

Terms of Reference: Environment Committee

Aim: Deal Town Council recognises that we face an unprecedented climate and environmental emergency and have committed to becoming a net zero carbon emitter in our own operations by 2025. We will use our power and influence to protect and improve the environment and encourage and support others to do the same, in addition to fulfilling our statutory environmental responsibilities and complying with all legal and other requirements. We are committed to transforming Deal into a cleaner, greener and a healthier and more active town.

Status: The Environment Committee shall be a Standing Committee of Deal Town Council appointed at the Annual Meeting of the Council. It has the power to make decisions which support aims of the committee without the need to refer to Full Council unless a matter is specifically referred up or a budget is required. It is subject to the same general rules of conduct in relation to meetings as set out in the Council's Standing Orders.

Membership: The Committee shall consist of elected Members of Deal Town Council. Its quorum shall be 3.

Co-options: Co-opted members shall be representatives of organisations and individuals who in the opinion of the Committee shall enhance the effectiveness and representation of the Committee. The Committee will submit co-option recommendations to Full Council for decision. Co-opted members shall not have voting rights.

Meetings: Meetings of the Committee shall normally take place at least six times a year. The time, date and place of meetings shall be determined by the Council at the Annual Council Meeting, or otherwise by the Council.

Objectives:

- Promote environmental awareness within the community and work with the local community in partnerships to achieve environmental change.
- Reduce the consumption of energy and water across all of our activities.
- Minimise the impact of our travel by developing sustainable travel solutions both in our own operations and for the benefit of the people of Deal, in collaboration with other stakeholders.
- Continue to improve our performance to prevent all types of pollution and reduce CO2 and other harmful emissions from our activities.
- Work to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Deal through the provision of information and the promotion of home energy efficiency measures, to keep people warm and well, in addition to reducing carbon emissions.
- Work closely with our suppliers and contractors to reduce the social and environmental impact of goods and services by considering such issues as carbon footprint, single use plastics, and fair-trade goods.
- Use products and materials such as paper efficiently and specify goods that, wherever possible, have a minimal environmental impact in the extraction or sourcing of materials, manufacture, use and disposal.
- Minimise the production of waste from our own activities and adhere to the principles of the waste hierarchy - reducing, reusing, recycling, or composting wherever possible.

- Encourage and support installation and use of renewable energy, battery storage and low carbon technologies in the town.
- Protect, conserve, and enhance Deal's natural environment and its biodiversity whilst improving our open spaces, public rights of ways and green corridors.

Reviewed and agreed: F/C 19.04.22

Updated: Jan 2024