

Report title	Great Big Green Week: Summary of 2024 participation and involvement for 2025
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Department	Planning, Economy, and Built Environment
Exempt?	No

Purpose of report:

In part - For information
In part - To resolve

Synopsis of report:

This report summarises the Council’s participation in the 2024 Great Big Green Week which took place across the UK from 8 to 16 June 2024. The report includes details of the events that were directly organised by the Council and those that were run by local groups with Council support, summarises feedback from groups/partners that were involved in these events, and reflects on key learnings from this year’s Great Big Green Week.

The report also seeks Committee agreement on the level of participation desired from the Council during the 2025 Great Big Green Week, subject to sufficient funding being secured.

Recommendation(s):

Corporate Management Committee is asked to:

- 1. NOTE the information provided and feedback received on the Council’s participation during the 2024 Great Big Green Week**
- 2. AGREE the level of involvement that the Council should have during the 2025 Great Big Green Week. The options for involvement are as follows:**

Option 1: Support and promote.

Option 2: Support, promote and co-ordinate.

Option 3: Support, promote, co-ordinate and provide assistance.

Option 4: Support, promote, co-ordinate, provide assistance and participate

1. Context and background of report

- 1.1 The Corporate Business Plan 2022-2026 sets out how the Council will play a key role in creating a greener environment and ensuring an effective response to climate change. The Climate Change Strategy 2022-2030, adopted in October 2022, describes how the Council will approach this and sets out Runnymede's 2030 climate vision: how the Council intends that all its operations will be carbon 'net zero' by 2030. The Strategy also sets out how the Council will work with local community groups and a range of other stakeholders to reach net zero carbon emissions across the wider borough by 2050, in line with national targets.
- 1.2 At Full Council on 7 December 2023, Runnymede Borough Council resolved to declare a climate emergency. In declaring a climate emergency, the Council will use its reasonable endeavours to continue its work to meet the Council's target of net zero operational emissions by 2030, and to use its sphere of influence to support the Borough and its communities to achieve the 2050 national net zero target for the UK.
- 1.3 To support the Council's net zero targets, a Climate Change Action Plan has been produced which was adopted at Full Council on 29 February 2024. Action ID 8.2 states that the Council will "Work with our partners and communities to encourage positive behavioural changes, supported by annual communications plans, which co-ordinate priorities and campaigns". Action ID 8.2.2 states that the Council will "Participate in external events throughout the year such as the Great Big Green Week".
- 1.4 Since 2021, the UK registered charity the Climate Movement, under the operating name the Climate Coalition, has organised an annual Great Big Green Week (GBGW) where local groups and organisations across the country are encouraged to run community events split between Local Green Weeks across the country to celebrate how communities are taking action to tackle climate change and protect green spaces.
- 1.5 At Corporate Management Committee on 14 September 2023, the Council agreed to support, promote, co-ordinate, provide assistance and participate (option 4) in the 2024 Great Big Green Week. This option is represented as Option 4 in this report, set out in paragraph 2.34 below.

2. Report and, where applicable, options considered and recommended.

- 2.1 This section is split into two parts. The first considers the Council's involvement in the 2024 Great Big Green Week, reflecting on the events organised and their intended outcomes, assessing whether intended outcomes were achieved, setting out any lessons learnt, and summarising feedback from groups across the borough that engaged in the Great Big Green Week.
- 2.2 The second part of this section of the report considers the 2025 Great Big Green Week and the different options for involvement. Officers request that the Committee confirms the level of involvement that it would like to see from the Council next year, subject to the available funding being secured.

Great Big Green Week 2024: Participation summary and feedback

- 2.3 In 2024, the Great Big Green Week ran between the 8th and 16th June with the intention to build on the successes of the previous two years. Runnymede Borough Council coordinated a Local Green Week through the Great Big Green Week website, organised a series of events consistent with the ethos of the initiative and encouraged other local organisations to run their own events. Events were spread around the borough geographically and involved a range of contributors. The intention was to create a diverse portfolio of events which had the potential to appeal to a large cross-section of the local population and maximise engagement.

- 2.4 Local events that were open to the public were publicised on the Council's website, uploaded to the Great Big Green Week website linked to the Runnymede Local Green Week, and publicised on social media. It should be noted that following technical problems with the event search function on the Great Big Green Week website in 2023, this large-scale issue was resolved but other smaller problems remained (e.g. events held across multiple dates were being removed from the website after the first event). While officers will continue to upload events on the Great Big Green Week website in future years aligned to a Local Green Week, the Council pages will become the principal website that any public communications related to Great Big Green Week are linked to in the future.
- 2.5 In total across Runnymede approximately 30 individual events were uploaded to the Great Big Green Week website and linked to the Runnymede Local Green Week. Some of these occurred as a single event on a single day, with others running multiple events over the same day or multiple days. However, the events added to the website were only those open to the public which we sought to advertise. Reviewing information about 'closed' events run by local organisations and the Council, there were over 50 events that took place across Runnymede as part of Great Big Green Week. Please see paragraphs 2.22 and 2.23 for further information on these events.
- 2.6 Events delivered or funded by the Council, along with a summary of events run by local organisations with Council support, are set out below.

'Our Beautiful Borough' Nature and Wildlife Photography Competition

- 2.7 The Council ran the 'Our Beautiful Borough' Nature and Wildlife Photography Competition from 15 April to 2 June 2024 as a lead-in event to Great Big Green Week. It was asked that entrants submit a maximum of 3 photos directly to the Council's climate change inbox via email, and the competition was open to everyone with the only condition that the photo had to be taken in the borough of Runnymede across two categories of 'Under 18' and '18 & over'. The event was publicised by the Council on its website, across social media platforms, and on posters on Council noticeboards.
- 2.8 A total of 72 photos (36 in each category) from 31 entrants were received from across the borough. While this is a smaller number of photos than last year as the maximum number of entries submitted per person was reduced from 10 to 3, the number of entrants increased across both categories. Officers collated the images received and these were judged by a panel which comprised of the Assistant Chief Executive for Place, the Council's Biodiversity Officer, the Mayor of Runnymede, and a professional photographer who regularly works with the Council.
- 2.9 Following judging, one winner and two highly commended entries were selected in each category. All 6 of these photos have been printed on canvas and are on display outside the Council chamber at the Runnymede Civic Centre. A short video of the winning entries has also been created and posted across the Council's social media and uploaded to the Council's website. Additionally, all winning and highly commended photographers were invited to a meet and greet event with the Mayor of Runnymede to see their photographs in-situ, sign them, and receive a framed certificate. 5 of the 6 entrants were able to attend, with the other entrant visiting the previous week. The winning entrant in each category also received a £50 gift voucher for the Social Supermarket, an online shop connecting buyers with social enterprises making a positive difference to the world.

Brickies Club Environmental Workshops in Local Schools

2.10 Following the positive feedback from schools about the Brickies Club environmental workshops funded by the Council during Great Big Green Week 2023, the Council partnered again with Brickies Club in 2024 to run sustainability themed workshops at primary schools during Great Big Green Week. These involve a short presentation on climate change, its impacts, and why we need to act, followed by a building challenge using Lego where students each build an eco-house with some key sustainable features (e.g. solar panels, roof gardens) culminating in a collective eco-city.

2.11 Officers were able to engage with schools on this initiative in late 2023 following CMC approval being given in September 2023 for Council participation in the 2024 Great Big Green Week. This early approval, gave additional time for schools to consider their interest in hosting a Brickies workshop and work this into their forward planning for the year ahead. 6 primary schools from across the borough expressed an interest in being involved and officers were able to utilise the Council's Youth Development Fund to secure £3000 towards delivering these workshops. All 6 schools expressing an interest were therefore able to engage in this initiative, which was delivered to 531 students from Year 1 to Year 6 across Great Big Green Week and the following week. The Council made a video of photos received from the schools of the workshops, which was posted across the Council's social media channels. The schools engaged are listed below:

- Pycroft Grange Primary School: 4 workshops delivered to 120 students.
- The Grange Community Infant School: 3 workshops delivered to 80 students.
- St Anns Heath Junior School: 3 workshops delivered to 42 students.
- The Hythe Community Primary School: 4 workshops delivered to 120 students.
- St Jude's Junior School: 2 workshops delivered to 50 students.
- Sayes Court Primary School: 4 workshops delivered to 119 students.

2.12 Following delivery of the workshops, a Microsoft Form survey was sent to each participating school for feedback on the Brickies workshops. All 6 schools responded to the survey, the results from which are summarised below:

- All respondents rated the workshops a **5-star**.
- All respondents selected '**Strongly Agree**' to the statement "We felt supported by the Council in organising these workshops and other Green Week activities".
- All respondents selected '**Strongly Agree**' to the statement "We have had positive feedback from students and/or teachers on the workshops".
- The Graduate Climate Change and Sustainability Officer and the Mayor of Runnymede attended at least one workshop in every school as part of the Brickies club initiative. All respondents to the feedback survey '**Strongly Agree**' with the statement "We enjoyed having members of the Council join us during workshops".
- All respondents selected '**Strongly Agree**' to the statement "We would like to take part in these workshops again in the future".

2.13 Participating schools were asked if they had any further feedback on the workshops. The below are two of these statements that demonstrate the engaging and positive impact of the workshops for exploring climate change and sustainability topics:

- *"This was our first-time taking part in Brickies workshops and all of the children, across the different year groups, found them so engaging. The feedback from staff has been extremely positive and all teachers would work with Brickies again and have begun to consider the ways they could do this in different areas of the curriculum. The workshops were an active way for children to engage with the sustainability learning that they had explored earlier in the week."*

- *“The workshop was truly enlightening and amazing. The brief introduction in the beginning to provide the general context of the learning was appropriate enough for the children, and not super long that they would lose focus and attention. Bringing in Lego to create the Eco city allowed for creativity and valued the uniqueness of every design. Upon observation, the children were able to recall key facts about sustainability that they had learned prior to the workshop and new information learnt. Jamie and his colleague were very well organised and adapted well to the needs of the children.”*

- 2.14 As part of the survey, all schools were asked if they had run any other initiatives as part of Great Big Green Week. Four schools had been involved in other activities related to climate change and sustainability, including themed days (Meat Free Monday, Wildlife Wednesday, Thrifty Thursday), a collaboration with a local library for an upcycled art competition, a recycling drive, a careers in science and sustainability assembly and workshop, and tie-dye of old t-shirts.
- 2.15 The final question of the survey asked if schools were working on any other environmental initiatives that the Council may be able to support. Details of a number of initiatives have been provided. Officers will work through this list and engage with the individual schools as required to ensure that a strong relationship is built with these schools and engagement maintained.
- 2.16 Given the very positive feedback received from all those engaging in the initiative, it is hoped that this initiative can be retained for 2025 with the ambition to continue the expansion and delivery of workshops in schools. However, this remains subject to securing the required funding for the level of interest expressed.

‘Dig for Victory (Park)’ and Clothes Recycling Staff Day

- 2.17 To celebrate Great Big Green Week, two events were run for Runnymede Borough Council staff on Wednesday 12th June. These were a staff gardening event at Victory Park and a staff clothes donation day.
- 2.18 17 Staff members, which included the Mayor of Runnymede, participated in a one-hour event at Victory Park in Addlestone. They contributed to weeding and planting, resulting in a stunning transformation of the raised flower beds. This effort supported the Green Spaces team and gave the park a beautiful new look for summer. Following this event, staff expressed their enjoyment of the event and a shared interest in establishing a gardening club in the future. This club would not only support our Green Spaces team in enhancing local green areas and engaging with the community but also promote a healthy work culture by contributing to staff wellbeing. The creation of a Staff Gardening Club is currently being explored by officers.
- 2.19 The Council also ran a staff clothes donation day, with staff generously contributing their old clothes and end-of-life textiles. In total, 84kg of clothes were collected for recycling. By repurposing and recycling the old clothes we actively reduced the quantity of textiles ending up in landfill. After the success of the clothes donation day, a future aspiration is to station a permanent clothes recycling bin at the Runnymede Civic Centre. This will encourage staff and members to regularly donate clothes, ensuring that all donations are repurposed for a good cause. This is being explored with the Recycling Team at the Depot.
- 2.20 Staff involved in the Council's book club also read ‘The Salt Path’ which has strong links to being out in the nature and enjoyment of the natural environment.

2.21 The platform created by the Great Big Green Week provided a solid foundation to run and raise awareness of these events with staff from various Council departments collaborating to ensure their success. While these events could have been done at any time, running them during Great Big Green Week was considered particularly beneficial.

Nature Walks at Chertsey Meads

2.22 The Council's Biodiversity Officer ran 3 nature walks at Chertsey Meads on Friday 14th June. Two of these walks were not attended by anyone, and the other was attended by 2 officers from the Council. Alongside the weather which was incredibly changeable on this day between sunshine and downpours, although the event was listed on both the Council website and Great Big Green Week website, it did not remain on the Great Big Green Week website for the duration of the week. It is not clear why this happened however it would have had an impact on the ability to raise awareness of these events. In addition, all walks were completed during working hours (9am to 5pm). This is likely to have significantly reduced the number of people who could have potentially attended. It is important that the Council continue to learn from these initiatives and identify reasons why specific events were or were not successful, and what is required to improve. Based on the experience, if nature walks are to be run again during the 2025 Great Big Green Week, there may be greater success from running targeted events with specific groups, such as local schools during operating hours, or running these over the weekend subject to staff availability.

Events organised and run by local groups throughout Great Big Green Week

2.23 Further to events run or funded by the Council during Great Big Green Week, officers also engaged with and encouraged other local groups throughout the borough to take part in the initiative. There was a lot of interest generated across Runnymede, and the Council supported many of these initiatives where required, through such means as promotion and uploading events to relevant websites.

2.24 A full list of the events run by local groups during Great Big Green Week, along with their attendances where known, is available at Appendix A. It should be noted that this may not be an exhaustive list and other events may have been run by other local groups that the Council was not aware of.

2.25 Following the Great Big Green Week, a Microsoft Form survey was sent to each participating local group for feedback on their events and the Council's role in supporting these. Of 15 local groups listed in Appendix A, 10 provided feedback through this survey, the results from which are summarised below:

- 82% of respondents replied '**Yes**' to the question "Did you feel supported by Runnymede Borough Council in the organisation and execution of your events as part of Great Big Green Week?".
- 55% of respondents replied '**Somewhat**' to the question "Did you feel that aligning your events with the Runnymede Great Big Green Week was beneficial to the number of attendees at your event and its overall success?".
- 82% of respondents replied '**Yes**' to the question "Would you take part in the Runnymede Great Big Green Week in the future?". The remaining respondents to this question answered 'Maybe'.

2.26 Generally the feedback from groups on the success of their activities was very positive, however as this is the first year that many groups have engaged in the Great Big Green Week, there were several valuable learnings that may improve or extend the reach of activities in the future.

- 2.27 Local groups were asked if there were any additional benefits to their organisation generated from running activities during the Great Big Green Week, such as new interest in the initiatives, new volunteers, or new collaborations. Two groups stated that they had recruited new volunteers because of the events held during Great Big Green Week, with a further two stating that new collaborations had been established, and another that it had helped them to embed a new volunteer recruit into their organisation.
- 2.28 Local groups were asked if there is “anything that Runnymede Borough Council could have done to improve their support for your events organised as part of Great Big Green Week which could be implemented in the future?”. Around half did not indicate any improvements and were complementary of the support they had received. Two groups indicated that more could be done across social media channels to collaborate and raise awareness of individual events, rather than Great Big Green Week as a collective focus.

Great Big Green Week 2025: Options for Council participation

- 2.29 The Climate Coalition have confirmed that Great Big Green Week 2025 will run from 7th to 15th June 2025. There are various options for how the Council could get involved in next year's Great Big Green Week, which are set out below:

Option 1: Support and promote

- 2.30 The Council supports and promotes the Great Big Green Week by encouraging uptake and participation by residents and local community groups. For example, local sports clubs, environmental groups, schools, local businesses, youth groups, faith groups, as well as any other organisations or individuals who may have an interest in tackling climate change. Closer to the week's start date, the Council could collate a list of local events based on details provided by the groups participating and advertise and promote them to residents. This could be done via posters/banners and sharing information and links to the Great Big Green Week's website via social media, newsletters and using the Council's website. A comprehensive comms pack is available from The Climate Coalition.

Option 2: Support, promote and co-ordinate

- 2.31 The Council supports the Great Big Green Week as described in Option 1 above. However, in addition, the Council effectively becomes the co-ordinator of a 'Runnymede Local Green Week' by registering it on the Great Big Green Week website as an overarching Borough based event. Local groups wishing to participate would then be able to tag Runnymede Local Green Week when they sign up their events taking place in the Borough. The events will be automatically pulled together as one big event for Runnymede on the Great Big Green Week website. If local groups sign up separately and do not tag the Council's banner, officers can still search the Great Big Green Week website via post code and contact those groups to see if they want to fall under the Runnymede Local Green Week.

Option 3: Support, promote, co-ordinate and provide assistance

- 2.32 The Council support the Great Big Green Week as in Option 2 above but additionally look to provide support where practical and within our remit if approached by local groups or residents who would like to put on an event.
- 2.33 For the avoidance of doubt, Council support would be subject to the usual application processes. All requests would be subject to evaluation and some requests may have to be declined.

Option 4: Support, promote, co-ordinate, provide assistance and participate

2.34 This option would build on option 3 above, but would also see the Council running its own series of events during the week with the aims of:

- Bringing together and engaging with our residents (including our young people) and businesses on the important issue of climate change.
- Celebrating local climate change initiatives and encouraging more people and organisations to develop their own initiatives.
- Raising the profile of the Council's response to climate change.
- Providing useful information and signposting other relevant organisations to give people the tools they need to help the Borough transition to net zero carbon by 2050.

2.35 Please note that the running of our own events is currently unfunded. Please see section 4 of this report below for further detail around resource and funding.

Officer recommended option for Council participation

2.36 Based on the success of Great Big Green Week 2024, the officer recommendation would be for the committee to pursue option 4, as set out in paragraph 2.33. This was the agreed level of participation for 2024, and it is felt that there is now a strong momentum behind the Great Big Green Week in Runnymede, including some of the specific Council events, such as the photography competition which generate positive outcomes. By the addition of participation, the Council is leading the way on climate action and environmental protection rather than placing full reliance on the initiative success with local groups. That said, the increased inclusion of local groups in 2024 has been a significant positive and has greatly extended the reach of the initiative beyond what would be possible for the Council alone.

2.37 While it is outlined in section 4 that there has been a cost to the Council of Great Big Green Week 2024, the implementation of option 4 can be done at zero or very low cost to the Council. However, it should be noted that a zero-cost approach will limit the scope of promotion and events that can be organised as part of Great Big Green Week by the Council. Financial resources currently available within the existing climate change budget are set out in section 4 and any funding over and above that outlined in this section would need to be sought from alternative sources.

2.38 Knowing well in advance of the 2025 Great Big Green Week what the preference of the Committee is would allow officers a greater opportunity to plan events, secure the services of relevant stakeholders and explore funding opportunities (if required).

3. Policy framework implications

3.1 In addition to supporting the Council's Climate Change Strategy, as outlined in paragraph 1.1 of this report, positive involvement in the Great Big Green Week also supports three further adopted corporate strategies:

The Empowering Communities Strategy

3.2 Priority 2 - Listening to residents.

Priority 3 - Enabling communities to help themselves.

Priority 4 - Enabling communities to take control of services or plans for their areas.

Priority 5 - Advocacy: standing up and pressing Government and other organisations to meet Runnymede residents' priorities.

Priority 6 - Working effectively with partner organisations.

The Economic Development Strategy

- 3.3 Priority 6 – Developing a low carbon economy: Encourage businesses to be more sustainable and develop the low carbon circular economy. This priority states that, ‘As far as possible, the Council will adopt and promote the principles of the Circular Economy (take, make, use, reuse, reuse) and decouple from the Linear Economy (take, make, use, throw) to minimise Carbon Emissions and waste, reduce environmental damage and increase biodiversity and health. The Council will work with Surrey, the Enterprise M3 LEP and Royal Holloway University of London to increase take up from local businesses of grants, business support and access to knowledge transfer programmes to encourage businesses to be more sustainable’.

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy

- 3.4 Contains a strategic objective related to healthy communities which seeks to ensure that all residents are able to engage and participate in their community, access services, facilities, amenities, leisure, and recreational opportunities locally.

4. Resource implications/Value for Money

- 4.1 A total of £3,025 was spent by the Council on the 2024 Great Big Green Week. £2,925 was attributed to the Brickies Club workshops delivered in primary schools, which were funded entirely through the Council’s Youth Development Fund. The remaining £100 was spent on Social Supermarket Gift Vouchers for the winners of the ‘Our Beautiful Borough’ Nature and Wildlife Photography Competition. Planning, organisation, and execution of initiatives utilised existing officer resource from across the Council, particularly the Climate Change, Communications, Community Services teams with a heightened level of officer involvement during Great Big Green Week.
- 4.2 The officer resource and finance implications for the 2025 Great Big Green Week will be assessed once the Committee has confirmed the level of involvement that they would like to see. As a general point, it should be noted that there is a small allowance allocated each financial year in the Climate Change budget to fund the promotion of events (£1500 in 2024/25). The amount to be allocated for the 2025/26 Financial Year is unknown at the time of writing. This could contribute to the running of events during the 2025 Great Big Green Week if Members wish to pursue option 4. Any funds beyond this would need to be secured from alternative sources to be explored by officers once the desired level of involvement has been confirmed by the committee.

5 Legal implications

- 5.1 The legal implications associated with the 2024 Great Big Green Week were regularly assessed as the proposals were developed.
- 5.2 The legal implications associated with the 2025 Great Big Green Week would be regularly assessed as any proposals were developed.

6. Equality implications

- 6.1 The Council has a Public Sector Duty under the Equalities Act 2020 to have due regard to the nine ‘protected characteristics’ stated within the Act.
- 6.2 An Equalities Impact Assessment screening may be required if the Committee wishes to participate in the 2025 Great Big Green Week. This will be assessed once the level

of involvement sought (and the types of event to be run (if option 4 is selected)) is known.

7.Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications

- 7.1 The implications for environmental/sustainability/biodiversity associated with participation in the Great Big Green Week are positive. By engaging in this initiative which aims to celebrate local action to tackle climate change, raise awareness of environmental concerns and encourage others to get involved, it is anticipated that more individuals and groups are positively engaged in environmental activities.

8. Risk Implications

- 8.1 As mentioned in this report, at present there is no funding that is directly attributed to Council's participation in Great Big Green Week. While there is some funding available for event promotion in the Climate Change budget, and officers have successfully utilised other funding sources to secure activities for this year, it is not guaranteed that this will be the case for future years. This may become increasingly relevant as the interest and popularity of specific initiatives, such as Brickies workshops, rises with time. This is considered a medium risk, however knowing the level of participation desired from the Committee early enables officers to begin exploring potential funding routes and establishing ideas and interest for the next Great Big Green Week with partner organisations.
- 8.2 Great Big Green Week 2024 was resourced using existing officer time; however, it was evident from certain events run throughout the week that performing activities during weekday working hours can limit participation. In addition, there were higher resource requirements on key teams in the build up to Great Big Green Week, including Climate Change and Communications which would have been very challenging to manage with less officers available. As such, further potential risks are associated with being able to effectively resource Great Big Green Week within existing officer resource across the Council to maximise the potential offered by the initiative. This is considered medium risk as the Council has managed to engage many local groups which reduces the direct demand on officer time whilst still maintaining a diverse event schedule across the borough. To mitigate this risk, early knowledge of participation and early involvement of all relevant teams is crucial, alongside ensuring the required resource is in place within each team.
- 8.3 As mentioned above, the Council was successful in engaging a wide range of local groups in Great Big Green Week 2024. This is believed to be a key feature of the initiative's success this year and enabled a far broader scope of events and engagement with a greater range of residents than would have been possible had the Council focussed exclusively on its own activities. However, this does result in a reliance from the Council on these groups engaging in the future which may not always be possible due to a variety of resourcing, time, or financial constraints on these groups. This is a low risk as many of the groups have expressed an interest in participating in the initiative in the future with the Council aiming to again provide early engagement with groups and providing support as far as is practicable with all elements of the events. Officers will also take the key learnings from 2024 and feedback from the participant survey, and work with local groups to implement any suggestions where possible.
- 8.4 During Great Big Green Week, two of the events were run by a Council volunteer in an open space that is owned by the Council. The individual has worked with the Council as a volunteer for many years as part of a volunteer team that provides extensive support with the management of this area. However, when organising an event at the Council owned site in question it became evident that the Council's existing public liability insurance did not allow the volunteer to run an event for members of the public unless there was a Council officer

present and the event was run as a Council event. Consequently, the individual running the event had to pay for their own insurance to cover one of the events (due to no officers being available to attend). An officer was able to attend the second event. The risk here is that some local groups/individuals may be discouraged from running events on Council owned land if the Council insurance in place is not sufficient to provide cover. Further consideration will need to be given to the desirability of allowing local groups to run events on Council owned sites in the future, and also in terms of the Council's position on insurance. The Council would either need to explore options to extend its existing cover (which may have an additional cost for the Council) or provide clarity that in cases where the Council allows an event to be run on Council owned land, that it would be the responsibility of the local group/individual to purchase their own insurance. Overall, providing clarity on the Council's position well in advance of the next Great Big Green Week is considered to minimise this risk.

9. Other implications

- 9.1 Subject to the direction of the Committee on the level of involvement sought during the 2025 Great Big Green Week, there may be further implications which arise during the preparation and implementation phases. These will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

10. Timetable for Implementation

- 10.1 An indicative timetable for the 2025 Great Big Green Week will be set once the level of participation sought by the Committee is known.

11. Conclusions

- 11.1 Great Big Green Week 2024 is considered to have been a great success considering the feedback provided from those engaging with the week. Over 50 events were run across the borough by both the Council and local groups engaging over 1200 residents in environmental initiatives that ranged from litter picks to eco-city building, and nature walks to upcycled crafting. While this is very positive, there are still many learnings to be taken and implemented for future years as this remains only the second year the Council has actively participated in the initiative (having chosen to only support and promote the Great Big Green Week in 2022). Maintaining a consistent engagement with Great Big Green Week is key to raising further awareness of the week, maintaining and expanding the Council's involvement with groups across the borough to support climate change and sustainability initiatives, and encouraging greater participation in environmental activities from all throughout the year.

12. Background papers

- 12.1 Members attention is drawn to the Corporate Management Committee report of 14 September 2023 providing information on the Great Big Green Week 2023 and presenting options for involvement in 2024. This report is available here:
<https://democracy.runnymede.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=152&MId=948&Ver=4>

13. Appendices

- Appendix A: Great Big Green Week 2024 Events List