
Agenda Item: Climate Fair - Subsidised use of the Corn Exchange

Meeting Date: Monday 21 July 2025

Contact Officer: Compliance and Environment Officer

The purpose of this report is to update Councillors on a proposed Climate Fair and to seek approval for the subsidised use of the Corn Exchange, allowing planning of the event to proceed.

Background

The Climate & Biodiversity Committee met on 12 May 2025 and agreed to several recommendations detailed in the report provided by the Compliance and Environment Officer. One of these recommendations is to investigate a Climate Roadshow event. The Communications and Community Engagement Officer also reported on facilitating a Climate Awareness event through the Community Engagement Report that was discussed at the Stronger Communities Committee meeting on 2 June 2025. Members were unanimous in agreement that the Town Council facilitate a Climate event to highlight the work of local organisations and Council bodies.

Current Situation

The details of the event are to be confirmed, and this will be part of the Climate Action Working Parties remit with support from officers.

Provisional dates have been booked at the Corn Exchange for either the 25 September or 9 October 2025. The date will be confirmed following the Climate Action Working Party meeting in July. The time of the event will be agreed.

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 - The Climate Fair is being planned as an inclusive and accessible event for all members of the community. Promotion of the event will use multiple channels to reach a broad demographic, including underrepresented and vulnerable groups. Stallholders and

participants will be invited from a wide range of local organisations to ensure diverse representation and engagement.

- b) Biodiversity - Educational content around local wildlife, native species, and biodiversity will be incorporated into the event programme to raise awareness and promote conservation efforts.
- c) Crime & Disorder - The event is intended to promote community cohesion and civic pride, offering constructive opportunities for participation, volunteering, and engagement that may help reduce the potential for anti-social behaviour.
- d) Environment & Climate Emergency - In alignment with the Council's Climate Emergency declaration, the Climate Fair will prioritise sustainability throughout its planning and delivery. Measures being considered include minimising waste, discouraging single-use plastics, promoting low-carbon travel options, and highlighting circular economy principles. The fair will serve as a platform for informing and empowering residents on climate action, sustainable living, and local environmental initiatives.

Risk

Careful and robust research into the order and content for the event along with engagement by key stakeholders will manage risk to reputation. In planning the Climate Fair, the Council is actively considering any potential risks to its operations and assets. These will be mitigated through risk assessments, public liability insurance, safeguarding protocols, and appropriate event management procedures. By taking these actions, the Council aims to limit or negate any liability associated with hosting the event.

Social Value

The Climate Fair is expected to generate significant social value by fostering environmental awareness, encouraging community participation, and supporting local organisations and businesses. The event will provide a platform for education, engagement, and collaboration on sustainability and climate action, thereby strengthening community resilience and cohesion.

Financial Implications

Officers have planned the dates available to avoid any clash with frequent hirers thus reducing the potential loss of hiring income from the Corn Exchange. The Climate Fair is considered a strategic investment in community engagement and environmental leadership. The long-term benefits of promoting climate awareness and social cohesion are expected to outweigh the short-term financial impact.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. Officers request that this Committee considers the subsidised use of the Corn Exchange for daytime use on either 25 September or 9 October 2025. This will enable the Town

Council to facilitate a Climate event to highlight the work of local organisations and Council bodies.