



# CONSTITUTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR STANDING COMMITTEE COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

*(Approved at AMC 21/05/2024)*

## **Membership**

The Committee shall consist of seven Members appointed by the Council and may elect a Vice-Chairman to deputise for the Chairman in all respects. The meeting quorum shall be three.

## **Broad areas of competence of the Committee**

Planning applications  
Allotments  
Enhancement of the environment  
Highways and public transport  
Cultural and community development  
Health and wellbeing of the community

## **Terms of reference of the Committee**

The Committee shall have delegated spending powers in line with the budget established at the Annual Budget meeting of the Council. On behalf of the Council, the committee shall have delegated powers and authority to:

### **A Planning**

- 1 consider and make representations with respect to:
  - a) all the Local Planning Authority's consultations relating to Local Development plans;
  - b) applications made to the Local Planning Authority for development planning matters relating to land and property within the Neston Town Council area and other applications having an impact on the area or its inhabitants;
  - c) consultations or proposals by the Local Planning Authority relating to conservation;
  - d) the manner in which the condition of untied sites within the Council area is dealt with by the Local Planning Authority;
  - e) proposals by the Borough Council or Government Departments on public rights of way matters, and proposals by the Borough Council to make Orders for the modification of the statutory Public Rights of Way Definitive Map and Statement and to authorise the attendance of Members and/or Officers at inquiries or hearings into such matters, except that the engagement of professional representation shall be subject to the approval of full Council;
  - f) proposals by the Highway Authority with respect to highways, traffic regulation issues and orders, signage and streetscape and the authorisation of attendance at inquiries in connection with such matters;
- 2 consider and make representations to the Government's Planning Inspectorate or other appropriate bodies either in support of, or against, planning and enforcement appeals made by owners and developers of land and property and to authorise the

attendance of Members and/or officers at local inquiries or hearings into such appeals, except that the engagement of professional representation shall be subject to the approval of full Council;

- 3 ensure that all Members of the Council have an opportunity to comment on planning applications and take these comments into account, including the option to refer controversial applications to full Council in routine or emergency session;
- 4 take the lead in all matters relating to a statutory Neighbourhood Plan;

#### **B Allotments**

- 1 monitor the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the management of the council's allotments;
- 2 consider and agree appropriate policies, rules, regulations and scale of charges in relation to the allotments;
- 3 implement proposals to enhance the attractiveness and utility of the allotments and the appropriateness of consultation with tenants;
- 4 approve expenditure required for the maintenance and improvements;
5. develop and implement policies in relation to the management the Council's allotments and ensure adequate arrangements for their management and maintenance and for consultation with tenants.

#### **C Environment**

- 1 work collaboratively with stakeholders and partners to preserve and enhance the local environment and create positive innovation opportunities for environmental sustainability, nature recovery and healthy green spaces;
- 2 develop and secure the implementation of a cycling plan with provision of connected routes and appropriate publicity materials, and improvements in parks and gardens, within the council area;
- 3 develop and sustain the Council's policies in relation to the greening of the Council area;
- 4 develop partnerships and seek external funding to implement a programme designed to reduce the impact of mosquitoes in the area;
- 5 ensure that all the activities of the Council have regard to environmental considerations;
- 6 monitor the use and condition of public rights of way other than highways within the Council's area and make appropriate recommendations for improvements to appropriate bodies;
- 7 monitor the implementation of the Neston Neighbourhood Plan and promote its policies and aspirations;

#### **D Transport**

- 1 actively cultivate a network of positive and productive working relationships with key decision makers and stakeholders;
- 2 consider and promote improvements in the management and control of vehicular traffic in the Council's area;
- 3 make recommendations to the Council in relation to any other local transport matters;

- 4 consider requests for changes in traffic management on roads within the Council's area and appropriate financial support for such requests, and submit supported requests to the Highways Authority.

### **E Partnerships and Engagement**

1. ensure links and communication networks are made with voluntary and other community organisations within the local area;
2. develop a communication strategy for adoption by Council;
3. monitor the effectiveness of the council's communication and update its statement of community engagement action plan;
4. assist groups working with vulnerable sections of the community to build capacity and coordination;
5. develop and promote activities that support local democracy and citizenship in the area.

### **F Grants**

- 1 formulate policies relating to the granting of financial support to organisations operating within the Council's area;
- 2 determine and maintain systems by which organisations operating in the Council's area may apply to the Council for financial assistance in accordance with the Council's policies;
- 3 grant financial assistance to organisations operating in the Council's area in accordance with the Council's policies;
- 4 monitor the compliance and performance of beneficiaries of the grants system and report to full council quarterly on the impact of the grants programme;

### **G Health, wellbeing and recreation**

- 1 develop and implement council initiatives that improve the health and wellbeing of the community, including sport and exercise, leisure facilities, recreation, public service and community learning;
- 2 support where appropriate the actions of other bodies that are working to enhance the wellbeing of residents in the Council's area;
- 3 work with others in the provision of festival activities and decorations, including but not exclusively, those relating to Christmas, Village Fair and Ladies Day;
- 4 undertake periodic reviews of the Council's Statement of Community Engagement and make any recommendations for amendment to the Council;
- 5 consider all applications made in relation to premises licensing and make representations to the licensing authority as appropriate.
- 6 establish a strategy and programme in relation to public safety in liaison with the police and other statutory and voluntary organisations.