

	Meeting (No)	Community & Environment (3)
	Date	7 July 2022
	Document	Ref No
	Outline sub-committee terms of reference for consideration	CE3/38a

Background

In 2021 a Transport Sub-committee was established with delegated powers and authority to:

- 1. actively cultivate a network of positive and productive working relationships with key decision-makers and stakeholders;*
- 2. work with partners to develop integrated sustainable transport options for Neston;*
- 3. work with partners to encourage active travel and increase the quality of active travel opportunities;*
- 4. work with partners to improve the management and control of vehicular traffic within Neston;*
- 5. respond to consultations relating to travel and transport;*
- 6. consider support, including financial support, for community transport and car sharing schemes operating within, to and from the council's area.*

On 21/06/22 C&E decided that, given the urgency to address issues of environmental damage, climate crisis and biodiversity loss, consideration should be given to establishing a sub-committee that incorporates public transport and active travel matters within a broader remit to address environmental challenges at a local community level.

Outline sub-committee terms of reference

Councillors may find the following outline terms of reference helpful as a starting point for discussion.

TITLE	Environmental & Sustainability Sub-committee
PURPOSE	In addition to fulfilling statutory environmental responsibilities, the Sub-committee will work with stakeholders and partners to create positive community level change that supports and improves the environment of Neston for the benefit of people and the planet.
REMIT	<p>On behalf of the Community & Environment Committee, the Sub-committee shall have delegated powers and authority to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. actively cultivate a network of relationships with relevant stakeholders and decision-makers; 2. work with partners to develop integrated sustainable transport options for Neston; 3. work with partners to encourage active travel and increase the quality of active travel opportunities; 4. actively seek to engage with and support local projects that contribute to the reduction of emissions;

5. promote environmental awareness within the community and work with the local community in partnerships to achieve environmental change;
6. propose ways in which the Town Council can promote biodiversity and actively seek to engage with and support projects that promote biodiversity;
7. investigate potential projects that could be undertaken to benefit the local environment and make recommendations to the Community & Environment Committee as appropriate;
8. investigate and advise on environmental and sustainability matters as requested by the Community & Environment Committee.

MEMBERSHIP The Sub-committee shall consist of a minimum of three and maximum of five elected Members of Neston Town Council. Its quorum shall be three elected Members of Neston Town Council.

CO-OPTIONS Co-opted members shall be representatives of organisations and individuals who, in the opinion of the Sub-committee, will enhance the effectiveness and representation of the Sub-committee. The maximum number of co-opted members shall be three. The Sub-committee will submit co-option recommendations to the Community & Environment Committee for decision. Co-opted members shall not have voting rights.

For discussion and decision

Listed below are three possible options that the Committee may wish to consider as part of the process of deciding whether to establish an Environmental and Sustainability Sub-committee.

- a) Replace the Transport Sub-committee with an Environmental and Sustainability Sub-committee incorporating the active travel and sustainable transport aspects of the former Transport Sub-committee. If a decision is taken to form an Environmental and Sustainability Sub-committee, terms of reference and membership will need to be agreed.
- b) Do not create an Environmental and Sustainability Sub-committee but instead continue with the Transport Sub-committee using the previously agreed terms of reference.
- c) Postpone creating any sub-committees until the strategic planning process is complete and the Council Plan has been agreed.

If a decision is taken to establish an Environmental and Sustainability Sub-committee, the Committee may wish to consider making a recommendation to Council to amend section C1 of C&E terms of reference to read:

Work collaboratively with stakeholders and partners to preserve and enhance the local environment and create positive innovation opportunities for environmental sustainability, nature recovery and healthy green spaces.

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