

**TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL  
BUDGET AND POLICY COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> MAY 2023**

**BRIEFING NOTE  
SUSTAINABILITY & THE ENVIRONMENT**

**1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Committee will recall Council previously established a Sustainability and Environment Working Group in 2019 and agreed in August 2022 to:
- a) Receive and Endorse the final report of the Working Group at the Budget & Policy Committee Meeting on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022
  - b) Thereafter wind down the Sustainability and Environment Working Group
  - c) On 6 monthly intervals to report on Tavistock Town Council's environmental and sustainability programs, policies and priorities to the Budget and Policy Committee for review, including the identification of possible funding streams that may be available to Council to action priorities
  - d) That each Year as part of the Budget setting process the Budget & Policy Committee consider the priorities in the report so that where resource and funding allow, Tavistock Town Council is able to progress environmental and climate actions in an effective and supported manner.

**2. THE CURRENT SITUATION**

- 2.1 Appended is the Sustainability and Environment Workgroup report which was previously circulated, with amendments and updates to reflect further progress regarding identified objectives, which have occurred post August 22, for the new Council to consider as a baseline.
- 2.2 Going forward, the appended will be reformatted to reflect updates and new actions, with a reference back to the inception report, (format to be agreed), following the timelines identified 1.1 c), with a slight realignment at the next submission, considering the delay on this cycle, so as to present to the new Council, but recognising the report needs to be aligned to the budget setting process.

2.3 It is worth recognising that the above process aligns with the Environment Act 2021 where Public authorities who operate in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England, strengthened by the 'biodiversity duty' meaning that, as a public authority, you must:

- a) Consider what you can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- b) Agree policies and specific objectives based on your consideration.
- c) Act to deliver your policies and achieve your objectives.

Plus we are producing the equivalent of biodiversity reports as identified under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

3.1 If Committee and Council are minded to support the foregoing it is recommended that the approach, as set out, be endorsed.

**WAYNE SOUTHALL  
GENERAL MANAGER  
MAY 2023  
TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL**