



CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY WORKING GROUP

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 61/21

12 JUNE 2021

The purpose of this Report is to ask Members to establish a Working Group on Climate and Biodiversity as proposed by Councillor Julie Hutchison.

No. DETAILS

1) BACKGROUND

Councillor Julie Hutchison will propose the setting up of a Working Group on Climate and Biodiversity as set out in the next section of this Report.

WORKING GROUP TERMS OF PROPOSAL

- a) *Purpose:* the group exists with the sole purpose of discussing ways for the town council to respond to the climate and biodiversity crisis, with a view to bringing recommendations to Full Council.
- b) *Background:*
 - i) The Isle of Wight Council declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019, with an aim to significantly reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions to Net Zero by the year 2030.
 - ii) It is acknowledged that Public and Private Organisations are making adaptations now to make those changes.
 - iii) Building strong and resilient communities to face depleting harvests, water shortages and increasingly erratic weather systems ought to be a focus for all communities on the Island now.
- c) *Recommendations:*

It is proposed that this motion be considered upon the following;

 - i) that a Working Group be formed consisting of no more than five members of the council – as determined at a public full council meeting. Additionally, members of the public, representatives of local environmental groups or representatives from other town and parish councils may be invited to attend and share expertise and ideas with prior agreement of the working group.
 - ii) Quorum: Three members must be in attendance for the meeting to be quorate.
 - iii) Chair: The working group chair shall be chosen at the initial meeting; the chair shall be responsible for scheduling and taking notes at the meetings.
 - iv) Reporting: Notes shall be distributed to all members; recommendations will be brought to full council as required.
 - v) Governance: The working group has no decision-making powers and is therefore not considered a public meeting.
 - vi) Meetings will be held as often as deemed necessary for effectively meeting the groups purpose.

2) RECOMMENDATION OPTIONS

The Town Council is recommended either:

- a) to establish a Working Group on Climate and Biodiversity; or
- b) not to establish a Working Group on Climate and Biodiversity.