Emissions Working Group

The operations manager suggested quarterly meetings.

The town clerk suggested a working group meeting was held before the next meeting of this committee to discuss funding ideas for the budget-setting process.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the working group to oversee the action plan to obtain net carbon zero emissions by 2030 is continued.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that V. Elcoate and J. Breeze be invited to sit on the working group together with Cllr P. May and Cllr S. Cockerell.

25/14/ENV To receive the minutes of the Bating Water Quality Meeting on 24 June 2025

The operations manager said a response had been received from South West Water to the letter sent by the council regarding concerns about Environment Agency data, and he read the response out.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr M. Denney, the minutes from the bathing water quality meeting held on 24 June 2025 were **RECEIVED**.

25/15/ENV Action Plan for Achieving Net Carbon Zero Emissions by 2030

The town clerk reiterated another working group meeting would be held before the next committee meeting.

25/16/ENV EcoVend Reverse Vending Recycling Machines

The operations manager felt this could be a beneficial initiative for the council and would likely benefit local community and businesses, although it would involve a lot of work to deliver and set up.

It was suggested there was a trial of the machine before the council committed to it.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that an EcoVend machine is considered as part of the 2026-27 budget-setting process and instruct officers to undertake a feasibility study.

25/17/ENV Planning and Costings for the Biodiversity Plan

Members agreed that a biodiversity audit should be put forward as an objective in the 2026-27 budget.

24/18/ENV Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy

It was noted Dorset Climate Action Network had done a lot of work on this and there wasn't much mention of hedgerows; it was suggested this was included in the response. It was also noted water quality was not sufficiently addressed in the strategy.

Proposed by Cllr S. Cockerell and seconded by Cllr P. May, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to delegate the response to Dorset Council's draft local nature recovery strategy to the town clerk in consultation with Cllr P. May and V. Elcoate.

25/19/ENV Food Security

It was suggested a few members of the committee looked at the paper in detail and emailed their suggestions to the chairman and vice-chairman by 1 September 2025.

25/20/ENV Solar Roofs Update

It was noted the public event had been a success, generating lots of interest from residents.

A Greener Open Homes would take place at the end of September and it was requested information about this was included in LymeLiving.

The town clerk said the deadline for the the August edition had passed and there was no September edition, but publicity could be given via the council's social media channels, website and noticeboards.

25/21/ENV SAS Paddle Out Protest

Members noted the report.

The meeting ended at 9pm.

DRAFT

Committee: Environment

Date: 8 October 2025

Title: Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 July 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.

25/08/ENV – Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 April 2025

Environment Objectives

At the previous meeting, a members asked when the council last reviewed its performance against its Environment Policy.

The council's Environment Policy was reviewed and approved in April 2025. The associated objectives are reviewed weekly by officers, with progress updates provided at every Environment Committee meeting.

As an additional suggestion, the chairman has proposed applying a RAG (Red-Amber-Green) rating to the objectives, as he felt this would help clearly show progress and highlight areas requiring attention. This approach has now been added to this committee's objectives grid.

Lighting in the Lister and Langmoor Gardens

Officers are still reviewing the most cost-effective approach to this matter. The transition from sodium to LED lighting has been completed, however, this has evidently impacted both the output and associated costs.

The deputy town clerk and operations manager are working together closely to identify the best outcome, specifically assessing whether to pursue a new metered electricity supply or to update the charge codes on the existing unmetered supply to reflect the reduced consumption of the new LED units.

A report will be provided to the next meeting in November, once the assessment is complete and a proposed best approach has been identified.

25/09/ENV – Update Report

Electric vehicle charging

Dorset Council's agent, JoJu, is continuing to assess the feasibility of installing additional rapid or fast EV charging points in this council's car parks. As previously reported, this work is at no cost and without prejudice.

The outcome will be reported as soon as received.

In the meantime, National Grid appear to have overcome the issues which were preventing them upgrading the supply to Charmouth Road car park. If so, Dorset Council will proceed to install more chargers in this location.

Use of Biodiesel/HVO in council vehicles

All diesel-powered vehicles in the fleet are now operating exclusively on biodiesel. A bulk delivery of 3,500 litres was received in July 2025 and stored in the Council's double-skinned bunded tank at the Monmouth Beach Stores. The tank is currently estimated to be approximately half full.

The only exception is the maintenance van, which operates on petrol.

Carbon Literacy Organisation Accreditation

At the last meeting, a member asked whether a carbon literacy renewal course is required every few years. The town clerk confirmed that while renewal training is available, it is not compulsory. The last round of training was not taken up by any members.

The operations manager is now scheduled to complete a certified trainer course in four sessions on the following dates:

- Tuesday 4 November
- Thursday 6 November
- Tuesday 18 November
- Thursday 27 November

Once fully signed off, this will enable the operations manager to deliver accredited carbon literacy training internally, including to all new members of staff as part of their induction. To support delivery of the training, the town clerk also intends to undertake the trainer training in the near future, once new course dates become available in 2026.

25/10/ENV – River Lim Action Group Report

At the last meeting, Graham Roberts from River Lim Action raised concerns about Himalayan balsam appearing below Gosling Bridge and asked if the council could remove it due to the area being inaccessible and slightly hazardous.

Following review, it is confirmed that Lyme Regis Town Council is not the landowner and does not hold responsibility for the Gosling Bridge area. Responsibility likely lies with the riparian owner or another authority. The council is happy to assist in confirming who the responsible authority or riparian owner is so that they may be contacted by Graham Roberts.

Any Himalayan balsam located within the area must be managed in accordance with environmental regulations. The plant material, including soil contaminated with seeds, is classified as 'controlled

waste' under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and must be transported by a registered waste carrier to a suitably permitted or exempt site.

While the standing arrangement has been for volunteers to remove Himalayan balsam and the council to dispose of the debris, this only applies to land under the council's ownership or responsibility.

Separately, discussions are ongoing with Dorset Council about a possible joint project to maintain and repair this section of the river, including The Lynch, which forms a roughly 100 metre stretch of riverbank. This council's contribution to the project is an existing objective, with £7,000 already allocated. If agreed, the project will include an assessment of vegetation growth in the area and a plan for its removal, including Buddleia and Himalayan balsam.

Separately, with regards to fish passages, the operations manager has contacted the Environment Agency to arrange a meeting with the River Lim Action Group, the Town Mill and the town council, in collaboration with River Lim Action Group members Graham Roberts and Vicky Elcoate. The meeting will focus on progressing feasibility work to improve fish passage along the River Lim, particularly at Gosling Bridge and the leat. A response from the Environment Agency is currently awaited, after which arrangements will be coordinated with all relevant parties. Updates will be provided at Environment Committee meetings as the work progresses.

25/11/ ENV – Environment Committee – Objectives

Two owl boxes have been installed; one at the cemetery next to the cemetery lodge and one in the seafront gardens near the Alexandra Hotel.

24/18/ENV – Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy

The council's response to the Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy was completed and sent to Dorset Council on 25 July 2025.

25/19/ENV – Food Security

Following the July meeting, the chairman and vice-chairman met to review the food security paper after no further member input was received by the requested deadline of 1 September 2025. They concluded that commissioning a report would not be beneficial, noting that while other councils, e.g. Bridport, had made commendable efforts, they lacked the means to deliver town-wide food security. Instead, several practical initiatives were proposed for consideration:

- Explore the creation of a food hub accessible to all residents, potentially by expanding the community café and/or seaside stores.
- Encourage public procurement policies, including the town council's, to prioritise local food suppliers.
- Consider promoting a local food market aimed at serving Lyme Regis residents.
- Raise awareness of existing local food suppliers, such as Trill Farm's veg box delivery service.
- Assess the potential to increase town council land allocated for food growing, e.g. new allotment areas.
- Collaborate with community groups like Turn Lyme Green to support further local food initiatives.

25/20/ENV – Solar Roofs Update

The solar roofs information evening, held on 20 May 2025 at the Pine Hall and supported by Turn Lyme Green, provided residents with the opportunity to speak directly with trusted solar installers.

The event highlighted the benefits of solar energy, including reduced bills, lower carbon emissions, and potential property value increases, and offered special group rates for installations across 20 to 40 homes.

The Dorset Greener Homes open weekend, held on 20 to 21 September 2025 and organised by Dorset Climate Action Network (DorsetCAN), featured a selection of homes in Lyme Regis and Charmouth showcasing practical eco-living solutions. These included solar panels, heat pumps, battery storage, rainwater harvesting, insulation, and wildlife-friendly gardens. Homeowners shared their experiences and answered questions, helping visitors explore real-world approaches to sustainable living.

Both events were publicised by Lyme Regis Town Council through its website, social media channels, and noticeboards.

Sam O'Connell
Operations manager
October 2025

Mark Green
Deputy town clerk

Committee: Environment

Date: 8 October 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.

Riparian Owners

The Environment Agency's decision to withdraw from routine river maintenance is lawful under UK legislation, specifically the Water Resources Act 1991 and the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. These laws grant the EA permissive powers, not statutory duties, to maintain rivers and flood defences. The EA is only legally required to intervene where poor maintenance poses a significant flood risk. This change has direct implications for riparian owners in Lyme Regis, particularly those along the River Lim, who now bear full responsibility for maintaining watercourses, including vegetation management and obstruction removal. Concerns have been raised locally and by the Riparian Landowners Association about the lack of coherent oversight and support, especially where responsibilities fall outside any clear organisational remit. Affected landowners are typically given six months' notice and must obtain permits for future works. Further guidance is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-and-sea-defences-when-maintenance-stops>.

Additional guidance from Unda Consulting offers a clear overview of riparian ownership rights and responsibilities, including legal duties, boundary management, and coordination with environmental authorities. It provides practical advice for landowners on maintaining watercourses and complying with regulations. Full guidance is available at: <https://www.unda.co.uk/news/riparian-ownership-rights-responsibilities-and-guidance/>.

Lyme Regis Town Council is itself a riparian owner at Lepers Well, and shares responsibility for maintaining that section of the watercourse in accordance with legal and environmental standards.

Discussions are ongoing with Dorset Council about a possible joint project to maintain/repair that section of the river, including the Lynch, which forms a roughly 100 metre section of the riverbank. This council's contribution to that project is an existing objective and an amount of £7k has been allocated.

Battery Powered Landscaping Tools

As part of the council's ongoing efforts to evaluate the suitability of battery-powered landscaping equipment, three trial demonstrations have been arranged 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.

We are currently conducting a three-month trial with Stihl, another respected supplier offering a comprehensive range of battery-powered tools specifically designed for commercial landscaping operations. This extended trial period will allow the team to gain a full understanding of the equipment's capabilities, battery life, and operational differences compared to the Milwaukee and Etesia models. Early signs are positive, with encouraging feedback from staff on performance and usability.

These 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 supports 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 was recently carried out with the Etesia Lander, a high-specification electric utility vehicle widely regarded as a top-tier option. While the Lander demonstrated strong performance and build quality, it was ultimately deemed too expensive and not fully capable of meeting the operational requirements of the team. A used model is priced at approximately £40,000, with new vehicles costing around £55,000, an investment considered disproportionate given current needs.

A lower-cost alternative, the HiSun 5K model, was also trialled but failed to meet expectations, particularly when compared to the HiSun 7.5 already in use within the fleet. Performance issues and operational limitations highlighted that the 5K model would not be a suitable addition.

In response, officers are now reviewing other used HiSun models that may offer better value and performance. Additionally, exploring options with Polaris, another reputable manufacturer of utility vehicles.

Given the recent switch to biodiesel, the council is also considering diesel-powered models, which can now operate more sustainably, and might offer a more practical and cost-effective solution. This approach could better align with operational demands while still supporting the council's commitment to reducing environmental impact.

The review remains ongoing, with a focus on identifying vehicles that strike the right balance between cost, capability, and eco-friendliness. The outcome will inform future fleet upgrade decisions and support the council's broader sustainability goals.

Committee: Environment

Date: 8 October 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 8A**. Updates are highlighted in yellow.
5. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 29 October 2025.

John Wright
Town clerk
October 2025

APPENDIX 8A

Objective (RAG Rated) Red: Not Started/Behind Schedule Amber: Started/Action Needed Green: Complete/On schedule	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> <p>The working group met on 4 September 2025 to review the plan, which is presented 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> <p>Report elsewhere on the agenda on spend.</p>
Migrate to electric hedge	1.4	SO	Environment	April '25	Demonstrations of equipment have been arranged for

trimmers					<p>the external works' team.</p> <p>The external works' team had three demonstrations, and Stihl has been chosen as the preferred supplier. Equipment will be loaned for three months before purchase from 16 September 2025.</p>
Undertake tree planting schemes	5	SO	Environment	TBC	<p>Officers are investigating suitable areas for tree planting along the boundary of the footgolf, due to the removal of diseased trees.</p> <p>The operations supervisor has been working with the Woodroffe School to plant trees on the school site. The boundary of the footgolf is still under consideration.</p>
Follow up on EPC recommendations	5	MG	Environment	TBC	<p>Assessments have been undertaken of all recently refurbished or reprovisioned buildings, and all are achieve better than the government's recommended target.</p> <p>Discussions are taking place with the council's tenants about changes they can make to improve their EPC ratings.</p>
Undertake a hydro feasibility study	3	MG	Environment	TBC	<p>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.</p> <p>Report elsewhere on this agenda.</p>
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</p>

					<p>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> <p>This committee agreed on 16 July 2025 to put forward a comprehensive biodiversity audit as a potential objective for 2026-27.</p>
Undertake further investigation into rainwater harvesting	2	SO	Environment	TBC	<p>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 July 2025.</p> <p>There are no plans to install further water butts.</p>
Install garden signs	7	SO	Environment	<p>June '25</p> <p>September '25</p> <p>April 2026</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Prices and designs have been obtained for the signs; this is now reflecting in the increase from £5000 to £7000 set for this objective. A QR code supplier has been identified. The garden's working group has suggested the completion date be pushed back to April 2026.</p>

Committee: Environment

Date: 8 October 2025

Title: Budget Proposals 2026-2027

Purpose of Report

To allow members to consider this committee's objectives for 2026-27 ahead of the formal launch of the budget-setting process at the Strategy and Finance Committee on 15 October 2025

Recommendation

Members identify this committee's objectives for 2026-27

Background

1. On 13 October 2025, the finance manager and town clerk will provide members with a briefing on the 2025-26 budget and five-year financial plan. The formal process starts on 15 October 2025 with the presentation of budget-related reports to the Strategy and Finance Committee.
2. The budget is through two committee cycles and concludes at the Full Council on 17 December 2025.
3. This item is on all committee agendas in the run-up the Strategy and Finance Committee on 15 October 2025.

Report

4. Objectives already considered by this committee that are included in the latest draft of the 2026-27 budget proposals, which will be considered by the Strategy and Finance Committee on 15 October are:

	£
Migration to electric/biodiesel vehicles	15,000
Migration to electric tools	15,000
A comprehensive biodiversity assessment	15,000
A metered supply to lamp columns in the gardens	10,000
Ecovend reverse recycling machine	15,000

5. £5,000 was approved in the 2025-26 budget for tree planting. This is unlikely to occur in this financial year, and officers suggest this is accrued to the 2026-27 budget.
6. Officers also suggest this committee considers proposing additional staffing resources to fulfil its requirements. Current and future requirements to provide monitoring and measurement systems, e.g., environmental impact assessments, action plans, carbon emissions, waste streams, the management of objectives and actions plans, and officer involvement in external projects are putting pressure on the existing staffing structure and directing resources away from operational management.

7. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Strategy and Finance Committee on 15 October 2025 and the Full Council on 29 October 2025.

Sam O'Connell
Operations manager
October 2025

Committee: Environment

Date: 8 October 2025

Title: Co-option of Non-Members

Purpose of Report

To allow the committee to co-opt three non-members

Recommendation

Members co-opt Grenville Barr, Janet Breeze, and Vicki Elcoate

Background

1. Paragraph 4.2 of the council's terms of reference allows this committee to co-opt non-members:

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

2. Paragraph 4.3 of the council's terms of reference details the rules that apply to the adoption 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.’

3. 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.

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

5. On 16 July 2025, this committee resolved:

‘to issue a public notice for the co-option of non-members to the Environment Committee and that applications should be considered at the next meeting of the Environment Committee.’

and ‘the co-option of three members.’

Report

6. A public notice was subsequently issued seeking applications to fill three non-member positions on this committee, and applications were received from Grenville Barr, **appendix 10A**, Janet Breeze, **appendix 10B** and Vicki Elcoate, **appendix 10C**.

7. Each application has confirmed they are not disqualified from applying and:

- do not hold any paid office or employment to which they have been appointed to 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

- are not the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim bankruptcy order
 - have not been convicted in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man of any offence nor had passed on them a sentence of imprisonment of at least three months (whether suspended or not) without the option of a fine
 - have not been found guilty of corrupt or illegal practices nor were responsible for incurring unlawful expenditure nor had a court order resulting in disqualification
 - are not subject to the notification requirements of Part 2 of the Sexual Offences act 2003 (section 81A of the 1972 Act, in England)
8. Paragraph 9 of the council's procedure on co-option of council members states, 'If there is only one candidate for co-option, the applicant is appointed, automatically.
9. In this instance, there are three applications for three vacancies, consequently, Grenville Barr, Janet Breeze, and Vicki Elcoate are duly elected to this committee as non-members.
10. To assist non-members in their role, the town clerk will arrange induction training.
11. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 29 October 2025.

John Wright
Town clerk
October 2025

Dear Sirs

Please find attached my CV for consideration for the subject of co-option which I understand you are going to consider.

I can confirm that I'm not disqualified as per the criteria set out in the committee paper:

I do not hold any paid office or employment 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;

I am not the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim bankruptcy order;

I have not been convicted in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man of any offence nor had passed on me a sentence of imprisonment of at least three months (whether suspended or not) without the option of a fine;

I have not been found guilty of corrupt or illegal practices nor was I responsible for incurring unlawful expenditure nor had a court order my disqualification.

I am not subject to the notification requirements of Part 2 of the Sexual Offences act 2003 (section 81A of the 1972 Act, in England)

I would also like to clarify that I am putting my name forward on behalf of Plastic free Lyme Regis which is part of Turn Lyme Green.

Thanks and Best Wishes

Grenville,

To whom it may concern

I am writing to express my interest in serving once again on LRTC's Environment Committee as a coopted representative of Turn Lyme Green.

My CV is attached and I confirm that I am not disqualified from applying:

- I do not hold any paid office or employment to which I have been appointed by the council or any committee or subcommittee of the council, or by a paid office of the council, or by any joint committee on which the council is represented
- I am not the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim bankruptcy order
- I have not been convicted in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man of any offence nor had passed on me a sentence of imprisonment of at least three months (whether suspended or not) without the option of a fine
- I have not been found guilty of corrupt or illegal practices nor was I responsible for incurring unlawful expenditure nor had a court order my disqualification
- I am not subject to the notification requirements of Part 2 of the Sexual Offences act 2003 9section 81A of the 1972 Act, in England.

I would consider it a privilege to be able to contribute in an advisory or other manner as required to LRTC's environmental agenda.

Yours

Janet Breeze

To whom it may concern

I am applying for co-option to the Environment Committee, following a previous period as a co-opted member representing Dorset Climate Action Network.

Please find attached my CV.

I can confirm that I'm not disqualified from applying:

I do not hold any paid office or employment to which I 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;

I am not the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim bankruptcy order;

I have not been convicted in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man of any offence nor had passed on me a sentence of imprisonment of at least three months (whether suspended or not) without the option of a fine;

I have not been found guilty of corrupt or illegal practices nor was I responsible for incurring unlawful expenditure nor had a court order my disqualification.

I am not subject to the notification requirements of Part 2 of the Sexual Offences act 2003 (section 81A of the 1972 Act, in England)

I would be representing Dorset CAN again if successful.

Best wishes

Vicki Elcoate

Committee: Environment

Date: 8 October 2025

Title: Bathing Water Quality Meeting Minutes

Purpose of the Report

To allow members to receive the minutes from the Bathing Water Quality meeting held on 9 September 2025

Recommendation

Members note the minutes OF the Bathing Water Quality meeting held on 9 September 2025

Report

1. A Bathing Water Quality meeting was held on 9 September 2025, the minutes produced are attached for perusal as **appendix 11A**.
2. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 29 October 2025.

Sam O'Connell
Operations manager
October 2025

Lyme Regis bathing water quality meeting, Tuesday September 9th 2025

Attendance: Chris Angell (EA) remote); Cllr Belinda Bawden (Dorset Council); Alan Burrows (Head of Local Govt Pennon Group); Peter Chapman (geotechnical consultant to LRTC); Catherine Chappell (local ops SWW); Cllr Stuart Cockerell (LRTC); Liz Davis (RLA); Jenny Eamer (Ops manager SWW); Vicki Elcoate (RLA); Jim Flory (EA) remote; Mark Green (Deputy Town Clerk LRTC) for part; Sam Harding (Deputy Harbour Master); Cllr Philip May (LRTC) Chair of meeting; Sean Norsworthy (DC coastal engineer); Sam O'Connell (LRTC Ops manager); James Radcliffe (Harbour Master); Sarah Sharpe (Local Govt Liaison Pennon); Pete Williams (LRTC works supervisor)

1. SWW investment programme – Turning the Tide

SWW works to improve sewage/rainwater separation and reduce CSO discharges to 10 p.a. per CSO are due to start in November. However SWW are continuing to gather data on surface water infiltration and seeking regulatory consents (DC and EA). AB confident dates can be met but JE said they weren't set in stone yet. Also more information needed on assets of other utilities in affected areas. More details can be found here <https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/about-us/what-we-do/improving-your-service/projects-and-investment/lyme-regis>.

SWW confirmed that the plans had factored in future population and other changes (eg 228 potential new houses in LR) and were good for 50 years.

MG concerned that LRTC and DC have advanced warning of road closures. SWW confirmed that proposed timings could be amended to avoid negative impacts on the visitor season.

Action: SWW will advise when plans are firmly in place for highways work and storage tank installation. At this point stakeholders will be fully briefed. SWW public liaison person will be in place with frequent visits. LRTC and RLA can help with the public communications and stakeholder engagement with due notice.

Action: SWW to answer RLA query on plans to improve storage at USTW as originally outlined in their presentation (1100m³ storage tank was proposed but now not detailed in plan on website)

2. Monitoring and bathing water quality

EA now has results of Microbial Source Tracking at the mouth of the River May – July indicating a “largely human factor”.

JF confirmed that the largely human factor during mainly dry weather is evidence of broken drains or misconnections. Bathing water testing by EA – Front Beach likely to remain “good”, Church Beach likely to be “poor” as classification is based on 4 years of testing, despite better results this year. Dry weather has helped.

Action: JF to share MST results (done – see below)

Bathing water notices based on Pollution Risk Forecasts – BB has been looking after Church Beach signage and Harbour Master at Front Beach.

Action: solution for bathing water notices needed for next bathing season at Church Beach, which doesn't rely on volunteers. DC as statutory body responsible to find an acceptable way forward. Harbour Master will continue to look after notices at Front Beach.

3. Pollution hotspots

“Positive” EA walkover August 5 with RLA to look at underlying issues and misconnections –

- Pipe at Uplyme garage – monitoring as 3rd party issue
- Talbot Arms -bank falling in. EA detected sewage discharge - now rectified by SWW
- Mill Lane near CSO - sewage smells
- Jericho – problem still there – SWW in touch with homeowner
- SWO 1410 below Cadet Hut/behind Mill Green – EA detected sewage discharge. SWW had previously carried out CCTV and remedial work but continue to investigate on-going discharge.

SWW has disbanded its misconnections team and this work is now under networks. New person Catherine Chappelle is leading on this misconnections work in LR for SWW and keen to receive reports of problems/photos etc.

Other hotspots actions:

- Woodmead Road bridge – report of high phosphate level today – SWW to attend
- Mill/Brewery – SWW to pick up with CA. RLA July/August high E. coli readings.
- RLA monitors to continue reporting pollution

An estimated 80-120 septic tanks in Uplyme could be responsible for consistent high pollution levels at Springhead Lane monitoring point. Owners are sent communications by EA about septic tank compliance but there is no record of compliance or requirement for routine inspections. LD asked for a household audit of septic tank compliance but EA said this was governed by the binding rules of programme and this action wasn't necessary.

LD asked why septic tank households were not on the main sewer system. AB suggested home owners would need to make a 'First Time Sewage Application' to be connected to the main sewage.

Action: RLA could consider a leaflet campaign to Uplyme residents about this problem and whether there is interest in making a 'First Time Sewage Application'.

Concern about the inaccuracy of CSO EDMs. Query over Mill Lane CSO discharge data while 'under maintenance'.

Action: RLA to ask SWW for identification of Mill Lane CSO so it can be monitored

Action: RLA monitors to send data/reports of pollution to CC

4. Withdrawal of EA river maintenance

Contacts with RLA from concerned residents asking for advice on what is being done to support residents unable to cope with this change. RLA raised need to address lack of coherent management of banks and vegetation, some of which seems to be outside the remit of any organisations or individuals.

JF said the withdrawal of EA maintenance was due to lack of resources. EA only have a statutory requirement to intervene if poor maintenance poses a flood risk.

BB concern at poor repair of stone walls lining the river and the need to ascertain who is responsible for upkeep.

Action: SN and BB from DC to work with LRTC to find a solution for coherent river management and to communicate with local riparian owners about it. RLA can help as needed.

5. Holmbush car park

SN said Holmbush drains discharge through the groyne on sandy beach and affect Front Beach water quality in the bathing season. Motor homes and campervans may be putting waste down the drains there. CCTV investigations in the gardens hadn't found a problem.

Action: signage in car park to discourage misuse by indicating connection between drains, sea and bathing. DC

SN said that repairs had been carried out to damaged drains. BB reported flooding after the repairs. PC said unchanneled water posed land stability risks. Springs in the area likely to have contributed to recent extensive land slippage above Cobb Road. SN suggested the current surface water drains are insufficient to channel larger volumes of surface water.

Action: regular jetting of drains. DC

Action: request by PC for DC to survey drains in car park to identify where to put surface water which pools at the Pine Walk end.

Action: SWW asked that their surface water separation model includes this area.

6. Beachfront drains

SN said that the surface water drains in front of the Royal Standard have now been included on DC drain maps.

To address the blocked soakaway under the sandy beach there are concept designs in place for improved drainage behind the Royal Standard where there is an attenuation chamber. It is not clear whether there are designs for discharge solutions to the stagnant gullies in front of food outlets which pose an Environmental Health risk. Businesses have been asked not to put oil down the drains.

Action: DC to inform of progress of improving drainage at this location, plans for drains in front of the Royal Standard and when the work is due to be carried out. (Adam Steele taking over from SN who's going to be working in Cornwall).

7. Boat Building Academy

Drains have been CCTV-ed and no problem found which might cause odours from the manhole right outside the BBA.

Action: SWW to check link between Cobb PS and BBA drain to check whether the sewage smell is odours or sewage backing up from the Cobb PS and to address the problem

8. Horn Bridge

Has been upgraded, next improvements will be part of Turning the Tide.

9. Cattle

Although there has been a previous offence, a cattle feeding station is again contaminating the watercourse.

Action: EA to continue to work with the farmers to resolve this.

Next meeting: noon on Tuesday, January 13. Teams links available for anyone who needs it.

Environment Agency: Bacterial and MST Results from samples collected at the mouth of the River Lim

Date	Time	EC per 100ml	IE per 100ml	Seabird	AllBac	Ruminant	Human	%Human
01/05/2025	1148	2300	220	3.7	6.8	3.5	5.1	97.5%
15/05/2025	1223	2100	560	3.3	6.8	5.0	4.9	44.3%
22/05/2025	1137	2900	410	4.0	7.2	6.1	5.4	16.6%
29/05/2025	1152	7000	760	4.5	8.2	7.3	4.8	0.3%
02/06/2025	1037	2100	440	3.7	6.6	5.1	4.1	9.1%
11/06/2025	1152	1100	1300		6.4	4.8	4.6	38.7%
19/06/2025	1423	3800	1600	4.1	6.5	4.6	4.8	61.3%
25/06/2025	1059	3800	890	3.5	6.4	5.0	4.1	11.2%
02/07/2025	1339	3300	720	3.4	6.5	4.8	4.5	33.4%
10/07/2025	1153	16000	10000		6.9	5.0	5.2	61.3%

(Units for all markers are \log_{10} copy number per 100ml. Copy number is the number of copies of the target gene sequence as determined by quantitative PCR).

Committee: Environment

Date: 8 October 2025

Title: Town and Parish Climate and Nature Workshop

Purpose of Report

To inform members about the town and parish climate and nature workshop that took place on 27 August 2025, and about future activities and events organised by Dorset Council's climate and ecology sustainability team

Members may wish to consider collaborations between Solar Communities and Solar Together, individual applications to become Climate Ambassadors, an employee volunteering scheme for Climate Ambassadors, the provision of a host site for Low Carbon Dorset's touring exhibition and suggestions for webinar topics

Recommendation

Members note the report and consider collaborations between Solar Communities and Solar Together, individual applications to become Climate Ambassadors, an employee volunteering scheme for Climate Ambassadors, the provision of a host site for Low Carbon Dorset's touring exhibition and suggestions for webinar topics

Report

1. On 27 August 2027, the town clerk attended a town and parish climate and nature workshop; the event was organised Dorset Council.
2. The workshop was informed by the climate and nature survey¹ earlier this year. The purpose of the workshop was to:
 - bring together council representatives to explore a collaborative approach to climate and nature.
 - provide background context and facilitate forward planning through a practical workshop.
 - identify key topics for future meetings and discuss how our collective efforts can support parish councils.
 - review the results of the survey.
 - feed into a toolkit for climate.
3. The workshop was the first in a series of meetings aimed at developing a joined-up approach to climate and nature across Dorset's town and parish councils.
4. The day included: climate speed networking, Dorset Council updates, mini workshop rotations on carbon foot printing, procurement and local nature recovery, case studies and group discussion.

¹ The climate and nature survey was considered by this committee on 22 January 2025 and the response, which was delegated to the town clerk in consultation with Cllrs Cockerell and May, was submitted on 29 January 2025.

5. The slides from the presentations and three workshops are attached, **appendix 12A**.
6. The workshop considered Solar Together, the Climate Ambassador programme and the work of Low Carbon Dorset.

Solar Together

7. Solar Together collaborates with councils to make an impact on carbon reduction targets through private resident investment in renewable energy generation.
8. Solar Together group-buying schemes make it easier for UK homeowners to install solar panels and storage for a competitive price with a trustworthy, pre-vetted installer.
9. The model delivers those registered on the scheme competitive prices through group buying and being part of a wider group. The selection process involves a reverse auction with pre-vetted installers who compete to offer registrants the most competitive price.
10. Members involved in Solar Communities might want to consider this scheme in more detail and consider collaborations.
11. The Solar Together scheme is live for registration until 17 October 2025.

Climate Ambassadors

12. Climate Ambassadors offers every education setting in England free access to volunteer support to develop and deliver impactful climate action plans. Climate Ambassadors' interest and experience in sustainability and climate change is put to practical use, supporting education settings to reduce carbon emissions, tackle climate risks and inspire and inform the next generation. The scheme matches volunteer climate experts with educational settings to develop climate action plans in nurseries, schools and colleges.
13. The workshop sought volunteer Climate Ambassadors for the programme. The invitation is extended to others; the council will advertise these roles in its November edition of LymeLiving and on its website and social media channels.
14. Regional hub managers will introduce volunteers to the programme and assist them in finding the right education setting to volunteer with.
15. South West applicants can get in touch with Nicki Schantz via email: climateambassadors.sw@metoffice.gov.uk.
16. As an employer, the town council could support the programme by including Climate Ambassadors as part of an employee volunteering scheme.
17. The scheme supports community engagement and social value goals and provides employees with opportunities to 'give back'; it also furthers employees' own sustainability impacts and enhances their climate skills and knowledge.

Low Carbon Dorset

18. The workshop considered Low Carbon Dorset's programme which provides free energy saving and grants to help organisations reduce their carbon emissions and save on energy costs.

19. The workshop also referenced Low Carbon Dorset's touring exhibition which includes a selection of inspiring photographs and stories which address climate change; host sites for future Low Carbon Dorset exhibitions are still being sought by Low Carbon Dorset.

A general observation

20. It was clear at the meeting that some councils were quite advanced in their preparation for achieving zero net carbon by 2030, others weren't prepared at all; generally, larger councils were more advanced than smaller councils.

What Next?

21. Dorset Council's climate and ecology sustainability team will create a space on Dorset Council's website for town and parish councils to access resources on climate change adaptation and mitigation.
22. The climate and ecological team would like town and parish councils to send them case studies for sharing on its website; the town clerk will arrange for case studies from this council to be sent to Dorset Council's climate and ecological sustainability team.
23. Dorset Council's climate and ecology team intend to set up a series of webinars and are taking suggestions on webinar topics. Members may like to suggest topics of consideration.
24. The next in-person event will be held in March 2026; a date will be sent out in October 2025.
25. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full council on 29 October 2025.

John Wright
Town clerk
October 2025

Committee: Environment

Date: 8 October 2025

Title: Climate Response of the Year

Purpose of the Report

To inform this committee of the council's application to the National Association of Local Councils for its Climate Response of the Year award 2025 and to retrospectively recommend to Full Council the approval of the application to the National Association of Local Councils for its Climate Response of the Year award 2025

Recommendation

Members note the report and retrospectively recommend to Full Council the approval of the application to the National Association of Local Councils for its Climate Response of the Year award 2025

Policy Context

1. On 14 August 2025, the town clerk was approached by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and asked if the council would consider applying for NALC's Climate Response of the Year award.
2. Unfortunately, the council's business timetable did not allow committee consideration of an application ahead of the 5 September 2025 deadline.
3. Consequently, members of this committee were asked by email to endorse the application and comment on the draft submission.
4. This report is presented to this committee for consideration and to seek a retrospective recommendation to the Full Council to approve the council's application to NALC for its Climate Response of the Year award 2025.

Background

5. NALC is the membership organisation for England's 10,000 parish and town councils.
6. As part of its remit, NALC runs annual awards; the categories for 2025 are:
 - Council of the Year – Honouring councils that exemplify excellence in service delivery and impact, leadership, collaboration and community engagement.
 - Councillor of the Year – Acknowledging councillors whose efforts have made a significant difference in their community.
 - Young Councillor of the Year – Celebrating the contributions of young leaders who bring fresh perspectives and energy to local governance.
 - Climate Response of the Year – Highlighting innovative projects that show an understanding of climate change and how its impact is being mitigated locally.
 - County Association of the Year – Showcasing the support county associations provide councils through guidance, training, events, managing projects and producing publications.

- Clerk of the Year – Recognising exceptional clerks whose dedication and expertise have significantly impacted their council.

Report

7. On 14 August 2025, the town clerk was approached by NALC asking if the council would consider submitting a nomination for the 2025 Climate Response of the Year Award which is part of NALC's Star Councils Awards.
8. NALC's interest in the council was brought about through the Carbon Literacy Project website when it noticed Lyme Regis Town Council was featured last year as one of the first town councils to achieve Silver Carbon Literate Organisation status.
9. The Climate Response of the Year award is for councils that have shown they understand what climate change means to their community and have acted to mitigate the impact of it.
10. Following meetings between the chairman of this committee, the deputy town clerk and the town clerk, a submission for the Climate Response of the Year award was made ahead of the closing date of 5 September 2025.
11. In December 2025, the council will hear if its application has been shortlisted. If the council's application is shortlisted, the council will be invited to a parliamentary reception at the House of Lords on 24 February 2026, where the winners will be announced and celebrated.
12. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 29 October 2025.

John Wright
Town clerk
October 2025

Committee: Environment

Date: 8 October 2025

Title: EcoVend Reverse Vending Recycling Machines

Purpose of Report

To update members on the feasibility of installing EcoVend reverse vending machines in Lyme Regis, following the committee's instruction on 16 July 2025 to explore potential locations, indicative costs, and suitability

Recommendation

Members note the findings of the feasibility review and consider putting forward the installation of an EcoVend machine at the proposed location in the performance area in the Marine Parade Shelters, as an objective for 2026–27

Background

1. At the previous meeting of this committee on 16 July 2025, it was recommended 'that an EcoVend machine is considered as part of the 2026-27 budget-setting process and instruct officers to undertake a feasibility study'.

Report

2. Officers have conducted a feasibility review of installing an EcoVend reverse vending machine on the seafront. The review focused on infrastructure, location suitability, operational requirements, and community impact.
3. The proposed location is under the performance area in the Marie Parade Shelters, specifically:
 - Right-hand side of the Jubilee Pavilion
 - Adjacent to the public defibrillator
 - Near an existing commando socket
 - Within range of the Jubilee Pavilion wi-fi

Benefits of Leasing vs. Outright Purchase

4. When considering the acquisition of an EcoVend reverse vending machine, the council may choose between outright purchase or leasing. Leasing offers several more advantages that align with budgetary flexibility and operational efficiency, especially for a pilot installation. The following table outlines the pros and cons of each option to support informed decision-making:

Purchase Options	Pros	Cons
Leasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower upfront cost • Includes servicing and maintenance • Easier to upgrade • Reduced financial risk • Predictable monthly budgeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher total cost over long term • No asset ownership • Dependent on lease terms
Outright Purchase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full ownership of asset • Potential long-term savings • No ongoing lease payments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High initial capital outlay • Separate servicing costs • Risk if usage is low or technology becomes outdated

Cost Options

5. 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	Capacity	Outright Purchase	5 Year Lease (Monthly)	3 Year Lease (Monthly)
RVM 100	250 PET bottles, 300 cans (Single Chamber)	£9903.00	£214.58	£323.52
RVM 200	250 PET bottles, 350 cans (Twin Chamber)	£12,927.60	£244.37	£368.43
RVM 400X	Up to 1,700 PET bottles and 5,000 cans (Segregated)	£14,403.20	£312.07	£470.50

Sustainable Funding Model for EcoVend in Lyme Regis

6. Advertising Partnerships

- Local businesses (cafés, shops, pubs) can advertise on the machine's digital screen.
- Ads could be rotated or tiered based on contribution level.
- Businesses benefit from visibility in a high-footfall area.
- Any revenue from digital advertising will help cover lease and maintenance costs.

7. Loyalty and Reward Programs

- Users receive vouchers or discounts for recycling items.
- Vouchers redeemable at participating local businesses.
- Encourages repeat visits and supports the local economy.
- Businesses can opt-in to offer small incentives, e.g. 10% off drinks.

8. Community Sponsorship

- Businesses or community groups can sponsor the machine for branding and corporate social responsibility.
- Sponsorship could include logo placement, co-branded campaigns, or promotion tie-ins.

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

10. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 29 October 2025.

Sam O'Connell
Operations manager
October 2025

Committee: Environment

Date: 8 October 2025

Title: Round Britain eRIB – Commemorative Noticeboard

Purpose of Report

To inform members of a proposal to install a commemorative noticeboard or plaque in Lyme Regis recognising the electric world record achieved by the Round Britain eRIB project

Recommendation

Members consider the proposal to install a commemorative noticeboard or plaque in Lyme Regis recognising the electric world record achieved by the Round Britain eRIB project and if so, to proceed with exploratory discussions with the Round Britain eRIB team.

Report

1. In 2024, the Round Britain eRIB project successfully completed the first fully electric circumnavigation of Britain by rigid inflatable boat (RIB). The project was led by Lyme Regis harbour regular Harry Besley, whose connection to the town has prompted the team to propose a commemorative installation in Lyme Regis, where the challenge finished.
2. The town council has received a proposal from Jacqui Besley on behalf of the Round Britain eRIB team. The proposal outlines the team's interest in installing a permanent commemorative noticeboard or plaque in Lyme Regis to mark the electric world record achievement.
3. Their team has funding available and is offering to work jointly with the council to develop a design that suits the town's character and determine any additional funding requirements.
4. The commemorative installation would ideally be placed in a prominent public location such as the harbour or seafront. The design would reflect both the significance of the eRIB achievement and Lyme Regis's maritime heritage. The project team is open to collaborating with council officers to co-design the display.
5. If supported, officers will liaise with the project team to identify suitable locations and develop a design proposal for further consideration.
6. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 29 October 2025.

Sam O'Connell
Operations manager
October 2025

Committee: Environment

Date: 8 October 2025

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

Purpose of Report

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

Recommendation

Members consider the report and suggest amendments to the plan for achieving net carbon zero emissions by 2030

Report

1. On 4 September 2025, the net carbon zero working group met and considered the action plan for achieving net carbon zero emissions by 2030. The action plan is attached, **appendix 16A**.
2. It was agreed at the meeting that good progress was being made. It was also agreed there would be a final meeting on the 4 December 2025 to review any outstanding actions and to finalise the plan.
3. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 29 October 2025.

Sam O'Connell
Operations manager
October 2025

Committee: Environment

Date: 8 October 2025

Title: Low Carbon Dorset Impact Survey

Purpose of Report

To inform members of the survey responses sent to Low Carbon Dorset in response to the advice it provided to the council on the building of the amenities hut and the refurbishment of the harbour store

Recommendation

Members note the report and survey responses submitted by officers

Background

1. Low Carbon Dorset is a Dorset Council programme helping local organisations reduce carbon emissions and save on energy costs. Low Carbon Dorset has issued surveys seeking feedback on the effectiveness of the advice and support it has offered organisations

Report

2. The town council received energy advice from Low Carbon Dorset on the building of the new amenities hut, the refurbishment of the harbour store and the refurbishment of the cemetery lodge; advice on the cemetery lodge refurbishment did not result in any amendments to the specification.
3. Low Carbon Dorset wants to hear whether its advice has improved the projects it has been involved with and has asked for survey responses; Low Carbon Dorset's community impact survey is open from 31 December 2024 to 31 December 2025.
4. From the town council's perspective, Low Carbon Dorset's advice has been valuable; this is reflected in the survey returns submitted by officers, appendices **17A and 17B**.
5. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 29 October 2025.

John Wright
Town clerk
October 2025

Response ID ANON-SQM9-YS9B-H

Submitted to Low Carbon Dorset Community Impact Survey
Submitted on 2025-09-17 16:43:41

Introduction

1 What is your post code?

Let us know here::
DT7 3DB

2 Which community building or facility are you providing feedback on?

Let us know here::
The Harbour Store

3 How often do you use this community building or facility?

Daily

4 How would you rate the changes in the community building or facilities since the installation of renewable energy or energy efficiency measures?

Greatly improved

5 Have you noticed any changes in the lighting of the community building or facilities as a result of the new measures?

It has improved

If you have any extra feedback on lighting, please share it here::

6 Have you noticed any changes in the temperature of the building or facilities since the measures were installed?

More comfortable temperature (better heating/cooling)

If you have any extra feedback on temperature, please share it here::

7 Are you aware of any changes in the electricity costs of the community building or facility since the new measures were installed?

They have decreased

8 Please share any additional comments or suggestions regarding the low-carbon measure(s) and their impact on the community building.

Please enter additional comments here:

Response ID ANON-SQM9-YS9B-H

Submitted to Low Carbon Dorset Community Impact Survey
Submitted on 2025-09-17 16:43:41

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They have decreased

8 Please share any additional comments or suggestions regarding the low-carbon measure(s) and their impact on the community building.

Please enter additional comments here:

Committee: Environment

Date: 8 October 2025

Title: Progress on Energy Performance Certificates

Purpose of the Report

To inform members about the outcome of the process undertaken in 2023 to obtain EPC ratings for most of its commercial properties and any actions taken subsequently

Recommendation

Members note the outcome of the process undertaken in 2023 to obtain EPC ratings for most of its commercial properties and any actions taken subsequently and the intention to carry out new inspections at the recently refurbished harbour store, amenities hut and cemetery lodge

Background

1. In 2023 the council obtained EPCs (Energy Performance Certificates) for most of its commercial properties. This was done in response to suggestions from the then government that restrictions might be imposed on any commercially let property which failed to reach EPC 'C' standard. An implementation date of 2030 for any new requirements was being suggested at that time. It was also noted that obtaining an updated certificate was required each time a commercial property was re-let or on lease renewal.
2. Attached as **appendix 18A** is a schedule setting out the results of that process, which includes suggestions for improvement.

Report

3. Although the 'C' standard was subsequently dropped for commercial properties, there are suggestions from the current government that it may be reintroduced.
4. Members can see that many of the council's commercial properties already meet or exceed the 'C' standard, although there is still room for some suggested improvements. The council has recently moved office to a building which also exceeds the 'C' standard.
5. The two let properties which fail to meet the 'C' standard are The Kiosk and the Antiques and Craft Centre. The latter is fairly easy to make compliant, and discussions are ongoing about how and when best to carry out any works/changes, most of which are low-cost and for the tenant to implement.
6. The Kiosk is more difficult because of the nature of its construction and its location 'under' Marine Parade. The 'tanked' construction makes better insulation extremely difficult, disruptive and costly to install. Officers will continue to look at what works can be implemented, but some/most may have to wait for any future change of tenant.
7. Although EPCs are only required for let property, it is intended to carry out new inspections for the harbour store, amenities hut and cemetery lodge. The results of those inspections will be reported to members in due course.

8. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 29 October 2025.

Mark Green
Deputy town clerk
October 2025

APPENDIX 18A

Property	EPC Rating	Floor Area> 50sq.m.	Listed	Potential Improvements with < 7yr Payback			Potential Improvements with > 7yr Payback			Comments
				High Impact	Medium Impact	Low Impact	High Impact	Medium Impact	Low Impact	
Boylo's	B	Yes	No	None	Cavity wall insulation	None	Air source heat pump	Leakage test	None	
National Trust	B	Yes	No	None	Cavity wall insulation	None	None	Leakage Test	None	
SWIM	B	Yes	No	None	Cavity wall insulation	None	None	Roof insulation, leakage test	None	
Beach & Badger	B	Yes?	No	Replace tungsten lights with CFLs	None	None	None	None	Pressure test, PV, solar water heating	
Amusement Arcade	C	Yes	No	None	None	Upgrade lighting	Air source heat pump	Cavity wall insulation	None	
Lyme Rocks	C	No	Yes	None	None	None	Air source heat pump	Pressure test Improve glazing & internal wall insulation	None	
Kiosk	D	No	No	Upgrade lighting	Cavity wall insulation	None	Air source heat pump	Pressure test Roof insulation	Low	Small floor area means little scope for cost effective improvement
Antiques Centre	E	Yes	No	Upgrade insulation	Time & temperature control on heating system, Improve glazing	None	Air source heat pump	Pressure test Improve glazing	PV	
Property	EPC Rating	Floor Area>	Listed	Potential Improvements with < 7yr Payback			Potential Improvements with > 7yr Payback			Comments

		50sq.m.								
				High Impact	Medium Impact	Low Impact	High Impact	Medium Impact	Low Impact	
Guildhall Cottage	E	Yes	Yes	None	Insulate loft spaces & internal walls	None	Switch from gas to biomass Air source heat pump	Pressure test Improve/add floor insulation to exposed surfaces adj to exterior, unheated spaces, underground	Improve insulation to HWS storage	Building requires complete repair & refurbishment

Committee: Environment

Date: 8 October 2025

Title: River Lim Action Group 2024-25 Budget Spend

Purpose of Report

To allow members to consider the River Lim Action Group's spend against a 2024-25 budget allocation of £7,908.32 which was accrued to 2025-26

Report

Members note the report

Background

1. In 2024-25, this committee held a budget of £25,000² for environmental projects. The allocation of budget to projects was in the gift of this committee and did not require Full Council approval.
2. On 20 November 2024 this committee approved a 'funding request from the River Lim Action Group for the sum of £7,908.32 for works in 2024/25.'
3. This budget allocation was accrued to 2025-26.

Report

4. Budget monitoring is undertaken through an exchange of emails between Rob Thomas, RLAG and the town council's finance manager.
5. To date the RLAG has spent £3,021.23 against the budgets allocated to each heading, see below:

Activity	Budget	Target date for spend	Spend to date
Riverfly Training and materials	240.00	May	240.00
CSI equipment	100.00	Sept	32.00
E.Coli lab testing	748.32	April	478.08
Hanna monitors reagent	100.00	June/Dec	
Japanese Knotweed treatment	4,250.00	Sept	2,171.95
Fish passage study	2,000.00	June/Dec	
Health and Safety training and materials	200.00	Jul/Nov	
Events/publicity	200.00	Jul/Nov	39.20
Public Liability insurance	70.00	Aug	60.00
Total	7,908.32		3,021.23

6. The remaining budget is £4,887.09; this sum needs to be spent by 31 March 2026.
7. From the email exchange with Rob Thomas, the council's finance manager is confident that spend to budget will be undertaken by 31 March 2026.

² 2024-25 was the final year of a three-year allocation of £25,00pa to the environment committee.

Term Grant 2025-30

8. Turn Lyme Green, which the RLAG is part of, has been awarded a term grant³ for 2025-30. The grant is distributed as follows: year 1, £2,950 and years 2 to 5, £7,000pa.
9. The performance against this budget is considered at six monthly grant review meetings.
10. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 29 October 2025.

John Wright
Town clerk
October 2025

³ The term grant was approved at an extraordinary Full Council on 5 February 2025.