

VERSION NUMBER	V1
DATE & MINUTE REFERENCE (Council)	
DATE OF NEXT REVIEW	April 2024

## Introduction

The Council recognises its operations impact on the environment in a number of ways and is committed to identifying, monitoring and reducing such impacts associated with its operations.

In addition, its duties enable it to protect and at times enhance the local environment both directly and by influencing others. The Council will make best use of its position and powers to do this.

## Scope

This Policy will support the aims of the Council's Corporate Strategy and be linked to other Council policies including Quality, Equality and Procurement, which will ensure environmental considerations are central to the ethos of the organisation.

- The Council will embrace the concept of sustainability and acknowledge the need to reconcile environmental, social and economic demands.
- The Council will undertake periodic audits to ensure up to date assessments of environmental impacts are maintained and the progress of action plans are monitored. It will regularly measure the Organisation's carbon footprint and take the necessary actions to reduce it. It will appoint a lead Officer for implementation of the Environmental Policy and will ensure that Councillors and employees receive training to enable them to understand and control the environmental effects of their work.
- The Council will comply with all relevant legislation and where possible set standards which are more stringent.
- The Council will require where appropriate its suppliers to provide environmental assessments of their environmental impacts and life cycle analysis of major products.
- The Council will have regard for both the natural and built environments and will strive to protect and where possible enhance them.
- The Council will be guided by its Sustainable Connectivity Statement when making any decisions relating to travel and transport.
- The Council will manage energy with a view to minimising its consumption.
- The Council will ensure its operations minimise pollution of land, water and air.

- The Council will seek to minimise waste, re-use or recycle where possible and ensure disposal has the minimum environmental impact.
- The Council will ensure that all its civic floral arrangements are environmentally sustainable and supportive of wildlife by emphasising those plants that can sustain a broad range of insect life, by avoiding the use of peat, herbicides and pesticides and by requiring contractors to meet these standards.

Three revisions have been suggested by the Environmental & Sustainability Sub-committee (minute 12, 06/09/22):

1. add a third paragraph to the introduction to read "The Town Council will actively promote the community to embrace environmental and sustainability initiatives";
2. delete all bullet points and replace with "The Town Council will take every reasonable measure to comply with and promote recognised best practice";
3. add a final paragraph which reads "The Town Council will aspire and move towards obtaining ISO 14001 accreditation".