

Environment, Amenities and Infrastructure committee

Terms of Reference

Agreed by town council 18.05.2026, minute T7/26

- i) **Membership:** Seven Councillors plus the plus the Mayor and the Chair of the Finance, Governance and Asset Management committee (ex officio).

- ii) **Committee Purpose:**
 - (1) **Strategic:** to address the council's key objectives:
 - 1. To respond effectively and speedily to the climate emergency.
 - 2. To develop a resilient, sustainable town that will provide a home for residents now and in the future.

 - (2) **Operational:** Agree performance standards for identified functions set out below and periodically review process efficiency and operational performance against those standards. Oversee all matters related to amenities and recreation falling within the purview of Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council:
 - (a) Adverse weather arrangements;
 - (a) Allotments;
 - (b) Abingdon in Bloom;
 - (c) Cemeteries - burials and maintenance;
 - (d) Closed Churchyards;
 - (e) Consultations on all infrastructure matters
 - (f) Direct infrastructure
 - (g) Fisheries;
 - (h) Maintenance of trees on Town Council land and working towards increasing tree cover;
 - (i) Recreation areas, play areas, the town's open spaces, amenity land and sports pitches;
 - (j) Roysse Court garden;
 - (k) War memorial;
 - (l) Keeping the town tidy through grounds maintenance, litter picking and general management on areas which are the responsibility of the Town Council and where there is an agency agreement with another authority to provide such services;
 - (m) The Council's Works Depot, transport, plant and equipment;
 - (n) Development and delivery of a biodiversity strategy;
 - (o) working with other landowners and organisations to achieve the Town Council's strategic objectives.

iii) **Specific Delegations**

1. To review council services and internal operations and make recommendations on ways in which the council can reduce damage to the global and the local environment through its policies and practices in the delivery of its services.
2. To consider the Council's environmental initiatives, and in particular to co-ordinate and make recommendations relating to its policies relating to the environment.
3. To advise on how the council can contribute to:
 - a. national legally binding targets on the climate emergency
 - b. countywide targets on the climate emergency through the Oxfordshire Local Environment Partnership (OEP)
 - c. the Strategic Vision for Sustainable Development in Oxfordshire
4. To establish service policies, approve programmes of work, monitor performance and take decisions in respect of those operational areas detailed above
5. To regularly review the council's progress to comply with the agreed motion of 20 March 2019 to make Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council as carbon neutral as possible by 2030. -
6. To provide community leadership and raise awareness in relation to the climate emergency and sustainability, working with and engaging with public sector partners, businesses, community groups and residents.
7. To oversee bids for funding relating to the climate emergency and improving the environmental impact of its actions.
8. To establish service policies, approve programmes of work, monitor performance and take decisions in respect of operational areas.
9. To oversee all arrangements within the town relating to recreation areas and open spaces, including the responsibilities of the various local authorities and arrangements in place for the management and maintenance of open spaces.
10. To oversee the provision of allotments and cemeteries.
11. Direct infrastructure services and projects including street furniture in areas which are the responsibility of the town council.
12. To consider other matters relating to the physical environment of the town which are not under the direct control of the council, including disabled access issues (excluding those relating to Town Council services), and recycling of waste materials.
13. To support active travel in and around Abingdon.
14. To work in partnership with public sector, private sector and third sector bodies to support and enhance the local economy.
15. To lobby infrastructure actors and providers in respect of Abingdon priorities relating to the town council's strategic objectives.
16. To consider all matters relating to highways, footpaths and bridleways, and to make representations to other authorities regarding these matters.

17. To consider all other consultations as may in relation to services operated in the town including leisure and recreation, health care/ service provision and policing and, if the Committee considers it to be necessary and taking in to account the timescale of the consultation, to refer such consultations on to other Council committees.
18. To support active travel in and around Abingdon, including responsibility for the budgets in relation to transport.