



WEST OXFORDSHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

## WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Name and date of Committee	<b>Council: Wednesday 28 October 2020</b>
Report Number	<b>Agenda Item No. 17</b>
Subject	<b>Motion: Environmental Awards for Businesses</b>
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Cllr Alaa Al-Yousuf, Chairman Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Email: <a href="mailto:alaa.alyousuf@westoxon.gov.uk">alaa.alyousuf@westoxon.gov.uk</a>
Accountable officer	Keith Butler Head of Democratic Services Tel: 01993 861521 Email: <a href="mailto:keith.butler@westoxon.gov.uk">keith.butler@westoxon.gov.uk</a>
Summary/Purpose	To consider the motion proposed and seconded at Council on 26 February 2020, in the context of the comments and recommendation of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
Annex	<a href="#">Annex 1</a> : Draft minute from the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held 1 October 2020
Recommendation	That the Council considers and determines the motion in the light of the recommendation from the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
Corporate priorities	Not applicable.
Key Decision	N/A
Exempt	No
Consultees/ Consultation	None

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1. At the meeting of the Council on 26 February 2020, the following motion was proposed and seconded by Councillors Duncan Enright and Rosa Bolger respectively:

*“In light of the climate emergency, the council will encourage businesses and organisations in the district to adopt more sustainable modes of operation. The council therefore resolves to investigate methods to encourage this by audit and award schemes to recognise good practice. These will include exploring best practice by local authorities, the inclusion of environmental measures in procurement decisions, considering awards similar to environmental health audits for food outlets, and discussion with West Oxfordshire Business Awards (WOBA) about sustainability awards.”*

- 1.2. The motion having been duly proposed and seconded stood referred without discussion to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee for comment and advice.

## **2. MAIN POINTS**

- 2.1. The Committee subsequently considered the matter at its meeting held 1 October and the draft minute and recommendation from that meeting is included in [Annex 1](#).

- 2.2. After a full and detailed discussion, the Committee’s recommendation to Council is: *“That the Council encourages businesses and organisations in the district to adopt more sustainable modes of operation. The Council should ask the Climate Action Working Group to investigate methods to encourage this by audit and award schemes to recognise good practice, including exploring best practice by local authorities, the inclusion of environmental measures in procurement decisions, considering awards similar to environmental health audits for food outlets, and discussion with West Oxfordshire Business Awards (WOBA) about sustainability awards”*.

- 2.3. The Council is invited to consider the recommendation made by the Committee, and is of course free to decide the matter as it sees fit.

## **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

## **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1. None

## **5. RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1. Not applicable

## **6. ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS**

- 6.1. Not applicable.

## **7. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1. None

**Extract from the draft minutes of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee held 1 October 2020**

**MOTION: ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS FOR BUSINESSES**

The Committee considered the motion proposed by Councillor Duncan Enright and seconded by Councillor Rosa Bolger at the meeting of the Council held 26 February 2020:

*“In light of the climate emergency, the council will encourage businesses and organisations in the district to adopt more sustainable modes of operation. The council therefore resolves to investigate methods to encourage this by audit and award schemes to recognise good practice. These will include exploring best practice by local authorities, the inclusion of environmental measures in procurement decisions, considering awards similar to environmental health audits for food outlets, and discussion with West Oxfordshire Business Awards (WOBA) about sustainability awards.”*

The Committee was asked to consider the matter and agree on any comments or recommendations to be submitted to Council.

The Committee was supportive of the motion and noted that some local businesses already promoted their environmental commitment. There was discussion about how the awarding process would be resourced and whether it could be included in existing work streams of the Climate Action Working Group or the Covid-19 Recovery Plan.

It was noted that WOBA already provided awards to local businesses and it was suggested that the Council approach WOBA and ask them to consider including a sustainability award in their programme.

Councillor Enright felt that the motion was a good starting point, worth pursuing and the details could be worked out later.

The Climate Change Manager, Ness Scott, advised that the scheme could be as large or as small as required and quoted some examples of other Local Authorities which ran similar incentives.

Having considered the comments made, the Committee agreed that the motion should be supported and suggested that the awards be included within the work of the Climate Action Working Group.

**RECOMMENDED:** That the Council encourages businesses and organisations in the district to adopt more sustainable modes of operation. The Council should ask the Climate Action Working Group to investigate methods to encourage this by audit and award schemes to recognise good practice, including exploring best practice by local authorities, the inclusion of environmental measures in procurement decisions, considering awards similar to environmental health audits for food outlets, and discussion with West Oxfordshire Business Awards (WOBA) about sustainability awards.