

City of Durham Parish Council

Environment Committee Terms of Reference

Council has created the Environment Committee, consisting of six members, and will appoint members of the Council to the Environment Committee at the Annual Meeting in May, or as it sees fit. A quorum for this Committee will be no less than three members. It has assigned to the Environment Committee the following terms of reference: -

1. To choose its Chair and Vice Chair from within the membership of the committee.
2. To hold meetings as and when required.
3. To discuss matters relating to its Powers and Duties under the following three headings:

Subject to the approval of the Council and an annual review at the May Annual meeting of the Council, the Committee may co-opt up to two non-Councillors who represent a specific area of interest or to provide informed contributions relating to the Committee's Terms of Reference.

Co-opted non-Councillors have the right to any document to be discussed or considered by the Committee. Their appointment is governed by the Council's Standing Orders.

Powers and Duties

Climate matters:

- a) To advise the Parish Council on all issues relating to climate change, in order to minimise the impact or reduce harmful factors and to encourage the Council to work pro-actively to improve climate matters locally and work with all partners and other related agencies to give adequate regard to environment and climate issues;
- b) To respond on all matters of general environmental importance affecting the area and to consider and comment on any policies or procedures of any other agencies;
- c) To make appropriate representations to any relevant agency in relation to any incident, event or action which in the opinion of the Council is detrimental to the health of the community in its area, in particular with regard to traffic issues and air quality;
- d) To assist the City of Durham Neighbourhood Planning Forum in the production and implementation of a Neighbourhood Plan, in so far as it relates to environmental matters.

Open spaces, woodland and commons:

- e) To consider and make recommendations to the Council in relation to the improvement, maintenance and usage of the Council's open spaces, woodlands, amenity areas, village greens and commons;
- f) To take steps for the provision of allotments, where there is an identified demand, within the council's area and to undertake the management, regulation and control of any allotments so provided;
- g) To consider, monitor and make recommendations on the operation of the Council's trading activities in relation to allotments.

Streets, footways and passages:

- h) To advise and make recommendations to the statutory and agency functions of the Council in relation to the lighting of footways and streets.
- i) To advise and make recommendations to the Council in relation to the provision of litter bins and litter offences;
- j) To promote improvements in the appearance, cleanliness and amenity of streets, both commercial and residential, within the Council's administrative area;
- k) To have responsibility, within the law, and the appropriate budget, for the removal of graffiti from buildings or structures within the Council's administrative area.
- l) To advise and make recommendations to the Council in relation to the drainage, cleaning or dealing with, any pond, ditch or gutter.
- m) To consider and made recommendations to the Council in relation to rights of way and to the repair and maintenance of public footpaths and bridleways;
- n) To consider and make recommendations to the Council in relation to the provision of vehicle parking and cycle racks;
- o) To consider and make recommendations to the Council in relation to the provision and maintenance of bus shelters.
- p) To consider and make recommendations to the Council on matters relating to traffic calming measures and other road safety matters.

Within the budget agreed by the Council, the Committee will engage in relevant activities related to the above and will from time to time engage appropriately qualified individuals or bodies to assist the Committee in exercising the powers set out above.

Date adopted: May 2022

Date to be reviewed: May 2023