

Action for the Environment Group

HARROGATE DISTRICT



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Secretary:

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Action for the Environment Group – Terms of Reference

Purpose

The Action for the Environment Group brings together key organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors in order to champion environmental causes throughout the Harrogate District, and to improve the district's environmental wellbeing through a coordinated approach.

Aims

- To help identify key issues and priorities for local environmental policy.
- To help inform the process of Harrogate Borough Council's policy development regarding environmental issues; and provide an avenue for views to be fed back to the relevant Council Cabinet Member or Council Meeting.
- To be an influential body on the Harrogate District Strategic Partnership and to contribute to the development and implementation of the Harrogate District Sustainable Community Strategy.
- To develop, promote, implement and monitor initiatives and actions, which engage a wide range of organisations and individuals in collaborative work and contribute to the environmental wellbeing of the Harrogate District.

Membership

Members include:

- 2 Councillors: (Cabinet Member for Environment and Cabinet Member for Resources)
- Environmental Strategy Manager (and other officers as required to address or respond to specific issues).
- Representatives of public, private, voluntary and community organisations covering the environmental interests of the Harrogate District; and individuals with an interest in environmental issues.

The Chair and Vice-chair are elected annually by Action for the Environment Group members. The Chair and Vice-chair cannot also be Councillors.

Group members who attend meetings as representatives of their own organisations should report back to their own organisation and inform the Group of their organisation's news when relevant.

The Group is a member organisation of the Harrogate District Strategic Partnership, and nominates one member to sit on the Partnership's Executive Committee.

Group Actions

Campaigns

- The Group should identify two themes each year, to form the basis of two six-month campaigns.
- Group members will plan a strategy for campaigning on each issue. For example letters and photo opportunities in the local press, public meetings and attendance at events.

Planning issues

- The Cabinet Member for the Environment will send the Chair of the group details of major planning applications (i.e. ones that are due to go before the Planning Committee).
- In liaison with group members, the Chair will draft responses to applications where this is deemed necessary, in order to suggest appropriate environmental improvements.
- The draft response will be emailed to Group members for comment prior to submission on behalf of the Group