

Three Rivers District Council

Committee Report

Date 15 March 2023

PART I - DELEGATED

7. ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM TERMS OF REFERENCE UPDATE (CED)

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report presents to a draft revised Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Environmental Forum for comment and approval.

2 Details

- 2.1 The current terms of reference of the Council's Environmental Forum were agreed by Committee August 2020 at which time it was agreed that they be reviewed every two years. The current ToR are attached in Appendix 1.

- 2.2 Officers have reviewed the terms of reference. A revised ToR is attached as Appendix 2.

- 2.3 The amendments proposed are additions as outlined below:

- All meetings will be held virtually
- To facilitate the information exchange between attendees of the forum, attendees will be asked to submit a brief update on their work prior to meeting taking place
- Members will be encouraged to submit any questions for the Council prior to the meeting taking place, so an answer can be sought from the appropriate officer.
- Each Meeting will address a theme from the Climate and Emergency Sustainability Strategy
- A Councillor will be appointed as Vice Chair at Annual Council.

3 Options and Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 That the Committee considers, comments on and approves the proposed new Terms of Reference for the Environmental Forum.

4 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications

- 4.1 The work of the forum supported the delivery and ongoing development of the Council's Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are currently no financial implications for the forum. Three Rivers District Council provide the administrative support including hosting the meetings. Should the forum be allocated funds for use by the Council or secure external funding these will be subject to the Financial Standing Orders and Procedures of Three Rivers District Council and reported through the Annual Accounts of Three Rivers District Council.

6 Legal Implications

6.1 None specific to this report.

7 Equal Opportunities Implications

7.1 None specific to this report

8 Staffing Implications

8.1 Three Rivers District Council will continue to administer and support the Environmental forum within existing Community Partnerships staff resource.

9 Environmental Implications

9.1 Having an effective and strategically focussed Environmental Forum will assist the Council in delivering the target of becoming Net Zero by 2030

9.2 The Proposals within the report have not achieved a 3 on the Climate and Sustainability Impact Assessment tool as we need energy to run meetings and should face to face meetings return even just once a year this would generate travel, however, the meetings only occur three times a year, therefore the

Climate and Sustainability Impact Assessment Summary	
Homes, buildings, infrastructure, equipment and energy	2.50
Travel	2.00
Goods and Consumption	3.00
Ecology	3.00
Adaptation	0.00
Engagement and Influence	4
Total Overall Average Score	2.9

environmental impact is considered minimal with the benefits of wider community and stakeholder engagement on these important issues outweighing the dis-benefits.

10 Community Safety Implications

Community safety issues around air quality, littering, and other anti-social behaviours parks/open spaces are and will continue to be discussed during the Forums. This aids the Council in identifying and tackling issues in order to make our parks and open spaces safer.

11 Public Health implications

11.1 Biodiversity, nature, and use of green spaces are all improved through the Environmental Forum, leading to increased use improving general physical and mental wellbeing. Increased support and discussion around active travel options can lead to people getting more exercise and living healthier lives.

12 Customer Services Centre Implications

12.1 None specific to this report

13 Communications and Website Implications

- 13.1 The new terms of reference will be communicated with the Environmental Forum and available for public to see on the website.

14 Risk and Health & Safety Implications

- 14.1 None specific to this report.

15 Recommendation

- 15.1 That the Committee considers, comments on and approves the proposed new Terms of Reference for the Environmental Forum.

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Background Papers

None

APPENDICES / ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1 – Environmental Forum Terms of Reference (August 2020)

Appendix 2 – Revised Environmental Forum Terms of Reference (2023-26)

