

Agenda item 4

For decision – Proposed Environmental Resilience Framework

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Our agreed Strategy states that ‘we will work with the community to enhance our shared local environment, including local green spaces and the river, to improve air quality, and to make Frome clean and welcoming.’

As we have worked to develop our Climate Emergency Strategy & Action Plan, we have reflected that there is a need to consider how we can better join up the work of the Council in enhancing our local environment and address some of the challenges that the local community faces e.g. pollution, threats to biodiversity and the impact of carbon emissions. What is needed is an ‘Environmental Resilience Framework’ to ensure that we thoroughly address a wide range of cross-cutting environmental issues, develop the community’s resilience in the face of these challenges and ensure that environmental resilience is ‘mainstreamed’ i.e. is taken into account in everything that we do as a Council.

Amongst other things, this approach could take in our response to recent work by the Friends of the River Frome to identify a way forward in managing the River Frome, the requirement for a town-wide green infrastructure plan (as set out in the Neighbourhood Plan) and a review of the management of FTC’s own land in terms of improving biodiversity as well as access and amenity. The first element of the framework to be implemented would be our work programme to address climate change (as set out in the next report).

The proposal is to commit to establishing an Environmental Resilience Framework and use the next 12 months to join up our work on the environment, ensure that environmental resilience is considered in everything we do, explore what new initiatives could be pursued and consider how this work could be funded, monitored and evaluated.

Recommendations

1. The Council responds to the 2018 climate emergency declaration by establishing an Environmental Resilience Framework (ERF) that:
 - a. provides an overarching and cross-cutting framework for the Council’s work addressing climate change and environmental issues, targeting CO₂ emission reduction, mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity and ecological concerns
 - b. explores new initiatives to be pursued
 - c. ensures that environmental resilience is taken into account in everything that we do as a Council
 - d. identifies appropriate methods of monitoring and evaluation
2. Delegate authority to the Town Clerk to develop a Framework and a costed programme of existing and proposed work