

Environment Excellence Policy Development Panel

Agenda

Members of the Panel:

To be confirmed at the 27 May 2021
Annual General Meeting of Council

Date & Time:

3 June 2021 6.00pm

Place:

Council Chamber Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich

Contact:

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PUBLIC ATTENDANCE:

If a member of the public would like to attend to speak on an agenda item, please email your request to committee.services@broadland.gov.uk, no later than 5.00pm Friday 28 May 2021. Please see further guidance on the options for public speaking at page 2 of this agenda.

Rules on Public Speaking

All public speakers are required to register a request to speak at public meetings by the date / time stipulated on the relevant agenda. Requests should be sent to:
committee.services@broadland.gov.uk

Public speaking can take place:

- Through a written representation (which will be read out at the meeting)
- In person at the Council offices

Attendance in person should only be as a last resort.

Please note that due to the current rules on social distancing, the Council cannot guarantee that you will be permitted to attend the meeting in person. No more than 20 people are permitted in the Council Chamber at any one time and the numbers of public speakers permitted in the room will vary for each meeting. Democratic Services will endeavour to ensure that each relevant group (i.e. supporters, objectors, representatives from parish councils and local members) can be represented at meetings for public speaking purposes.

All those attending the meeting in person must, sign in on the QR code for the building and promptly arrive at, and leave the venue. The hand sanitiser provided should be used and social distancing must be observed at all times. Further guidance on what to do on arrival will follow once your public speaking registration has been accepted.

AGENDA

1. To receive declarations of interest under Procedural Rule no 8 4
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2021 6
4. Environmental Strategy Update
5. Feedback on the Government Waste Consultation to follow
6. Waste Procurement Update
7. Exclusion of the press and public

The Chairman will move that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining items of business because otherwise, information which is exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by The Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, would be disclosed to them.
8. Food and Garden Waste Contracts to follow

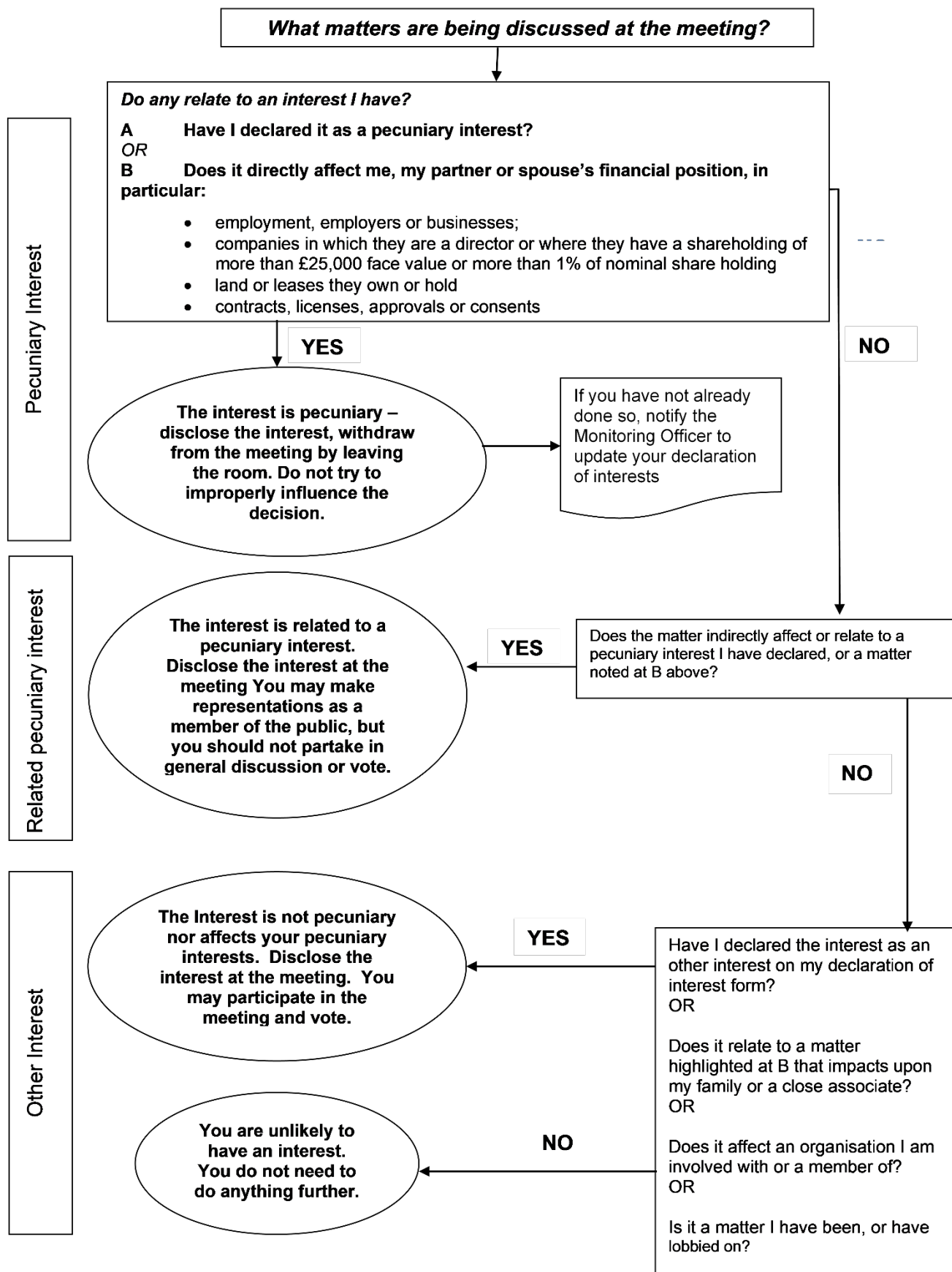
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AT MEETINGS

When declaring an interest at a meeting Members are asked to indicate whether their interest in the matter is pecuniary, or if the matter relates to, or affects a pecuniary interest they have, or if it is another type of interest. Members are required to identify the nature of the interest and the agenda item to which it relates. In the case of other interests, the member may speak and vote. If it is a pecuniary interest, the member must withdraw from the meeting when it is discussed. If it affects or relates to a pecuniary interest the member has, they have the right to make representations to the meeting as a member of the public but must then withdraw from the meeting. Members are also requested when appropriate to make any declarations under the Code of Practice on Planning and Judicial matters.

<p>Have you declared the interest in the register of interests as a pecuniary interest? If Yes, you will need to withdraw from the room when it is discussed.</p>
<p>Does the interest directly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. affect yours, or your spouse / partner's financial position? 2. relate to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to you or your spouse / partner? 3. Relate to a contract you, or your spouse / partner have with the Council 4. Affect land you or your spouse / partner own 5. Affect a company that you or your partner own, or have a shareholding in <p>If the answer is "yes" to any of the above, it is likely to be pecuniary.</p> <p>Please refer to the guidance given on declaring pecuniary interests in the register of interest forms. If you have a pecuniary interest, you will need to inform the meeting and then withdraw from the room when it is discussed. If it has not been previously declared, you will also need to notify the Monitoring Officer within 28 days.</p>
<p>Does the interest indirectly affect or relate any pecuniary interest you have already declared, or an interest you have identified at 1-5 above?</p> <p>If yes, you need to inform the meeting. When it is discussed, you will have the right to make representations to the meeting as a member of the public, but you should not partake in general discussion or vote.</p>
<p>Is the interest not related to any of the above? If so, it is likely to be an other interest. You will need to declare the interest, but may participate in discussion and voting on the item.</p>
<p>Have you made any statements or undertaken any actions that would indicate that you have a closed mind on a matter under discussion? If so, you may be predetermined on the issue; you will need to inform the meeting, and when it is discussed, you will have the right to make representations to the meeting as a member of the public, but must then withdraw from the meeting.</p>

**FOR GUIDANCE REFER TO THE FLOWCHART OVERLEAF.
PLEASE REFER ANY QUERIES TO THE MONITORING OFFICER IN THE FIRST
INSTANCE**

DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF





ENVIRONMENT EXCELLENCE POLICY DEVELOPMENT PANEL

Minutes of a remote meeting of the Environment Excellence Policy Development Panel of Broadland District Council, held on Thursday 25 March 2021 at 6.00pm.

Committee Members Present: Councillors: K S Kelly (Chairman), N J Brennan, (Vice-Chairman), D J Britcher, A D Crotch, J F Fisher, K E Lawrence, G K Nurden, S M Prutton, J M Ward.

Cabinet Member Present: Councillors: J Leggett, TM Mancini-Boyle.

Other Members in Attendance: Councillor: M L Murrell.

Officers in Attendance: The Assistant Director Community Services, Assistant Director Regulatory, Recycling and Partnership Officer, National Management Trainee and Democratic Services Officers (JH, JO).

60 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Cook and Cllr Nurden.

61 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

62 ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY UPDATE

The Assistant Director Regulatory advised the meeting that officers from across the Council were being brought together on a regular basis to deliver many of the wider objectives set out in the Environmental Strategy. This was also providing the opportunity to further develop the Environmental Action Plan. More detail of the work that was being done would be brought to the Panel, as it was progressed.

Environmental Excellence Policy Development Panel

Members were also advised that interviews had taken place for the Environmental Coordinator post and it was anticipated that an appointment would be made shortly.

The National Management Trainee informed the meeting that the tree planting project was progressing well, with trees being planted in public open spaces across the District. The Chairman of the Council had also met with the tree planting contractor last week.

Other related activities were:

- The Norwich Fringe Project had been clearing invasive vegetation in woodland understorey, so that further planting could take place, which would help increase bio-diversity and tree diversity.
- A new Local Authority Treescape Fund had been announced by the Government to increase tree planting and natural regeneration in local communities. This scheme would be coordinated through Norfolk County Council.
- The Broadland Tree Wardens had recruited their highest ever number with 42 Wardens now in place. This showed the level of community interest in the importance of conserving and planting trees.

To seek to enhance local green spaces and following a successful trial last year, some public green spaces in the District would be mown just twice a year, instead of 18 times, to allow long semi-natural grass to grow and encourage flower and insect diversity. Signs would explain the purpose of the project and also encourage residents to leave a patch of long grass in their own gardens. This rewilding project would be cost neutral and could be a good project for incorporating in the Environmental Action Plan, as it had received very positive feedback when an article was published about it in *Broadland News*. The Council would also be following up on the suggestion that parish and town councils be contacted to encourage similar projects on their own green spaces.

Work was also being undertaken to raise the profile of the Environmental Strategy by sharing sections of it on the Council's social media pages.

To help reduce emissions and address the staff travel section in the Environmental Strategy, the Council was to use Liftshare, a car sharing system provider, to help maintain the levels of emissions in lockdown post pandemic.

The Assistant Director Regulatory advised the meeting that Abigail Langley (the National Management Trainee) was coming to the end of her placement and that he would like to thank her for all the hard work that she had put into initiating the delivery of the Environmental Strategy.

The Chairman concurred with these sentiments and thanked Abigail for her excellent work.

A member suggested that it would be useful for the Panel to have some graphic representation of the Environmental Action Plan, as well as more consistency in what was reported to the Panel, so that progress could be identified more clearly. It would also benefit the Panel if they could know what exactly was meant by terms like 'bio-diversity gain', 'environmental gain' and 'rewilding', so they could place them in context for Broadland. In respect of using social media she also noted that with the COP26 climate change conference being held in Glasgow in November that an opportunity had been missed to demonstrate how Broadland could contribute to it through its Environmental Strategy.

In response, the Assistant Director Regulatory confirmed that these points had been noted and would be considered, but he reminded the Panel that the implementation of the projects in the Action Plan were at a very early stage and that a lot of the more detailed structural work, including budgets, would follow once the Environmental Coordinator was in post. It was hoped that the successful applicant would be in place within four to six weeks.

Members were informed that a presentation that explained what was meant by 'rewilding' and what the Council was aiming to achieve by it could be brought to the next meeting of the Panel.

In respect of tree planting a member noted the importance of nurturing young plants until they were established, as many of the trees that had been planted last year were dead through neglect.

In response to a query about encouraging parish councils to plant trees, the Panel was advised that this would be a major piece of work that could only be undertaken once the Environmental Coordinator was in post.

The Assistant Director Regulatory advised members that the Council was developing fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour policies and enforcement sanctions, as part of a wide range of measures that were being drafted.

The Chairman noted that the Panel would be busy with numerous items to consider in the coming months.

63 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the remaining business because otherwise, information which was exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government

Act 1972, would be disclosed to them.

64 CONSULTATION ON REVISIONS TO THE COURTAULD COMMITMENT

The report sought to establish the Council's ongoing commitment to Courtauld 2025, which was currently being revised and to conclude if the Council wished to remain a signatory.

The Courtauld Commitment was a voluntary agreement aimed at improving resource efficiency and reducing waste within the UK grocery sector.

The Council originally became a signatory to the Courtauld Commitment 2025 on the 16 September 2019 and had joined over 150 organisations ranging from manufacturers to retailers and local authorities.

Targets were based on collective action, with signatories agreeing to work towards the following three targets by 2025:

- A 20 percent per person reduction in food and drink waste associated with production and consumption of food and drink in the UK, post the farm gate.
- A reduction in impact associated with water use and water stress in the supply chain.
- A 20 percent per person reduction in the greenhouse gas emissions associated with production and consumption of food and drink in the UK.

Members were asked to note that the content of the review was for signatories only and could not be shared in the public domain.

It was confirmed that each signatory was required to submit an annual report, but were under no obligation to submit data, as it was a collective commitment.

It was noted that the collection of food waste was clear evidence of the Council's commitment to reducing food waste.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance also noted that the commitment gelled well with the aims of the Food Innovation Centre to reduce transportation emissions and promote low carbon technology and processes to support businesses to innovate and reduce their carbon footprint.

The Chairman noted that by remaining a signatory the Council would be aligning its ambitions with the Environment Protection Act that was expected to enter into legislation later in the year.

A vote was undertaken by a show of hands and it was unanimously

AGREED

to support the current Courtauld Commitment 2025 /revised Courtauld 2030 and recommend to Cabinet that the Council remains a signatory, providing support through existing work streams and publicising the messages where appropriate.

65 WASTE SERVICES PROCUREMENT UPDATE

The Panel were advised that the procurement for the Waste Contract was at the initial tender evaluation stage. The deadline for submitting bids for the contract was 19 March 2021 and these were now being assessed with a view to making a recommendation to Cabinet in June 2021.

Members were also advised that a consultation was underway on changes to the Resource Waste Management Strategy. Key areas were plans for a deposit return scheme and an extended producer responsibility for packaging. It might be necessary for an informal meeting of the Panel, if members were to consider the Council's response prior to the close of the consultation on 4 June 2021. It was confirmed that officers would liaise with the Chairman regarding this issue.

(The meeting concluded at 6.52 pm)

Chairman