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**Lewes District Council**

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**STRATEGIC CLIMATE AND NATURE BOARD**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE 2024**



**Lewes District Council**

## INTRODUCTION

The Strategic Climate and Nature Board (SCNB) is the main board advising on climate and nature activities within the council.

The Climate Change declaration made by the council in 2019 and the subsequent central positioning of climate change and sustainability in the corporate plan for 2020 – 2024 demonstrated the central importance of this area of work to the council. In 2024, the adoption of the new corporate plan with a central theme of climate, nature and food systems built on this. The cross-cutting nature of this work provides a challenge for the council; ensuring that sustainability remains central across all services.

The purpose of this board is to ensure that the overarching goals of delivering sustainable solutions alongside adaptation measures is achieved across the range of the council's work. In particular, the board will enable the considerable capital allocations in this area to be provided with a thorough oversight.

The Board provides a corporate focus on Climate and Nature, advising the Cabinet Member for Climate, Nature and Food Systems, and ensuring that across all services appropriate focus is retained on climate and nature.

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### 1.0 Membership

#### 1.1 Councillors

Consists of 5 members.

#### 1.2 Officers

Ian Fitzpatrick – Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning  
Homira Javadi – Director of Finance and Performance (Chief Finance Officer – S151 Officer)

Jo Harper – Head of Business Planning and Performance

Lee Banner – Assistant Director, Neighbourhood and Transformation

Kate Richardson – Sustainability Lead

#### 1.3 SCNB is normally chaired by the Cabinet Member for Climate, Nature and Food Systems

1.3.1 Recommendations on issues being brought before the group will be by consensus.

1.3.2 At least two Councillors (one being from the administration) and one officer should be present to form the quorum and recommendations at each meeting.

## **2.0 Responsibilities**

2.1 SCNB will act in an **advisory** capacity to the Cabinet in the discharge of its executive powers and to Directors in the discharge of his/her delegated powers and be responsible for:

- Ensuring decisions and recommendations around climate and nature capital spend and major projects are taken in line with corporate aims and objectives;
- Considering progress of strategic climate and nature projects and making recommendations where appropriate;

## **3.0 Frequency of Meetings**

3.1 Meetings will be scheduled quarterly but may be cancelled if there are insufficient agenda items to warrant a meeting.

3.2 The Director of Regeneration and Planning may call an additional extraordinary SCNB meeting or agree to seek a consensus virtually if, in their view, a matter needs to be considered urgently.

## **4.0 Confidentiality**

4.1 SCNB may be presented with information that is deemed to be confidential, often for reasons of commercial sensitivity. Release of the information could have a detrimental impact on the Council's commercial activities, or of third parties. Board members must undertake to respect the confidential nature of such information (where relevant).

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