

St Austell Town Council



Climate and Environment Committee

To: All Members of the Climate and Environment Committee
(Councillors: Cohen, Jones, King, Lanxon, Oxenham, Pearce, Rees, Styles
(Mayor), Thompson and Walker).

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend a **Meeting** of the **Climate and Environment Committee** to be held at **The Stable Block, Pondhu House, Penwinnick Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 5DP** on **Monday 30th September 2019 at 6pm.**

David Pooley
Town Clerk

24th September 2019

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AGENDA

- 1. Election of Chairman**
- 2. Election of Vice-Chairman**
- 3. Apologies for absence**
- 4. Declarations of Interest**

(Purpose: To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary and other non-registerable interests in respect of items on this agenda).

5. Dispensations

(Purpose: To receive requests for dispensations under the Code of Conduct).

6. Public participation (15 minutes maximum)

The Chairman will invite members of the public to address the meeting in relation to the business to be carried out at the meeting.

15 minutes will be allocated for public participation (this can be extended at the Chairman's discretion). Each person addressing the Council will be allocated a maximum of two minutes.

7. Terms of Reference

**Pages
1 to 2**

(Purpose: To note the approved terms of reference for the Climate and Environment Committee) (Attached).

8. Plastic Free St Austell – Councillor King

(Purpose: To receive an update on the work of Plastic Free St Austell). (Verbal Report).

9. Summary of Cornwall Council's Report on Climate Emergency – Councillor King

**Pages
3 to 4**

(Purpose: To review the measures proposed by Cornwall Council to tackle the challenges of Climate Emergency across Cornwall and recommend how St Austell Town Council can complement the work proposed). (Report attached).

10. Climate and Environment Action Plan

(Purpose: To consider developing an Action Plan to determine the Council's priorities for contributing towards the Climate Change Agenda).

11. Working Groups

(Purpose: To consider forming working groups to research and provide information for Item 10 above).

12. Climate and Environment Committee - Budget

(Purpose: To consider an appropriate budget for the Climate and Environment Committee).

13. Project Update

(Purpose: To receive a verbal report from the Town Clerk on the environmental projects currently being worked on). (Verbal update).

14. Dates of Meetings

(Purpose to confirm dates of forthcoming meetings).

ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL
CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
30th SEPTEMBER 2019

Climate and Environment Committee – Terms of Reference

Purpose:

To direct activity designed to reduce the Council's carbon footprint. To investigate and report such measures that will impact efforts to meet the challenges of a climate emergency and make recommendations to full Council.

Responsibilities:

- To develop a climate emergency plan;
- To oversee environmental initiatives within the remit of the Committee;
- Approval of climate and environmental training within budget;
- To advise other committees, when relevant, about proposed changes that they have responsibility for that may impact negatively on carbon emissions;
- To consider issues, consultation documents and policy initiatives relating to the climate emergency and to respond on the Council's behalf, as appropriate;
- Work with Cornwall Council and other agencies where mutual benefits exist;
- To support and work with neighbouring parish councils where appropriate;
- Investigate appropriate sources of external funding;

- To liaise with Government agencies, Cornwall Council, strategic partners and members of the community to educate, inform and advise on carbon reduction;
- To prepare an annual budget estimate for the areas within its remit for submission to full Council;
- Spending Limit: Up to £10,000 on any one item, subject to expenditure being within agreed budget head and policy and a suitable procurement process being put in place.

(Expenditure outside these limits to be recommended to full Council for approval).

Relevant delegations:

- Carbon accounting and monitoring;
- To approve responses to consultation papers relating to matters within the remit of the Committee.

An introduction from Edwina Hannaford
Cabinet portfolio holder for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change.

“It will not be easy; as the report makes clear, 2030 will be extremely challenging and may well prove impossible; but that does not mean that we should back away from the challenge or ambition to start this journey now, being passive and waiting for others. If other parts of the world chose not to act, that is not a consideration that should define what we do. We are going to lead.”

"Social justice is really important and is a theme that cuts across all of it. Climate change should not just be the preserve of the wealthy.

Education is really important and explaining the facts to people so that they understand what needs to be done and why. We can't just say to people "you need to get rid of your gas boiler" or "you can't use your car anymore" we need to make sure that there are things in place to help people to change and that they know why”.

Cornwall Council’s Climate Change Action Plan provides a roadmap for carbon neutrality a full twenty years ahead of the Government’s target of 2050 and includes a number of proposals including:

- A Forest for Cornwall - planting 32 square miles or about two per cent of Cornwall’s land mass with trees to absorb carbon
- Powering all new homes with alternative energy
- Making energy efficiency improvements to existing Council owned housing. Retrofitting its own stock will mean it will be cheaper for people to live and therefore address fuel poverty.
- Promoting renewable energy including: onshore wind, anaerobic digestion, biomass, offshore wind, solar farms, ground source and new technologies.

Policy documents already published help support the Climate Change agenda:

The Green Cornwall Programme launched England’s first community energy revolving loan fund and delivered energy efficiency improvements in over 3,000 homes through Glow Cornwall and contributed to the development of the Winter Wellbeing Programme. Cornwall Council was also the first local authority to develop its own solar farm.

The Environmental Growth Strategy (adopted by St Austell Town Council in 2017) is designed to make Cornwall’s environment more diverse. This has led to the Making Space for Nature programme which has transformed 40 hectares of urban areas into wildlife-rich green spaces.

Local Transport Plan – Connecting Cornwall which has supported substantial transport service improvements in Cornwall since 2011 including the One Public Transport Scheme for Cornwall which aims to provide a joined up public transport system across rail, bus and ferry services.

The introduction of 92 new lower-emission buses, supported by the Cornwall Devolution Deal, has seen the number of bus journeys in Cornwall go up from 10.6m to 11.7m over the last year, at a time when public transport use has dropped nationally.

The Council's existing number of electric charge points in public car parks and other locations across Devon and Cornwall are being increased and the Council was recently awarded over £90K for five new charge points across Cornwall specifically for use by taxis to charge electric or plug-in hybrid vehicles.

The climate emergency declaration also called on Westminster to provide the powers and resources necessary for the required change.