

Ethical Banking Task & Finish Group

Update on 21 Sep 2023 – prepared by Cllr D Bailey

Members: Cllrs D Bailey, A Marsh, M Stevens

Summary and Next Steps

1. The Group noted that Warwick District Council assess potential suppliers against their “Ethical Procurement Statement”. This statement covers a range of factors affecting procurement decisions including potential criminal conduct, worker’s conditions and best practice through the supply chain. But it does not mention sustainability, climate change or ecology. The Group is considering whether Kenilworth Town Council might adopt a similar Statement within its Policies, and maybe suggest some additions to the original. We also agreed to take care around the possible definitions of ‘ethical’ given that the word can cover so many areas.
https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/3286/ethical_procurement_statement.pdf
2. The Group is keen to understand the existing procurement and investment processes and policies, and are grateful for the Town Clerk’s help with this. We have also looked at the current banking and investment arrangements, and will discuss these in more detail.
3. The Group intends to review our progress soon and bring proposals to December 2023 Finance Committee meeting.

Remit

The EBT&F Group will:

1. examine whether KTC Policies have sufficient regard to the ethical impact of KTC’s banking, investment and procurement of professional support;
2. consider how KTC might factor-in ethical considerations when making financial arrangements;
3. consider any possible costs, legal implications, disruptions and risks relating to altering existing arrangements (e.g. switching banks); and,
4. report back to the Finance Committee, with proposals if appropriate.

Research

The EBT&F Group have considered:

1. Overriding requirements for security and liquidity (see Investment and Asset Policy);
2. Definition of ethical criteria;
3. Reliable sources of information and support on this topic;
4. Existing arrangements for banking and investments and options; and,
5. Stakeholders, e.g.
 1. RFO Responsible Financial Officer
 2. Suppliers
 3. Accountant
 4. Recipients of Kenilworth Town Council funds, including charities

Timeframe

The EBT&F Group will aim to provide updates to the Finance and General Services Committee by:

1. 28 Sep 2023 meeting (update); and,
2. 14 Dec 2023 meeting (conclusions).

Any follow-up actions would be performed by a separate or renewed Task & Finish Group.