

ANNUAL COUNCIL



Agenda Item: Appointment of any New Committees

Meeting Date: Wednesday, 7th May 2025

Contact Officer: Deputy Town Clerk

The purpose of this report is to consider whether to create any new Council Committees in line with Standing Orders 11(d)(x) and 30.

Background

The Town Council currently has five standing committees which report back to the Full Council in each meeting cycle.

Current Situation

The Town Council declared a Climate Emergency on 26th June 2019 in which it was resolved:

‘Witney Town Council joins other Councils in declaring a Climate Emergency, and commits to the vision of carbon neutrality by 2028 at the latest’

With limited time remaining before 2028, it is proposed that the Council’s Climate, Biodiversity & Planning Committee be divided into two separate committees: **Planning & Development** and **Climate & Biodiversity**. The latter would meet in person three times per year to focus on advancing climate and biodiversity issues in line with adopted Council policy. A proposed Committee Structure is attached as Appendix A.

Following reports include the proposed new Committee.

Impact Assessments

The Town Council has a duty to consider the effects of its decisions, functions and activities on equality, biodiversity, and crime & disorder. Consideration should also be given to effects on the environment, given the Council’s Climate Emergency declaration in 2019.

- a) Equality – no direct implications.
- b) Biodiversity – progression of biodiversity issues.
- c) Crime & Disorder – no direct implications.
- d) Environment & Climate Emergency – progression of climate issues.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Social Value

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and

1. consider the proposed new Council Committees – Planning & Development and Climate & Biodiversity.