



## HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

### **Dissolution of the Climate and Biodiversity Emergency Committee & establishment of it as a sub-committee of the Amenities & CIL Committee**

#### **Background**

The Climate and Biodiversity Emergency committee (CBEC) was established to support Haslemere Town Council's declaration of a climate emergency and to develop a roadmap towards achieving carbon neutrality. The committee's original remit included three main objectives:

1. To prepare a carbon neutral roadmap for the council's operations.
2. To design and implement the council's Green Grants Scheme.
3. To support and encourage community action in reducing carbon emissions and enhancing biodiversity.

Since its establishment, the committee has successfully completed the carbon roadmap and implemented the Green Grants initiative. The third objective—community support and engagement—is now largely being led by well-established local organisations, including Love Haslemere Hate Waste, Transition Haslemere, and Active Travel Haslemere, with the Council continuing to participate as appropriate.

It is therefore considered timely to rationalise the Council's approach to climate and biodiversity matters, to ensure these considerations are embedded throughout all council activities rather than being treated as a stand alone area of work.

#### **Proposal**

Following discussion at the informal meeting on 27 October 2025, and subject to consultation with the CBEC committee, it is proposed that:

1. The Climate and Biodiversity Emergency committee be dissolved as a standing committee of the Council.
2. A new sub-committee of the Amenities & CIL committee be created, consisting of the existing CBEC members.
3. The sub-committee's purpose will be to:
  - Provide comment and advice on environmental issues associated with the Council's open spaces, facilities, and projects.
  - Make recommendations to other standing committees or to Full Council on how the environmental and biodiversity impacts of the Council's work can be considered on a consistent basis—for example, by providing guidance or standard wording for the Council's tender and procurement processes.

- Support the embedding of the Council's environmental aspirations and strategy across all areas of Council business.
4. Cross-committee representation: At least one member of the sub-committee will sit on each standing committee of the Council, to ensure that environmental considerations are integrated into all committee deliberations.
  5. Green Grants administration: The administration and consideration of Green Grants will be transferred to the Finance & Governance committee, to be managed alongside the Council's small grants programme. Members of the Climate sub-committee who sit on Finance & Governance (Cllrs Waters and Bayliss) will provide environmental input where required.

**RECOMMENDED:**

1. The Climate and Biodiversity Emergency committee be dissolved with effect from the date of this meeting.
2. A Climate and Biodiversity sub-committee of the Amenities & CIL committee be established, with membership drawn from the former CBEC members.
3. The Terms of Reference of the sub-committee be brought to the next Full Council meeting.
4. The Finance & Governance committee assume responsibility for the Green Grants Scheme.