



# Agenda

Meeting: **Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group**  
Date: **7 January 2020**  
Time: **12.30 pm**  
Place: **Boulogne Room - Civic Centre Folkestone**

To: Councillors Gary Fuller, Jackie Meade, Ian Meyers, David Monk, Stuart Peall, Georgina Treloar and David Wimble

The Working Group will consider matters listed below on the date and at the time and place shown. This meeting will not be open to the press and public.

1. **Chairman's Welcome**
2. **Apologies for Absence**
3. **Declarations of Interest**
4. **Minutes**

To approve the minutes of the meeting of this Working Group held on 18 October 2019.

5. **General discussion on flood risks in the District**
6. **Update from previous working group meeting**
7. **Climate change strategy**
8. **Letter from the Co-op to the Leader of the Council**

The Co-Op has emailed the Leader thanking the District Council for encouraging the use of compostable bags when collecting food waste. The Co-Op has now asked if the District Council could help in encouraging other Local Authorities to engage in collecting food waste and using compostable bags. The correspondence is attached to this agenda.

**Queries about the agenda? Need a different format?**

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## **Declarations of Interest**

### **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI)**

Where a Member has a new or registered DPI in a matter under consideration they must disclose that they have an interest and, unless the Monitoring Officer has agreed in advance that the DPI is a 'Sensitive Interest', explain the nature of that interest at the meeting. The Member must withdraw from the meeting at the commencement of the consideration of any matter in which they have declared a DPI and must not participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter unless they have been granted a dispensation permitting them to do so. If during the consideration of any item a Member becomes aware that they have a DPI in the matter they should declare the interest immediately and, subject to any dispensations, withdraw from the meeting.

### **Other Significant Interest (OSI)**

Where a Member is declaring an OSI they must also disclose the interest and explain the nature of the interest at the meeting. The Member must withdraw from the meeting at the commencement of the consideration of any matter in which they have declared a OSI and must not participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter unless they have been granted a dispensation to do so or the meeting is one at which members of the public are permitted to speak for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the matter. In the latter case, the Member may only participate on the same basis as a member of the public and cannot participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter and must withdraw from the meeting in accordance with the Council's procedure rules.

### **Voluntary Announcement of Other Interests (VAOI)**

Where a Member does not have either a DPI or OSI but is of the opinion that for transparency reasons alone s/he should make an announcement in respect of a matter under consideration, they can make a VAOI. A Member declaring a VAOI may still remain at the meeting and vote on the matter under consideration.

#### **Note to the Code:**

Situations in which a Member may wish to make a VAOI include membership of outside bodies that have made representations on agenda items; where a Member knows a person involved, but does not have a close association with that person; or where an item would affect the well-being of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc. but not his/her financial position. It should be emphasised that an effect on the financial position of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc OR an application made by a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc would both probably constitute either an OSI or in some cases a DPI.

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# Minutes

## Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group

Held at:	Folkestone Room - Civic Centre Folkestone
Date	Friday, 18 October 2019
Present	Councillors Gary Fuller, Ian Meyers, David Monk, Georgina Treloar and David Wimble
Apologies for Absence	Councillor Jackie Meade
Officers Present:	Kate Clark (Committee Services Officer), Tim Madden (Corporate Director - Customer, Support and Specialist Services), Charlotte Spendley (Assistant Director), Adrian Tofts (Strategy, Policy and Performance Manager) and Hazel Sargent (Low Carbon and Sustainability Specialist)
Others Present:	Carolyn McKenzie (Head of Sustainable Business and Communities, KCC)

### 1. **Chair's Welcome (including purpose of group and Terms of Reference)**

The Leader (Councillor Monk) welcomed attendees to the inaugural meeting and advised that subsequent meetings will be chaired by Councillor Stuart Peall, Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Regulatory Services, Waste and Building Control.

The Leader drew members attention to the Terms of Reference.

### 2. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### 3. **Introduction of Low Carbon & Sustainability Specialist**

Hazel Sargent introduced herself as the District Council's Low Carbon and Sustainability Specialist and was looking forward to this challenging role.

4. **National and Kent scene setting (Carolyn McKenzie, KCC)**

Carolyn McKenzie, Head of Sustainable Business and Communities at Kent County Council introduced herself.

All present also introduced themselves.

A presentation was given to members, comments as follows:

- KCC is preparing an Energy and Low Emissions Strategy. The strategic framework is evidenced based with the action plan being updated annually.
- Air quality – the Government has produced various strategic papers, however net zero emissions target for the area is potentially 2030, evidence shows this is more likely to be the Government's target of 2050. There are a number of hotspots in Kent and Medway areas where vulnerable residents reside.
- Solar/Wind energy – more infrastructure needed, notwithstanding nuclear energy. A move to reduce fossil fuels, further suggestions were wave energy and SSSR.
- EV infrastructure – looking at solar hubs/charging clusters in car parks.
- Aims to ensure construction, operation and material supply of buildings to produce net zero emissions by 2025.
- Consideration for mobility, connectivity, travel and offsetting. Encourage homeworking, superior broadband, alternative ways of travelling.
- LED lighting and heat generation. Very reliant on fossil fuels and important to look at alternative heat sources such as water or sewerage.
- Flood risks – the county council have reviewed flooding areas and the demographics, looking at who can and can't help themselves. Planning at district level looks forward 100 years as part of applications received.
- Building regulations – consultation by central Government, looking at more stringent and less variable regulations to be proposed by 2025.

Members thanked Carolyn for her attendance and informative presentation.

5. **Discussion on priority areas to explore**

Adrian Tofts, Strategy, Policy and Performance Manager, gave a presentation to members, the following comments were made:

- Promote the purchase/lease of electrical vehicles.
- Encourage more cycling and walking, the charity Sustrans is a major force in this respect.
- Grants available for charging points and pool EVs
- Lorry Parks – encourage cleaner production of energy within parks.
- Kent and Medway Warm Homes initiative.
- Housing stock – a potential to move away from gas boilers to electric heating

- Recycling excess heat from crematorium sites along with mercury abatement.
- SALIX loans are available which provides interest free, Government backed finance to the public sector.
- Tree planting forward plan. A green infrastructure plan has been prepared that will identify projects that may include tree planting.

6. **Agreed actions and next steps**

1. Costings and/or action plans on items discussed today.
2. Ask Cllr Tony Hills and Max Tant (Flood and Water Manager, KCC) to attend the next working group with a view to addressing flooding risks in the district.
3. Recommend to Council that electric vehicles, charging points, costs and location are considered when replacing fleet vehicles.
4. Recommend to Council that the Civic Centre building energy impact on climate change is explored and costed
5. Promote reduction of food waste, packaging and healthy diets to all residents using a communication channel plan, such as 'Your District Today'.

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Cllr David Monk  
Leader of the Council  
Folkestone and Hythe District Council

By email: [david.monk@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](mailto:david.monk@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)

18/12/19

Dear Cllr Monk,

As you will be aware, the Co-op operates as a business over several different sectors including as a leading convenience food retailer. We believe action on plastics and packaging is as much of a concern for our members and customers as it is for us. We firmly believe in the power of working together to develop solutions, inspire change and bring together the industry and shoppers.

**I'm writing today to thank you for being one of the 178 Local Authorities who accept our compostable carrier bags in your food waste collection service.** We've now been able to replace single use plastic bags with compostable carrier bags in over 1,100 stores. As well as saving 311 tonnes of single use plastic annually, the more important impact is that it is helping divert methane producing food waste from landfill. We know this because the biggest barriers to engaging in food waste collection for residents are cleanliness and convenience, both of which our bags are helping to address.

We're now in the process of engaging Local Authorities to encourage them to introduce food waste collection where this service is not yet provided, and to accept our compostable carrier bags where they are currently rejected. I would welcome any opportunity that you have to share with your counterparts in such Local Authorities how you have been working with us. As noted, accepting our compostable carrier bags to give your residents a more environmentally friendly option when on-the-go that reduces the use of single use plastic, and encourages them to use their kerbside food waste collection service, thus diverting the amount of food waste ending up in landfill. It's a great story to be able to share about how we can all start to take steps to tackle the climate emergency that we're facing.

Kind regards,



Iain Ferguson  
Environment Manager

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