

17 February 2026

To Councillors - Cllr Danny Bonnett (Chair), Cllr Kath Greenman, Cllr Maggie Tyrrell, Cllr Chris Bloor (Vice Chair), Cllr Chris Rowe, Cllr Christine Carter and all non-councillor Committee members

Please take notice that a meeting of the **Climate and Nature Committee** of Thornbury Town Council will be held in the **Council Chamber of the Town Hall** on **Tuesday 17 February 2026 at 7.30 pm**.

All above named Councillors are hereby **summoned**, and non-councillors invited, to attend the above meeting for the purpose of considering and resolving upon the business to be transacted at the meeting as set out hereunder.

SJ Gardham

Sharon Gardham, Climate and Nature Officer

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability), Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety, Human Rights and the need to conserve biodiversity.

Public participation: *Please note that this meeting is open to the public. Please take note of the guidance notes for public participation [provided](#).*

If you would not be physically able to use the stairs in the event of a fire, please inform us of your intention to attend this meeting no later than 9.00am on the Monday before, so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

AGENDA

1. To note any apologies for absence
2. To receive any members' declarations of interest
3. To receive any representations from the public relating to items on the agenda
4. To approve and sign the minutes of the Climate and Nature Committee meeting held on 16 December 2025 (paper attached)
5. To consider dates for decarbonisation planning for 2026 (paper attached).
6. To consider energy efficiency options for the council chamber (paper attached)
7. To consider Climate and Nature role in establishment of a memorial woodland in Thornbury (paper attached)
8. To note plans for the launch of the Watermark Town initiative on Earth Day (paper attached)
9. To note that the deadline for submission of items for inclusion on the next agenda is Tuesday 7 April 2026
10. Date of next meeting - 7.30pm on Tuesday 7 April 2026



THORNBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Climate and Nature Committee Meeting

held on Tuesday 16 December 2025 at 7:30pm at Council Chamber, Town Hall

Members present:	Councillors	Danny Bonnett (Chair) Chris Bloor (Vice Chair) Chris Rowe Christine Carter Kath Greenman Maggie Tyrell
	Non-councillors	Geraldine Barnes (Thornbury in Bloom)
In attendance:		Sharon Gardham (Climate and Nature Officer) Will Hallam (Senior Project Manager, Department for Place, South Gloucestershire Council)
Members absent:	Non-Councillors	Ella Wiggans (Sustainable Thornbury) Guy Rawlinson (Holy Mowers) Emma Young (Plastic Free Thornbury)

CN2526.26 To note any apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were noted from Ella Wiggans (Sustainable Thornbury), Emma Young (Plastic Free Thornbury) and Guy Rawlinson (Holy Mowers).

CN2526.27 To receive any members' declaration of interest.

No declarations of interest were made by members.

CN2526.28 To receive any representations from the public relating to items on the agenda.

There were no representations from the public.

CN2526.29 To approve and sign the minutes of the Climate and Nature Committee Meeting held on 21 October 2025.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Climate and Nature Committee held on 21 October 2025 as an accurate record of the proceedings and the minutes were signed by the Chair.

CN2526.30 To receive a presentation from South Gloucestershire Council on proposed improvements to the Streamside Walk.

Following a presentation from Will Hallam of South Gloucestershire Council on proposed improvements to the Streamside walk, the following were noted:

- The committee noted that any replacement surfaces should be permeable and durable to prevent flooding and minimise future path degradation.
- The committee considered the need for lighting in places along the footpath and discussed the requirement to balance the needs of people using the path (in terms of safety and accessibility) and the needs of wildlife, in

particular bats. A suggestion was made for seasonal lighting which could be switched off when bats are awake and using the streamside corridor.

- A suggestion was made that a volunteering or 'Friends of' Streamside group would be desirable once the improvements have been made to ensure effective ongoing management of the stream and footpaths.
- The codesign process for the Streamside Walk project would benefit from the formation of a temporary, informal working party comprised of councillors and other interested parties. WH noted that this would need to take place rapidly in January and February to support project timescales.

CN2526.30.01: SG to contact those who may be interested in taking part in the codesign process, including committee members, to gain expressions of interest and to pass the details of interested parties to WH so virtual meetings can be organised.

CN2526.30.02: SG to pass the above request for codesign participants to Wendy Sydenham to pass on to members of the Open Spaces Committee.

CN2526.31 To consider TTC participation in the Watermark Town Scheme.

Note: this agenda item was moved to follow the presentation regarding the Streamside project.

It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the discussions that took place at the Thriving Nature working group to proceed with submitting an expression of interest in participating in the programme and work towards gaining Watermark Town status if we are offered the opportunity to do so.

If we are successful in gaining a place on the programme, the plan for public engagement will be discussed at the Thriving Nature working group in January, with a proposal to be brought to the Climate and Nature Committee in February. If we are not successful, we will independently plan engagements on water-related subjects in the same manner.

CN2526.32 To receive an update on the Tiny Forest feasibility study.

It was **RESOLVED** to remove the following sites from consideration for a Tiny Forest:

- Land behind Severn View Family Practice. MT confirmed this site was earmarked for other purposes so could not be considered.
- Land behind Paula's Salon. This site was considered too small for the establishment of the Tiny Forest.
- Badger Road Country Park. This estate is already well used and developed for wildlife.

It was **RESOLVED** that the following sites be subject to further investigation:

- Barley Fields estate, land behind Castle Court Car Park, Tarmac off Easton Hill Road

CN2526.32.01: SG get in touch with schools local to the final shortlisted sites to gauge their interest in participating in a Tiny Forest project and report results to the February Climate and Nature Committee.

CN2526.32.02: MT to investigate whether there are any current Section 106 plans for the site at Barley Fields that may make the establishment of a Tiny Forest unfeasible.

CN2526.33 To consider options for a decarbonisation roadmap and comms plan.

It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the decarbonisation road map and comms plan as suggested and make discussion of its content a standing agenda item on the Thriving Nature working group.

CN2526.34 To note planned in person events for the first four months of 2026.

Planned events for the first four months of 2026 were **NOTED**.

CN2526.34.01: All committee members to let SG know if they would like to help run one or both bird box building sessions on Saturday 14 February (10.30am to 12pm and 12.30pm to 2pm).

CN2526.35 To note that the deadline for submission of items for inclusion on the next agenda is Tuesday 3 February 2026.

The deadline for the submission of items for inclusion on the next agenda was **NOTED**.

CN2526.36 To note the date of the next meeting of the Climate and Nature Committee is Tuesday 17 February 2026 at 7.30pm.

The date of the next meeting of the Climate and Nature Committee was **NOTED**.

The next Thriving Nature Working Group takes place on Tuesday 27 January at **7.00pm**.

Officer Report to Thornbury Town Council Climate and Nature Committee

Report Title: Decarbonisation Road Map – Plan for Completion

Prepared By: Sharon Gardham

Meeting Date: 17.02.2026

Status: For Action



1. Detail

At the December meeting of the Climate and Nature Committee we considered the options and scope of a decarbonisation roadmap for Thornbury Town Council (Minute No. CN2526.33). The approach and scope as outlined briefly below were approved at this meeting.

The decarbonisation roadmap will use TTC's 2022 emissions as a baseline and will include emissions defined in Scope 1 and 2 and some scope 3 (see appendix below). Emissions in the supply chain (scope 3) will be addressed in the separate sustainable procurement and purchasing guidelines, which will be compiled in tandem with the decarbonisation road map.

The decarbonisation road map will include details of actions already taken and will measure the potential impact on carbon output of proposed actions. It will also include a section on communications so that we can share our experience of decarbonisation (good and bad) with other interested parties, organisations, and members of the public.

At the Thriving Nature working group we discussed the timelines for completion of the road map and the stakeholders who should be involved in its composition. We discussed that ideally the road map and associated communications plan should be completed by Autumn 2026.

This will involve drafting the plan, discussions of content at the Thriving Nature working group, presentation of papers for consideration at the Climate and Nature Committee, and recommendations from the Climate and Nature Committee to the wider council (in particular, Finance and General Purpose and Full Council). The Autumn deadline is driven by the requirement to include the business case for decarbonisation projects in budget setting considerations for the 2027-2028 financial year.

The decarbonisation road map will include the following sections:

- Purpose
- Scope and Intent
- Stakeholder Analysis
- Approach
- Benefits
- Plan (on a site-by-site basis)
- Milestones
- Funding Options
- Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting
- Communications Approach and Plan
- Climate Adaptation and Mitigation

2. Implications

Environmental Considerations

As our climate is visibly changing, the need for accelerated decarbonisation becomes more urgent, as does the need to consider measures for climate change adaptation and mitigation. The composition of this road map does not halt or slow actions that are already in train to decarbonise TTC operations. Instead, it will give us a quantifiable view of the distance we have to travel before reaching net zero and the feasibility of achieving this by 2030.

Financial Considerations

Compiling the decarbonisation roadmap will primarily involve the expenditure of officer time in the first instance.

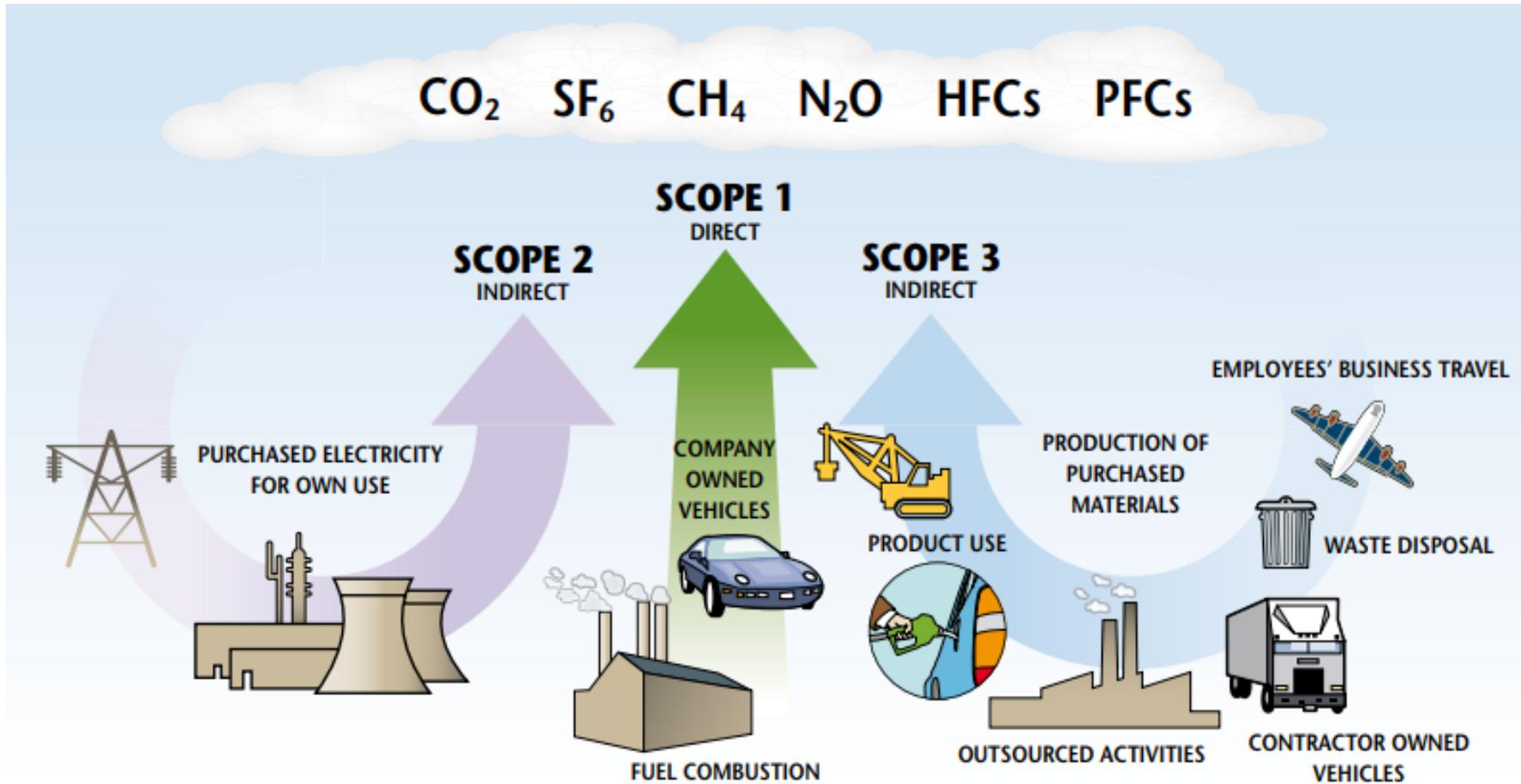
Any additional costs to the Council above and beyond budgets already agreed for Climate and Nature related activities for the coming year will be explored on a case-by-case basis.

3. Recommendations

The committee is asked to:

- Consider and approve the timelines outlined above for the completion of the decarbonisation roadmap.
- Consider the road map sections, make suggestions for additions or deletions and approve the final format.
- Agree that the decarbonisation roadmap be a standing agenda item at the Thriving Nature Working Group until the Autumn 2026.

4. Appendix



Emissions Scope Examples
Source: University of Michigan

Officer Report to Thornbury Town Council Climate and Nature Committee

Report Title: Council Chamber Energy Efficiency Options

Prepared By: Sharon Gardham

Meeting Date: 17.02.2026

Status: For Action



1. Detail

In the 2025-2026 Thornbury Town Council budget there was a sum allocated for Green Projects, which included improving the energy/heat efficiency of the council chamber.

This room has a high apex ceiling and is only partially insulated. It is also infrequently used. These factors result in it being one of the less energy efficient areas of the Town Hall, as identified in the Energy Efficiency report compiled by Severn Wye in January 2024.

In collaboration with the Facilities Manager, the Climate and Nature officer has been considering various options for improving energy efficiency in the council chamber, whilst avoiding excessive impact on the aesthetic and historic qualities of the space.

The options considered are detailed below. Photographs illustrating the options can be seen in the appendix.

Installation of infra-red heating panels

Pros:

- The panels heat the person, rather than the air, making them much more energy efficient
- They can respond very quickly to heating needs, avoiding the need to heat the space ahead of use
- They can maintain a steady ambient temperature if needed
- They run on electricity, which is powered by renewable energy
- They would eliminate the need for gas heating of the council chamber, thus reducing our carbon footprint

Cons:

- They are expensive to install (c. £7,000) and a large number would be needed due to the size and capacity of the room
- They run on electricity, which is more expensive per kilowatt hour than gas

Installation of a suspended ceiling with insulation behind

Pros:

- Improved thermal efficiency and reduced energy costs
- There is no additional energy cost to run once installed

Cons:

- Relatively expensive (c.£2000 without insulation, c.£2500 with)
- Negatively impacts character of space
- Gas central heating of the chamber would still be required

Installation of insulating or acoustic panels to ceiling

Pros:

- There is an option to use sustainable materials (e.g., wool)
- There is no additional energy cost to run once installed
- Improved thermal efficiency and reduced energy costs

Cons:

- Not as efficient as suspended ceiling or fitted panels
- Cost relatively high (c. £3,000)
- Would have an impact on the character of the space
- Gas central heating of the chamber would still be required

Low velocity heat recirculation fans

Pros:

- Relatively cheap, quick and easy to install (c. £1000 - £1500)
- Limited impact aesthetically
- Improves energy efficiency by up to 30%, reducing carbon emissions and costs
- Can cool the space in the summer months, which may become increasingly important as summer heatwaves become more prevalent
- They run on electricity, which is powered by renewable energy

Cons:

- Doesn't improve overall thermal efficiency
- May be some background noise whilst running
- Uses electricity so there are some running costs associated with them
- Gas central heating of the chamber would still be required

2. Implications

Environmental Considerations

Whilst all the options described would have environmental benefits overall, some have a relatively larger impact than others when consideration is given to the environmental impact of purchasing, installing and running the solution. The balance of environmental benefits versus costs and impact on chamber aesthetics has driven the recommendations below

Economic Considerations

When weighing the different options, consideration has been given to the cost of installation and energy to run versus the overall energy efficiency savings.

The Green Projects budget is only available until the end of March 2026, and no specific monies have been allocated for Green Projects in 2026-2027.

3. Recommendations

The following options are **not** recommended:

- Infra-red panels: The high cost of installation and the higher cost of running the panels (approximately double the existing running costs of gas central heating) make this option unpalatable. A large number of panels would need to be manufactured and installed to support this option, with associated environmental impacts.
- Suspended ceiling: Whilst this option is likely to have the largest impact on energy efficiency, it would have a severe negative impact on the character of the space, making

this option unpalatable. The materials used in suspended ceilings are not generally environmentally sympathetic.

- Insulation or acoustic panels in ceiling: Whilst this is likely the most environmentally friendly option to install due to the option for using natural materials, the cost versus energy savings are uncertain. The panels available are either designed to fit behind plaster board (which would not be suitable in the chamber) or are primarily acoustic. This option is not therefore considered suitable.

The following option **is** recommended:

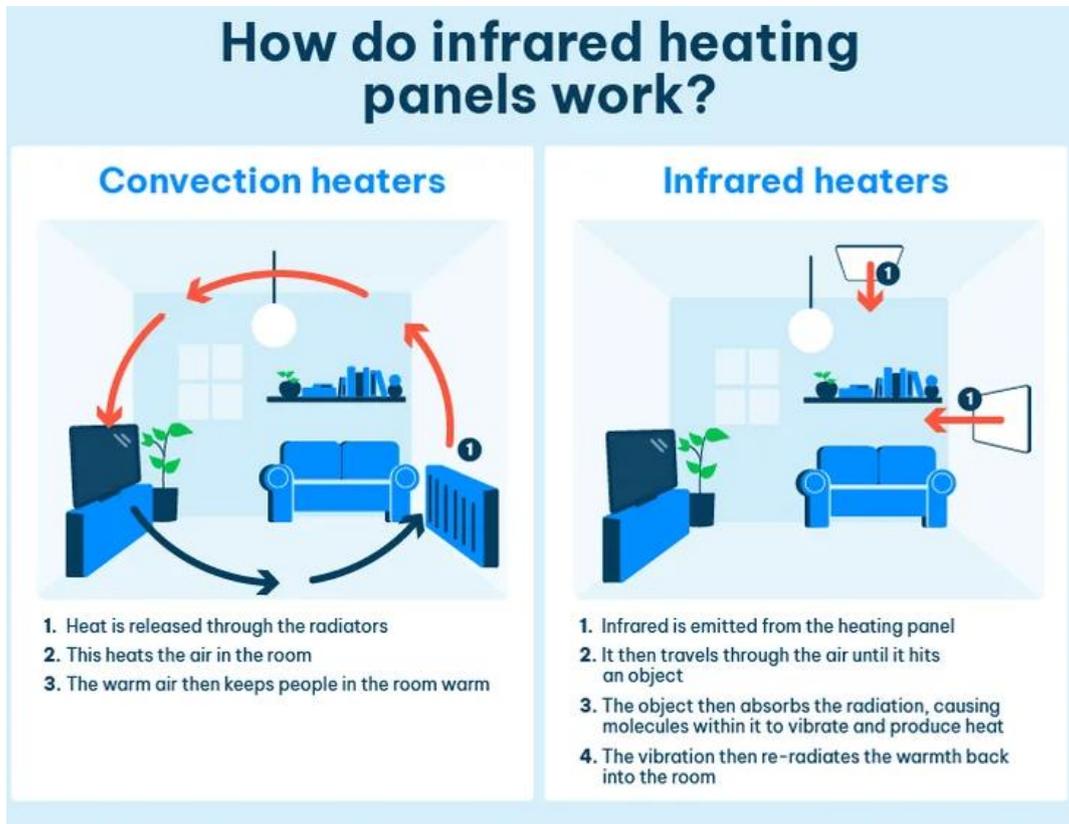
- Low velocity heat recirculation fan: This option offers a good balance between improving energy efficiency and minimising the environmental impact of installation with the costs of installation and running. Careful selection of the fans will mean this is likely the least impactful on the aesthetics of the chamber.

The committee is asked to:

- Consider the above options for improving the efficiency of the council chamber and recommend the adoption of the preferred option to the Full Council.

4. Appendix

Infra-red panels



Suspended Ceiling



Acoustic/Insulation Panels



Low Velocity Ceiling Fans



Officer Report to Thornbury Town Council Climate and Nature Committee

Report Title: Memorial Woodland

Prepared By: Sharon Gardham

Meeting Date: 17.02.2026

Status: For Action



1. Detail

In 2020, Thornbury Town Council acquired a site adjacent to the existing Thornbury Cemetery (see below), with a view to using it as an extension to the existing burial ground. A 2020 hydrology report identified a relatively high water table in this area and described its proximity to drainage ditches. These factors were considered and it was concluded that the area was not suitable for burials.



Since that time, various options have been considered for the site, including planting of a wildflower area. The planting carried out has not been particularly successful and in recent times the area has become increasingly scrubby and overgrown. A local farmer is contracted to cut the area once per year and remove the arisings.

Recent discussions amongst council officers and at the Capital Strategy Working Group have considered the possibility of using the site as a location for a memorial woodland. Discussion also took place at Open Spaces regarding its suitability for a sensory garden. To investigate the options further, officers visited an existing memorial woodland near Tytherington and had a productive discussion with the site manager.

Proposals for the Thornbury site are in their early stages, but the overarching intention is to improve this area for wildlife via planting and landscaping, whilst creating a public space for reflection and nature immersion. Options for ashes interment and other memorials will also be considered. There may also be an opportunity to introduce sensory elements to the space, enhancing its benefits for human wellbeing. Initial conversations have taken place regarding commissioning a concept design.

Work to improve the site for wildlife has already got underway, with the support of the Pollinator Pathways project at Avon Wildlife Trust, who carried out restoration of the overgrown and low-diversity hedge along the field's northern boundary. An initial application has been made to the Forest of Avon project, who are carrying out a desk-top assessment of the site to consider its suitability for tree planting funded by the national Trees for Climate scheme.

The Capital Strategy Working Group agreed to refer the memorial woodland project to the Climate and Nature Committee to progress.

2. Implications

Environmental Considerations

This area currently has relatively low biodiversity value. The addition of a memorial woodland on the site would improve the biodiversity value of the site. There are options for tree and bulb planting, wildflower areas and a pond which would all support enhanced habitat provision in this area.

We are commissioning updated ecological surveys this year, so can extend these to this area, to provide baseline data which can then be monitored in the coming years, perhaps with the help of the public.

The planting of a memorial woodland is also a good opportunity to increase the canopy cover in the area and by doing so mitigate some of TTC's carbon emissions. Taking part in the Forest of Avon project provides us not only with funding for trees but also with access to experts who can advise which species would be suitable where and assist with aftercare.

We could run the tree planting sessions as public events, providing an opportunity for good quality community engagement.

In the above ways, the project supports the objectives of the Local Climate and Nature Action Plan.

Financial Considerations

Initially, the cost associated with this project from a Climate and Nature perspective is in officer time. Financial support for tree planting and expert advice can be provided by the Trees for Climate fund.

Extending ecological surveys to include this site would increase the costs of surveying. It is not anticipated that this will result in us exceeding the agreed budget for surveying for 2026-27.

Costs for the project will be allocated as appropriate by the Full Council following recommendations made by relevant committees. The project has no direct financial impact on the Climate and Nature budget.

3. Recommendations

The committee is asked to:

- Approve incorporation of the project, in its initial stages, to the deliverables for Climate and Nature in 2026-27. This project will need to be run in consultation with other relevant council committees, in particular Open Spaces and Capital Strategy.

Officer Report to Thornbury Town Council Climate and Nature Committee

Report Title: Watermark Town Launch/Earth Day Event

Prepared By: Sharon Gardham

Meeting Date: 17.02.2026

Status: For Noting



1. Detail

At the December meeting of the Climate and Nature Committee, it was resolved to submit an expression of interest in participating in the Watermark Town programme and work towards gaining Watermark Town status if we were offered the opportunity to do so (Minute No. CN2526.31).

A place for Thornbury on the scheme was confirmed in December, and initial discussions have taken place with the scheme organisers. The scheme should be launched with a public event to gather ideas and inspiration for the Watermark projects that the community would like to see in the year to come. Six projects are needed to fulfil the requirements for achieving Watermark Town status. Up to £2,000 can be provided by the Watermark organisers to support these projects.

The current Climate and Nature Communications plan has an event earmarked to celebrate Earth Day, which takes place on 22 April. This year's theme is 'Our Power, Our Planet' which aims to highlight the important role that local communities can play in safeguarding and caring for the environment.

The intention is to combine the launch of our ambition to achieve Watermark Town status with our celebration of Earth Day. The TTC Climate and Nature and Communications Officers are planning an event for the evening of 22 April at St Mary's Church. We would like this to be the start of a year of watery-themed engagements that will combine progress on the Streamside walk and the splashpad replacement, alongside the Watermark Town projects.

The event will explore the vital role water plays in shaping our town—environmentally, socially, and economically. The evening will feature speakers, a panel of local experts, and water specialists, followed by an open Q&A, offering a chance for the public to ask questions, share perspectives, and take part in meaningful conversation about water stewardship and sustainability.

There will also be opportunities for the public to connect with local groups over light refreshments and to explore how water shapes life in Thornbury. We will use the event as an opportunity to collect ideas and expressions of interest from attendees regarding the Watermark Town projects. We will also promote other Climate and Nature initiatives, for example the Community Nature Reserve.

We are keen to involve local organisations who are working in, or have an interest in, environmental issues, community wellbeing, education, sustainability, or local heritage relating to water. We have already contacted Thornbury Sailing Club, Cromhall Swimming Lake, Avon Wildlife Trust, Bristol Avon Rivers Trust and Thornbury Museum to gauge interest in

participation. Wessex Water (who support the Watermark scheme) will also have a presence at the event.

2. Implications

Environmental Considerations

Stringent efforts will be made in the organisation and execution of the event to minimise its environmental impact. St Mary's Church is seeking to gain a Gold Eco Church award and as such is supportive of running events that support sound environmental principles. We will use washable crockery and cutlery. All waste will be sorted and recycled. Attendees will be encouraged to use sustainable transport to visit the event.

The event more widely supports the Local Climate and Nature Action plan in encouraging community action to support the environment in Thornbury.

Financial Considerations

The cost of running the event is estimated to be in the region of £700. This incorporates venue hire, refreshments, speakers' fees and sundry expenses. There are sufficient funds in the remaining Climate and Nature budget for 2025-26 to support the event, primarily due to an underspend for magnetic secondary double glazing. Budget has been allocated for event expenses and experts for 2026-27.

3. Recommendations

The committee is asked to:

- Note the plans for the Earth Day/Watermark Town event
- Make time to attend the event if diaries allow
- Suggest participants for the panel and/or stands and share contact details with the Climate and Nature Officer where appropriate
- Help to publicise the event through professional, voluntary and social networks