



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

CLIMATE CHANGE TASK GROUP

General

The Climate Change Task Group (“the Group”) was established to work up, prioritise and undertake actions to fulfil the aims and objectives of the Climate Change Emergency resolution that was made by Ramsgate Town Council on 2nd February 2022.

The Group is advisory by nature, reporting to Ramsgate Town Council’s Finance & General Purposes Committee (or full Council as appropriate). The Group has no powers of expenditure, other than that which is delegated to officers.

The purpose of the Group is to influence, facilitate, communicate and carry out projects (subject to approval by the Finance & General Purposes Committee/full Council) that will result in a lower carbon footprint for the Ramsgate parish area. At all times the Group will seek to work with local residents (particularly younger residents) and businesses, both through inviting their participation and by advertising its work as widely as possible.

Membership, Chairing and Quorum

Membership	Open to all Councillors and members of the public (at the discretion of the Chair).
Appointments/Removals from Office	By resolution of Finance & General Purposes Committee / full Council.
Restrictions on Appointment	None
Quorum	3
Number of ordinary meetings per Council Year	Minimum of 4; these can be face-to-face or held virtually.
Chair	To be appointed by the Task Group. The Chair to be a Councillor.
Terms of Reference	Once approved, can be amended as requested by the Group, by the Finance & General Purposes Committee and/or full Council.

Terms of Reference

Areas to be covered and activities that the Group will carry out should include:

- changes the Council can make to reduce its own carbon footprint.
- how the Council can share information with the community, including the business community, and raise awareness of actions individuals and workplaces can take.
- how the Council can work with other Councils to help ensure our joint effectiveness, including using its influence with higher tier Councils where appropriate.
- how Council resources for this work can be maximized & used most effectively.

Actions under the first of these may include:

- Advising and encouraging the Council in its progress towards ensuring that all Council buildings are as energy efficient as possible, that energy is not wasted, that the Council uses green energy sources and environmentally friendly products, limits the use of paper and plastics, especially single-use plastics, conserves water and reduces waste, recycling as much as possible.
- Helping the Council plan for a green community in the Ramsgate Neighbourhood Plan and support and promoting the climate change initiatives of the Government, District & County Council.
- Campaigning to protect important open spaces in Ramsgate and extend them where possible. Supporting the Council's aspiration of creating a Jubilee Forest to promote biodiversity and increase the green canopy in Ramsgate.
- Examining the existing powers of Councils on environmental issues and climate change, and campaigning to reduce pollution in Ramsgate and its marine environment.

The Group will regularly report back to the Finance and General Purposes Committee either through the minutes of the group or through a report on a topic. The Group will work to a plan of action for each Council year that will be revised at the Group's first meeting each year and that is realistic, measurable and deliverable.

Officers will attend to support the Group as necessary. The Group may invite other parties to attend and to contribute to meetings as it decides.

The Group will fix its own timetable for meetings. Agendas and Minutes will be issued and published on the Council website.

An officer will be designated as the lead officer for the Task Group.

Notes;

These Terms of Reference were approved by the Finance & General Purposes Committee on 8th June 2022, revised in June 2023 in respect of the role of Chair, and again by the Task Group in August 2023 following its first meeting of the 2023-24 Council year.