

Dunstable Town Council  
Grove House  
76 High Street North  
Dunstable  
Bedfordshire  
LU6 1NF

Tel: 01582 513000  
E-mail: [info@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:info@dunstable.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.dunstable.gov.uk](http://www.dunstable.gov.uk)



**David Ashlee** Town Clerk and Chief Executive

Date: 9 March 2020

Dear Councillor,

Could you please note that a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee will be held on **Monday 16 March 2020 at 7.00 pm**, at the Council Chamber, Grove House, 76 High Street North, Dunstable, when the following business will be transacted.

### AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting of Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 20 January 2020 (copy previously circulated).
3. Specific Declarations of Interest.
4. Financial Monitoring Report (see page 1).
5. Proposed development of a new action plan to deliver Dunstable Town Council's Environmental and Sustainability Policy and establishment of an associated Members Working Group (see report at page 6).
6. Representatives on Outside Organisations - to receive reports from representatives on the following outside organisations:

CAB Management Committee – Councillor Bater  
Dunstable International Town Twinning Association – Councillors Corkhill and Hollick  
Hospice at Home Management Committee – Councillor Jones  
Ashton Almshouses Charity – Councillors Corkhill and Hollick

**NB: Those Members who are not members of this Committee but are representatives of organisations reporting thereto are reminded to provide a report in time for the meeting.**

Yours faithfully,

David Ashlee  
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

To: All Members of Finance and General Purposes Committee:  
Councillors Sid Abbott (Town Mayor), Liz Jones (Deputy Town Mayor), Peter Hollick (Chairman), Philip Crawley (Vice-Chairman), Wendy Bater, Matthew Brennan, Mark Cant, Alan Corkhill, John Gurney, Kenson Gurney, Gloria Martin, Cameron Restall, Lee Roberts and Johnson Tamara and other Members of the Council for information.

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCILFINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE16 MARCH 2020FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	The purpose of this report is to: i) provide a revenue budgetary control report for the period ending 31 January 2020 ii) provide detail of the Council's earmarked reserves at 29 February 2020
---------------------------	--

**1. ACTION RECOMMENDED**

- 1.1 For Members to note the revenue budget position for the period from 1 April 2019 to 31 January 2020.
- 1.2 For Members to note the current balance of the Council's earmarked reserves as at 29 February 2020 and known commitments in the current financial year.

**2. INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 This budgetary control report summarises the net expenditure against the budget for each service area as at 31 January 2020. This forms the basis for the projected outturn at the end of this financial year taking account currently known variances.

**3. REVENUE BUDGETARY REPORT**

- 3.1 The summary at Appendix 1 shows the net expenditure at 31 January 2020 per service area and an indication of the anticipated outturn against budget, taking account of seasonal variances and known commitments for the remainder of the financial year.
- 3.2 The summary shows a potential overall net revenue saving at the end of the financial year of £26,700, which is broadly in line with that reported to Committee in January.
- 3.3 Within **Finance and Support Services** overall it is £5,000 underspent, some of the significant variances are as follows:
  - *Finance and Support Services staff costs underspent by £5,900* due to vacancies within the team following the restructure, all vacancies have now been filled and all three staff have been recruited and have started in the New Year.
  - *Grove House cost centre is overspent by £13,900* due the offices on the ground floor being vacant following CAB and Registrars moving out. The refurbishment of the offices is now complete and are being advertised again on the market to potential tenants.
  - *Corporate Management Cost centre is underspent by £14,500*, this underspend is mainly attributed to the Health and Safety Budget which has not been required as much this year.

3.4 Within **Grounds and Environmental Services** overall it is £22,700 *underspent*, some of the significant variances are as follows:

- *Recreation Grounds Cost centre has an overspend of £11,800 mainly attributed to overspends on the equipment budget of £6,000 due to having to replace stolen equipment and £3,000 on repairs and maintenance for which we have increased the budget next year.*
- *Town Ranger Service is underspent by £17,700 due a member of staff on long-term sick and currently on half-pay. Also, this underspend is attributable to a £5,000 underspend on public realm maintenance due to CBC not installing electronic information signs at the town gateways therefore it has not been necessary to expend this budget in year.*
- *Grounds Staff Costs is underspent by £6,000 due to ongoing vacancies within the grounds team which are due to be filled end of March to early April.*
- *Cemetery is underspent by £8,000 mainly due to over-achievement of income on memorials and underspends on the equipment and repairs and maintenance budgets in the current year.*
- *Creasey Park is underspent by £6,000 due to an over-achievement on ATP hire income*

3.5 Within **Community Services** overall it is £1,000 *overspent*, some of the significant variances are as follows:

- *Community Services staff cost centre overspent by £12,800 mainly attributable to maternity leave cover for the staff member in post.*
- *Grove Corner cost centre is underspent by £10,000, mainly attributable to underspends in staffing costs and over-achieving income higher than budgeted for with regards to room hire.*
- *Central Marketing is overspent by £3,000 due to bi-annual survey that was carried out in-year that was not budgeted for.*
- *Priory House is £2,700 overspent due an unexpected equipment purchase required in-year.*
- *Town Centre is £3,000 underspent due to unused budget with regards to waste disposal in-year due reduced bins and negotiating a better contract deal in-year.*

#### 4. **RESERVES**

4.1 The schedule enclosed at Appendix 2 provides detail of actual contributions to and expenditure from reserve funds in the current financial year as at 29 February 2020.

4.2 The schedule also includes the detail of further agreed/known commitments from earmarked reserves in this financial year and indicates an estimated end of year balance, which is of course subject to any further agreed expenditure.

4.3 The schedule does not take account of the recommendations for release of funds to be considered at other agenda items.

#### 5. **FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE**

5.1 In place of Accounts Sub-Committee, Councillors should, as a minimum, view and audit the Councils accounts on a quarterly basis.

- 5.2 The last quarterly financial Councillor audit took place on the 22 January 2020 with the Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee, Councillor Hollick and Councillor Jones that carried out a 'mini-audit' of payment, invoices and bank statement of the accounts relating to October, November and December 2019.
- 5.3 No issues or discrepancies, material or otherwise, were raised.
- 5.4 Further quarterly meetings have been arranged and all Councillors have been made aware and invited to attend any future Financial Governance Audit meetings they can make.

**6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 These are inherent within the content of this report.

**7. APPENDICES**

- 7.1 Appendix 1 - Summary of Net Revenue Expenditure  
Appendix 2 - Summary of Reserves

**8. AUTHOR**

- 8.1 Lucy Salim – Head of Finance and Support Services  
E-mail: [lucy.salim@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.salim@dunstable.gov.uk)

## Finance and Support Services

Service Area	Budget 2019/20	Actuals to Date (31st January)	Year-end Forecast	Year-end Variance
Central Services	91,350	70,690	92,695	1,345
Corporate Management	91,147	69,933	76,621 -	14,526
Democratic Management	15,750	11,440	15,909	159
F&SS Capital & Projects	105,499	98,951	105,499	-
F&SS Staff Costs	308,629	249,606	302,649 -	5,980
Grove House	44,794	49,532	58,751	13,957
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>657,169</b>	<b>550,152</b>	<b>652,124 -</b>	<b>5,045</b>

## Grounds and Environmental Services

Service Area	Budget 2019/20	Actuals to Date (31st January)	Year-end Forecast	Year-end Variance
Allotments	577 -	905	1,291	714
Bar & Catering	60,785	50,222	65,916	5,131
BENNETT MEMORIAL RECREATION	25,300 -	25,497 -	26,489 -	1,189
Capital and Projects	122,413	116,050	122,414	1
Cemetery	62,780 -	70,642 -	70,803 -	8,023
Community Football	12,232 -	52,582 -	24,511 -	12,280
G&ES Staff Costs	501,518	405,445	495,508 -	6,010
Recreation Grounds	43,600	44,670	55,420	11,820
SPLASH PARK	55,671	58,423	59,394	3,723
Town Centre & Gardens	41,100	32,468	42,145	1,045
Town Ranger Service	105,429	76,709	87,760 -	17,669
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>830,782</b>	<b>634,361</b>	<b>808,045 -</b>	<b>22,737</b>

## Community Services

Service Area	Budget 2019/20	Actuals to Date (31st January)	Year-end Forecast	Year-end Variance
Capital and Projects	91,640	85,913	91,640	-
Central Marketing	28,500	27,172	31,347	2,847
Community Engagement	24,007	18,582	23,328 -	679
Community Services Staff Costs	185,570	146,446	198,449	12,879
Events Programme	134,478	122,190	133,626 -	852
Grove Corner	21,161	7,044	10,841 -	10,320
Older People's Day Care Service	23,494	15,140	21,755 -	1,739
Priory House	236,356	197,273	239,880	2,765
Public Conveniences	3,050	1,983	2,215 -	835
Town Centre Services	61,299	46,491	58,326 -	2,973
HSHAZ Scheme	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>809,555</b>	<b>668,234</b>	<b>811,407</b>	<b>1,093</b>

<b>Council Grand Total</b>	<b>2,297,505.50</b>	<b>1,852,747.00</b>	<b>2,271,575.94 -</b>	<b>26,688.56</b>
----------------------------	---------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	------------------

	Description	Balance as at 01.04.19	Contributions Revenue/Other	Expenditure in year	Bal as at 29.02.20	Commitments/Programme of works, etc	Committed Amount	Bal after committed
310	General Reserve	£520,570			£520,570			£520,570
311	Corporate Plan Reserve	£55,350		£35,656	£19,693	Bal of £15,261 for GH Gdns Entrance/Car Park Improvements (from £35,000 agreed)	£15,261	£4,432
312	Vehicles Reserve	£63,547	£20,000	£23,820	£59,727	FGP Minute 8 20.01.20- £42,000 agreed for new grounds equipment less exp to date	£35,250	£24,477
313	CP Sinking Fund	£16,874		£2,000	£14,874	£2,000 3 Year Sponsorship (bal of £6,000 received)	£2,000	£12,874
314	Christmas Lights Reserve	£20,244	£3,500		£23,744	New/improved lighting		£23,744
316	Downside Building Maintenance Res	£5,858		£1,335	£4,523			£4,523
317	Grove Corner Building Maint Reserve	£34,596	£4,000		£38,596			£38,596
318	Building Security Systems	£5,357			£5,357			£5,357
319	Cemetery Memorial Safety	£1,300	£1,000		£2,300	Memorial safety inspections		£2,300
320	Priory House Tearooms Equipment	£3,000	£1,500	£4,500	£0			£0
321	IT/Equipment Reserve	£8,629	£15,000	£8,929	£14,700	bal of £14,700 for Cemetery Software (from £21,690 agreed)	£14,700	£0
322	Older People's Day Care Svce	£13,308	£725		£12,583	£3,687 for increased transport costs; bal of £275 donation for activities (from £1,000 received)	£3,962	£8,621
323	Election Reserve	£20,000	£20,000	£34,483	£5,517			£5,517
324	Grove House Building Reserve	£175,771	£41,254	£45,809	£171,217	Bal of £14,666 for GH Gdns Entrance/Car Park Improvements (from £17,000 agreed)	£14,666	£156,550
326	Mayoral Reserve	£3,000			£3,000	FGP 19.01.15-Minute 24 - to be retained for transport/allowance as required		£3,000
327	Priory House Exhibition	£15,000			£15,000	Exhibition		£15,000
328	Priory Churchyard	£24,862	£5,000		£29,862	As determined by quinquennial report		£29,862
329	Performance Area Reserve	£6,000			£6,000			£6,000
330	Town Twinning Reserve	£7,367	£500		£7,867	Retained for twinning activities to be determined		£7,867
331	Tree Reserve	£23,979	£5,000	£9,800	£19,179			£19,179
332	Open Spaces Improvement Plan	£50,867	£15,000	£37,742	£28,125	FGP Minute 8 20.01.20- £26,668 agreed for improvement works	£26,668	£1,457
333	Priory House Building Reserve	£288,245	£46,373		£334,618	FGP Minute 181 18.11.19= £300,000-HSHAZ Scheme (2022/23 exp)	£300,000	£34,618
334	Pavilion Buildings Maintenance Res	£36,435	£15,000		£50,435			£50,435
338	Allotments Reserve	£21,873	£5,000	£6,627	£20,246	Improvement works required		£20,246
339	Creasey Park 3G Pitch	£6,997	£588		£6,585	Interest accrued on ringfenced deposit - retained for contribution towards future pitch replacement - with 381 below		£6,585
341	Splashpark/Skatepark/BMX Reserve	£26,037	£12,000	£2,629	£35,408			£35,408
342	Memorial Kerbs Reserve	£6,570			£6,570	for purchase of future supplies		£6,570
343	Cemetery Building Maintenance Res	£19,413	£5,000		£24,413	FGP Minute 8 20.01.20- £23,800 agreed for Cemetery works	£23,800	£613
344	Fencing Maintenance Reserve	£1,957	£1,000		£2,957	FGP Minute 8 20.01.20- £2,957 agreed for Fencing works	£2,957	£0
	<b>Earmarked Reserves Total</b>	<b>£1,481,005</b>			<b>£1,483,665</b>		<b>£439,264</b>	<b>£1,044,401</b>

## S106/External Funding/Ringfenced Expenditure specified by funding body

315	Awards for All Event	£9,990		£9,783	£207	Weird and Wonderful Event- 7 & 8 September 2019	£207	£0
325	Shop Front Improvement Scheme	£10,000	£5,653	£6,585	£9,068	Shop Front Scheme	£9,068	£0
337	Market Town Regeneration Fund	£23,010			£23,010		£23,010	£0
380	Developers Contributions- CAP	£38,750		£20,685	£18,065	Frenchs Avenue S106 £13,778; Frenchs Avenue Fencing £4,286		£18,065
381	CPCFC Capital	£88,491			£88,491	Retained for future repair/replacement of All Weather Pitch		£88,491
385	Development Contributions- REV	£35,036		£720	£34,316	Priory Gardens Footpaths £647 (less exp in 16/17 £277); Willoughy £47,645 (less exp in 17/18 £17,516 & £8,000 committed in 17/18 rev budget); Court Drive Landscaping £5,623 (less exp in 16/17 £345, 17/18 £521 & 19/20 £720 to date);	£12,407	£21,909
570	Joint Committee Fund	£12,051	£11,991	£10,282	£13,759	Bal in holding code as committed Joint Committees fund only = not DTC	£13,759	£0
	<b>S106/External Funding Total</b>	<b>£217,328</b>			<b>£186,916</b>		<b>£58,452</b>	<b>£128,465</b>
		<b>£1,698,332</b>			<b>£1,670,581</b>		<b>£497,716</b>	<b>£1,172,865</b>

**DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL**

**MEETING OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

**MONDAY 16 MARCH 2020**

**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW ACTION PLAN  
TO DELIVER DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL'S ENVIRONMENTAL AND  
SUSTAINABILITY POLICY AND ESTABLISHMENT  
OF AN ASSOCIATED MEMBER WORKING GROUP**

<p><b>Purpose of Report:</b> The purpose of this report is to make recommendations for the development of an action plan to deliver Dunstable Town Council's Environmental and Sustainability Policy, including provision regarding a commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2030.</p>
--

**1. ACTION RECOMMENDED**

- 1.1 That a Councillor led working group be established to develop an action plan that will help implement the Council's Environmental and Sustainability Policy that includes:
- rigorous and robust environmental objectives, including a commitment to reduce the Council's greenhouse (GHG) emissions and work towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030, in accordance with the Council's new Corporate Plan; and
  - a methodology for delivery.
- 1.2 It is recommended that the working party should comprise at least five Members and that it should meet once a month for the next four months. It is further recommended that The Head of Community Services and the Head of Grounds and Environmental Services should also be members of the working party to assist and advise in relation to their service areas, as appropriate.

**2. INTRODUCTION/ BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Members have asked for a proposal taking forward the development of an action plan to deliver Dunstable Town Council's Environmental and Sustainability Policy, including a commitment to reduce the Council's GHG emissions and work towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030, in accordance with Action 1 of the Council's new Corporate Plan for the period 2020 to 2023.
- 2.2 Carbon neutrality, or having a net zero carbon footprint, refers to achieving net zero carbon dioxide emissions by balancing carbon emissions with carbon removal (often through carbon offsetting) or eliminating carbon emissions altogether.

### 3. **MAIN CONSIDERATIONS AND FINDINGS**

#### 3.1 **What is an environmental policy?**

An environmental policy is a dynamic statement about an organisation's environmental position and values. It needs to be regularly reviewed whenever change occurs or is planned, or when there has been a significant performance issue, or, where none of these apply, on a regular periodic basis. Equally, once adopted, it needs to be embedded in the organisation's other policies and its decision-making process.

The Council has already adopted an Environmental and Sustainability Policy, see Appendix 1, and which was last reviewed and approved in June 2018. Since then, there have been further changes in legislation<sup>1</sup> and increasing public and media scrutiny of the topic of climate change. Given the responsibility the Council has as a public organisation, the working group may wish to consider if the current Environmental and Sustainability Policy requires updating.

Many global and national companies, as well as public sector organisations, choose to adopt the ISO 14001 environmental management standard as it provides an accepted means of demonstrating overall environmental performance intentions and direction, as endorsed by senior management. This can help to avoid negative public comment that the organisation's policy is simply "greenwash".

#### 3.2 **What are the benefits for the Council of having an environmental policy?**

Having an environmental policy enables an organisation to publicly advertise to its internal and external stakeholders that it has considered its environmental performance and has adopted best practice or is working towards improving its environmental performance. Adoption of a policy can help an organisation to:

- Become more environmentally friendly;
- Manage its compliance obligations;

---

<sup>1</sup> Under the Climate Change Act 2008 (**2008 Act**), the UK adopted the first legally-binding national commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions. The 2008 Act initially required the UK to reduce GHG emissions by 80 per cent by the year 2050. In June 2019, following its decision to declare a climate emergency in May, HM Government went further and pledged to cut GHG emissions to zero by the year 2050, becoming the first developed nation to set this goal. In order to achieve this, emissions from transport, farming, businesses, industry and homes must either be completely avoided or offset by planting trees that can absorb carbon dioxide. Major changes to our current lifestyles and to business operation will be required to achieve this challenging target - there will need to be more renewable and nuclear power, more electric vehicles, and a plan on how to tackle commercial flight emissions, how homes are built and heated, and much more. Inevitably legislation is likely to be required, to force behavioural change to happen, so making changes now may well put the Council at a competitive and reputational advantage.



- Encourage greater community engagement, particularly of young people, through participation in information sessions, workshops and discussion;
- Win and retain business; and
- Reduce waste, achieve financial savings and improve its public image.

This report recommends that members establish a time-limited working group that meets at pre-agreed times in order to formulate an action plan that helps deliver the Council's Environmental and Sustainability Policy as submitted at Appendix 1.

### 3.3 Existing environmental commitments as identified in the 2020/21 Service Plans for the Council's Service Areas

These are identified in Appendix 2. Delivering these commitments, as well as identifying other commitments that will help the Council deliver carbon neutrality should be a key part of the action plan.

It is also anticipated that the identification of and appointment of an appropriately qualified consultant to assess the Council's current GHG emissions and assist it in devising a plan to deliver carbon neutrality will be a key part of the action plan.

### 3.4 The drivers for adoption of an environmental policy that includes a commitment to carbon neutrality

#### (a) The international context

The international drivers include *The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*. Under this 1992 Convention, and with the subsequent adoption of the Kyoto Protocol in 1997 and the Paris Convention in 2015, industrialised nations who are party to these three agreements have committed themselves to limiting and reducing GHG emissions in accordance with agreed individual targets. Significantly, the Paris Agreement requires signatories to keep the increase in global temperatures below a potentially dangerous 2 degrees Centigrade. The UK is a signatory to the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

#### (b) The national context

The United Kingdom (UK) has a highly developed environmental protection and enforcement regime, including a carbon trading scheme for significant GHG emission reduction from major industrial emitters, much of which emanates from the European Union (EU). It is unlikely that the decision to leave the EU will have any significant impact on this going forward.

HM Government has recently adopted a legal requirement for the UK to be carbon neutral by 2050 (see footnote 1 above).

**(c) The local context**

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) has adopted an Environmental Framework, which can be viewed at [https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/migrated\\_images/environmental-framework-2\\_tcm3-14493.pdf](https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/migrated_images/environmental-framework-2_tcm3-14493.pdf)

Furthermore, in July last year, CBC unanimously supported a proposal to prioritise responding to climate change. It is now working on producing a deliverable plan, with a view to rolling it out this year, with the aim of leading by example in everyday practices and encouraging and supporting its residents and businesses to do likewise. CBC are also looking to invest in programmes that support a carbon neutral Central Bedfordshire for 2030 and beyond.

The Council is proactive in seeking to develop joint working practices with CBC, particularly related to GHG emission reduction.

Other town and parish councils have taken steps relating specifically to climate change. Locally these include Amptill Town Council who recently declared a climate emergency and have established a Climate Change Steering Group. Separately a Councillor has set up the Amptill Climate Change Action Group, which has groups starting projects to drive down the town's carbon footprint, reduce waste, combat pollution and restore nature.

### 3.5 **Initiatives that support the implementation of the Council's environmental policy and associated action plan**

Various local, national and global initiatives exist that the Council could consider signing up to, and seeking community involvement in, to support its environmental credentials and the launch of its environmental action plan. These include:

- **Declaring a climate emergency.** There is no single definition of what this means, but in essence it is a commitment to be carbon-neutral by a set time frame, usually between 2030 and 2050. Numerous Councils have already done so – see <https://www.climateemergency.uk/blog/list-of-councils/>
- **Covenant of Mayors.** This is a free network of towns and cities around the globe who have committed to reducing GHG emissions by 40 per cent by 2030. The network enables members to share best practice, ideas and funding. It also entails submitting a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan every two years which enables towns to track progress towards meeting the zero carbon targets.
- **Earth Hour.** Started by the WWF and partners as a symbolic lights-out event in Sydney in 2007, Earth Hour is now one of the world's largest grassroots movements for the environment, engaging millions of people in more than 180 countries and territories. Earth Hour this year is on Saturday, 28 March at 20.30hrs. Ways to mark it include switching off all lights in Council owned properties for an hour and holding a community event to mark it.

- **Earth Day.** Earth Day falls on April 22 of every year. April 22, 2020 will mark 50 years of Earth Day. The theme for Earth Day 2020 is climate action.
- **World Environment Day.** Held on June 5 of every year. This is an environmental awareness day, run by the UN. The aim of the Day is to raise awareness of the environment and specific environmental issues.
- **Friends of the Earth: 20 actions parish and town councils can take on the climate and nature emergency.** Friends of the Earth recently published this document to assist Council who want to “do their bit”. See further <https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/reports/20-actions-parish-and-town-councils-can-take-climate-and-nature-emergency>
- **Shrewsbury Cup.** An initiative started in Shrewsbury, this is a reusable cup for hot and cold drinks available in cafes across Shrewsbury. Customers simply pay £1 deposit for a Shrewsbury Cup, enjoy their drink and then return the cup to any participating café to get their £1 back. The cups are washed ready to be used again.
- **Ramblers’ Charter for Walking Neighbourhoods.** This is an initiative to ensure neighbourhoods are green and walkable to promote good physical health, mental health and wellbeing. It also helps combat poor air quality and encourage people to get outside and be active.
- **Woodland Trust – Tree Charter.** Adoption of the 10 principles of the Tree Charter demonstrates commitment to the relationship between people and trees. The first Saturday of November each year is Tree Charter Day, a day for the whole of society to unite in celebrating the value and importance of trees and woods to people. It also marks the start of National Tree Week each year. See further <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/act/tree-charter/>
- **The Big Beds Clean Up.** A charitable organisation which looks after the local environment through litter picks and raising awareness surrounding the environment. Town Councils can get involved by helping to organise one and providing equipment for the volunteers taking part.
- **Morsbags.** See <https://morsbags.com/> . This is a plastic bag reduction initiative involving pods (groups) of sewers making bags from recycled fabric and distributing them to the public to use.

### 3.6 Opportunities to reduce GHG emissions

The Council's greatest sources of GHG emissions are likely to be heating, fuel consumption and travel. Opportunities to reduce GHG emissions might therefore include:

- improving energy efficiency/ reducing energy demand including installing smart meters, switching to LED lighting, using battery powered tools and switching to electric vehicles;
- switching to lower carbon fuels. Whilst it may not be possible to transfer energy supplier to one providing energy from renewable sources due to the contractual termination penalties at present, the council could carbon offsetting the applicable GHG emission through the purchase of carbon offsets from a validated scheme;

- installing solar panels on Council owned buildings and erecting small wind turbines; and
- reducing car mileage through remote working and using conference calls.

It is to be noted that the Council may be able to benefit from the availability of grant funding from national government and other sources to assist it in improving its environmental performance and specifically in pursuing GHG emission reductions. Possible sources include the Department of Energy, Business and Industrial Strategy Rural Community Energy Fund, the National Lottery Climate Action Fund and Community Energy England

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There will clearly be financial implications in preparing and delivering the action plan. At the present time these are unclear. Proposed expenditure will be brought to the Finance and General Purposes Committee when identified by the Working Party for approval before it is incurred.

#### **5. POLICY AND CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The proposed course of action will ensure several of the Council's key objectives over the next four years, as identified in the new Corporate Plan, are delivered – see, for example, actions 1 to 3 under *Continuing to improve the organisational management, efficiency and environmental sustainability of the Town Council*, actions 19, 23, 26 and 33 under *To further improve and develop the provision of green and open space in the town*, and action 50 under *To represent residents, businesses and community groups of Dunstable on key strategic issues facing the town*.

#### **6. HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no health and safety implications from the proposed course of action.

#### **7. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Aside from those Councillors who wish to be members of the working party, going forward it is anticipated that the Chief Executive and Town Clerk and the Heads of Services will be involved in delivering the action plan, together with such other staff members as is appropriate.

#### **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The proposed course of action will ensure full compliance with relevant environmental legislation, and, in the case of GHG emissions, go beyond what is currently required.

#### **9. ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The proposal has significant positive environmental policy implications as it is expected that the outcome of the decision will ultimately be the development of an action plan to deliver Dunstable Town Council's Environmental and

Sustainability Policy, including provision regarding a commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

**10. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no equalities implications from the proposed course of action.

**11. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: Dunstable Town Council Environmental and Sustainability Policy.

Appendix 2: Table to show the environmental provisions contained within the individual 2020/21 service plans for each service area within the Council.

**12. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Finance and General Purposes Committee, 20 June 2016 - *Environmental and Sustainability Policy*.

**13. AUTHOR**

Sharon Long, Democratic Services Manager

e-mail: [sharon.long@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:sharon.long@dunstable.gov.uk)

## Dunstable Town Council Environmental and Sustainability Policy

### Introduction

This document sets out Dunstable Town Council's policy for ensuring the ongoing improvement in the environmental sustainability of our activities and core functions. We recognise that our activities have the potential to impact both positively and adversely on our environment and we are duty bound to ensure that the adverse impacts are minimised.

### Legal Obligations

There is a substantial body of legislation in the UK and Europe that relates to the protection and care of the environment. The Council is duty bound to comply with all relevant legislation relating to its wide ranging activities. The Council will conduct its business at all times in line with applicable legislation and where necessary will seek specialist advice and support to ensure adequate compliance.

### Definitions

#### **Environment**

The immediate context is the local environment in which our services operate within Dunstable and surrounding districts including both indoor and outdoor environments. However, it is recognised that our organisation can have an impact on wider regional, national and global environments.

#### **Sustainability**

Ensuring our plans, actions, processes and consumption accommodate our residents and community aspirations for the longer-term care of the environment.

### Aims and Objectives

The Council will work towards maximising the environmental sustainability of its services within the practical considerations of its corporate and service plans, financial plans, risk strategy and available resources. This policy will aim to achieve the following objectives:

- **Material and Water Resources** - maximise efficient use, re-use and recycling of materials and water resources with safe and sustainable waste disposal.

- **Pollution** - reduce the use of toxic and environmentally damaging materials and processes and put steps in place to reduce unnecessary pollution generation.
- **Energy** - promote with staff and partners energy efficiency to reduce waste and CO2 emissions
- **Procurement** - encourage the purchase of locally sourced products and where possible ensure that products and materials originate from sustainable sources and accredited sustainable companies.
- **Management** - ensure that all operations and activities carried out by us or on our behalf comply with or exceed statutory obligations.
- **Ecology** - minimise any negative ecological impact of our activities and those of contractors and suppliers working on our behalf.
- **Technology** – Utilise technological advances, where appropriate, to drive and inform change.

### Policy Statement

Dunstable Town Council will:

- Embrace sustainability, where applicable, within new and emerging policies, strategies and plans.
- Raise environmental awareness and responsibility among staff, volunteers and partner organisations.
- Seek to mitigate the impacts of any major construction and refurbishment projects under its direct control on the wider environment.
- Manage its waste in line with the established principles of the waste hierarchy namely to prevent, minimise, reuse, recycle, energy recover and lastly dispose of waste.
- Engage with its contractors to establish a commitment to sustainability policies and practices, especially with regard to recycling and waste management, either through accredited systems or contractual obligations.
- Require that, where feasible, materials incorporated in design, construction and maintenance shall be from accredited sustainable or safely recycled sources.
- Ensure that all new external lighting is designed to minimise the effects of light pollution.
- Reduce, where possible, the general consumption of water, gas and electricity.
- Design all new developments and major landscape improvements with due regard for the protection of local habitats and biodiversity.

Responsibilities

This policy will be implemented by the Council its elected Members, its Senior Management Team and second tier mangers. However, all staff and volunteers within the organisation will contribute to reducing the Council's environmental impact and increasing sustainability through utilising working practices that:

- Minimise waste and maximise efficiency.
- Minimise travel.
- Minimise energy consumption.
- Promote greater use of new sustainable technologies.
- Keep material consumption to a minimum.
- Encourage residents to make environmentally sustainable choices.

Training and Investment

The Council is committed to ensuring that its Members and officers are provided with sound training and knowledge to support the implementation of this policy.

Monitor and Review

The Council will record, monitor and review its impact on the environment through a series of service specific baseline assessments and the establishment of action plans designed to progress change.

**Name:** David Ashlee  
**Signature:** .....  
**Position:** Town Clerk & Chief Executive Officer  
**Date:** .....

**Name:** Cllr Sid Abbott  
**Signature:** .....  
**Position:** Town Mayor  
**Date:** .....



TABLE TO SHOW THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROVISIONS CONTAINED WITHIN THE INDIVIDUAL 2020/21 SERVICE PLANS FOR EACH SERVICE AREA WITHIN THE COUNCIL

Objective (What?)	Action	Timescale	Budgeted Unbudgeted Resources NBI No budgetary implication	Partners	Council Priorities (CP) / PI's / Corporate Plan Objectives (CPO)	Officer	Progress Outcome
<b>1. COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>							
<b>PRIORY HOUSE</b>							
<b>Objective 5</b> Improve the environmental impact of Priory House	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Appoint an Environmental Champion for Priory House.</li> <li>2. Create an Environmental Management plan with 3 main objectives for the first year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use Eco friendly cups;</li> <li>• Discount for own T/A cups (Bring your own cup offer); and</li> <li>• Increase recycling by 25 per cent.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Replace all lighting, both internal and external, with LED.</li> </ol>	<p>April</p> <p>April</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>NBI</p> <p>402/4059</p> <p>402/4060</p> <p>402/4036</p> <p><b>402/4038</b></p>	<p></p> <p>Cawleys</p> <p><b>AEC</b></p>	<p>CPO 1</p> <p>CPO 2</p>	<p>HWS/JG</p> <p>JG/HWS</p> <p>JG/DW</p> <p>JG/DW</p> <p>PHMT</p>	
<b>COMMUNITY &amp; YOUNG PEOPLES SERVICES</b>							
<b>Objective 6</b>	<p>Nominate an 'Environmental Champion' in Service Area</p> <p>Explore possibility of a self-charging bike for a mobile phone in Grove Corner</p>	<p>April</p> <p>April to March</p>			<p>CPO 1 &amp; 2</p> <p>CP 1</p> <p>CPO 1</p>	<p></p> <p>YPM/ SNDO/ CDA</p>	

TABLE TO SHOW THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROVISIONS CONTAINED WITHIN THE INDIVIDUAL 2020/21 SERVICE PLANS FOR EACH SERVICE AREA WITHIN THE COUNCIL

Objective (What?)	Action	Timescale	Budgeted Unbudgeted Resources <i>NB/ No budgetary implication</i>	Partners	Council Priorities (CP) / Pi's / Corporate Plan Objectives (CPO)	Officer	Progress Outcome
Improve the environmental impact within Community & Young Peoples Services	Install recycling bins in Grove Corner	April to July			CP 1 CPO 2	YPM/ SNDO/ CDA	
	Work alongside officers on a toilet flush charity scheme	April to March	£60.00	DTC Officers	CP 1	YPM/SNDO	
	Explore solar panel installation on Grove Corner	April to March			CP 1 CPO1	YPM	
EVENTS AND MARKETING Objective 5 Improve environmental impact within Events and Marketing	Nominate an 'Environmental Champion' in Service Area.	April			CPO 1 & 2		
	Increase recycling at all events Get quotes for recycle bins for DL/PITP Ensure all contractors are environmental conscious Explore possibility 'pedal power' initiative for selected events	January - April			CPO 2 CPO 1 / 2 CPO 1	LV/GT LV/GT LV/GT	

TABLE TO SHOW THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROVISIONS CONTAINED WITHIN THE INDIVIDUAL 2020/21 SERVICE PLANS FOR EACH SERVICE AREA WITHIN THE COUNCIL

Objective (What?)	Action	Timescale	Budgeted Unbudgeted Resources <i>NBI</i> <i>No budgetary implication</i>	Partners	Council Priorities (CP) / P1's / Corporate Plan Objectives (CPO)	Officer	Progress Outcome
TOWN CENTRE AND ASHTON SQUARE TOILETS  Objective 5  Improve, carbon footprint within the town centre	To work towards all LED lights for the Town Centre Christmas lights.	Christmas 2020	Christmas Light Reserve budget	Lamps & Tubes	CPO 1	AC	
	To look into purchasing an artificial Christmas trees for The Square or explore planting own tree						
	Install recycle bins within the Ashton Square Toilets. Recycle all plastic and cardboard waste	April 2020	Toilets budget	Town Rangers	CPO 2	AC FC AT	
	Encourage all shops within the Town Centre to take part in Britain in Bloom with a Plant window display competition and take part wheelie fantastic	May 2020 – Aug 2020	Town centre budget	Town Rangers, Grounds Team Shops/business Quadrant Neighbourhood development officer	CPO 15	AC JC FS AT JAR	
	To sponsor toilet flush with supporting toilets in third world countries. Passing details of scheme to other DTC teams	April – Dec 2020	Toilet budget	Town rangers		AC	

TABLE TO SHOW THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROVISIONS CONTAINED WITHIN  
THE INDIVIDUAL 2020/21 SERVICE PLANS FOR EACH SERVICE AREA WITHIN THE COUNCIL

Objective (What?)	Action	Timescale	Budgeted Unbudgeted Resources NB/ No budgetary implication	Partners	Council Priorities (CP) / PI's / Corporate Plan Objectives (CPO)	Officer	Progress Outcome
<b>2. Grounds and Environmental Services</b>							
<b>ALLOTMENT SERVICES</b>							
<b>Objective 1</b>							
Improve site infrastructure at all six allotment sites	<p>Complete outstanding items on the approved Allotment Infrastructure Programme including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signage</li> <li>• Waste Reduction</li> </ul>	By end September 2019	Allocated capital reserve	None	PI 16	P&GSDO	3, 4
<b>CEMETERY</b>							
<b>NB Green Flag based Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce new and improved forms of litter and waste containment by creating combined waste and water access points throughout the cemetery grounds.</li> <li>• Manage the tree stock in a planned and proactive manner to ensure that it remains in a good, safe condition.</li> <li>• <b>Pesticides</b> Reduce pesticide usage by introducing hot water</li> </ul>	2020/21  Ongoing year on year  Completed	Existing revenue  Revenue and allocated tree reserve  Existing revenue	None  TEP  None		JC / MD / IS  JC  Rangers and Grounds staff	

TABLE TO SHOW THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROVISIONS CONTAINED WITHIN THE INDIVIDUAL 2020/21 SERVICE PLANS FOR EACH SERVICE AREA WITHIN THE COUNCIL

Objective (What?)	Action	Timescale	Budgeted Unbudgeted Resources NB/ No budgetary implication	Partners	Council Priorities (CP) / PI's / Corporate Plan Objectives (CPO)	Officer	Progress Outcome
	<p>treatments to all hard surfaces and margins / kerb lines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Peat Reduction</b> All bedding plants to be grown in peat free compost.</li> <li>• Review options for containerised displays supplied in peat free compost.</li> <li>• Where possible procure and specify all replacement trees and shrubs grown in peat free compost.</li> <li>• <b>Water Saving</b> Undertake watering of floral displays on an as required basis, early in the morning and make use of container reservoirs.</li> <li>• Maintain dipping troughs in good condition to avoid leaks and overflows.</li> </ul>	<p>Completed and ongoing</p> <p>Completed and ongoing</p> <p>From 2019/20 onwards</p> <p>Completed and ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing as required</p>	<p>Existing revenue</p> <p>Existing revenue</p> <p>Existing revenue</p> <p>Existing revenue</p> <p>Existing revenue</p>	<p>Bedding plant suppliers</p> <p>Floral display suppliers</p> <p>Plant suppliers</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p>		<p>JC / IS</p> <p>JC / IS</p> <p>Grounds team</p> <p>Grounds team</p> <p>Grounds team</p>	

TABLE TO SHOW THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROVISIONS CONTAINED WITHIN  
THE INDIVIDUAL 2020/21 SERVICE PLANS FOR EACH SERVICE AREA WITHIN THE COUNCIL

Objective (What?)	Action	Timescale	Budgeted Unbudgeted Resources NBI No budgetary implication	Partners	Council Priorities (CP) / PI's / Corporate Plan Objectives (CPO)	Officer	Progress Outcome
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Waste and Recycling</b> Introduce a trial waste separation scheme in the cemetery extension to separate plastic flower pots, green waste and general waste.</li> <li>Reuse plastic flower pots by donating to Dunstable in Bloom projects and schools.</li> <li>Compost all leaf litter from Autumn collections for reuse on beds and borders.</li> <li><b>Vehicle and Equipment Replacement</b> Trial and purchase battery powered trimmers, hedge cutters and blowers to reduce fossil fuel use, noise and Hand Arm Vibration (HAV).</li> <li>Review electric van options for replacement of existing diesel vehicles.</li> </ul>	<p>2019/20 and ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing year on year</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Existing revenue</p> <p>NBI</p> <p>NBI</p> <p>Allocated vehicle reserve</p>	<p>Cawleys and Dunstable in Bloom</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>Suppliers</p>		<p>MD</p> <p>Grounds team</p> <p>IS</p> <p>IS</p>	

**TABLE TO SHOW THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROVISIONS CONTAINED WITHIN  
THE INDIVIDUAL 2020/21 SERVICE PLANS FOR EACH SERVICE AREA WITHIN THE COUNCIL**

<b>Objective (What?)</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Budgeted Unbudgeted Resources NB/ No budgetary implication</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Council Priorities (CP) / PI's / Corporate Plan Objectives (CPO)</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Progress Outcome</b>	
<b>CROSS CUTTING Objective 1 Carbon Neutral Status and Environmental Sustainability</b>	CP.1 Assist with working towards making Dunstable Town Council a carbon neutral organisation by 2030	Lifespan of Corporate Plan	TBD	Working Party	None	All	1	
	CP 2. Improve recycling and separation of waste at all DTC offices and mess / depot facilities	Lifespan of Corporate Plan	TBD	All staff and waste services providers	None	JC / IS / MD / KM / DS	1	
	CP 3. Carry out a programme of replacing existing vehicles with more fuel-efficient hybrid or electric vehicles.	First vehicle 2020 and then lifespan of Corporate Plan	Allocated vehicle reserve		None	None	JC / IS / KM / DS	1
	CP 44. Support, encourage and create wildflower planting on roadside verges and public spaces to benefit pollinating insects	Lifespan of Corporate Plan	TBD		CBC and Volunteers	None	JC / P&GSDO	1,3

TABLE TO SHOW THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROVISIONS CONTAINED WITHIN THE INDIVIDUAL 2020/21 SERVICE PLANS FOR EACH SERVICE AREA WITHIN THE COUNCIL

Objective (What?)	Action	Timescale	Budgeted Unbudgeted Resources NBI No budgetary implication	Partners	Council Priorities (CP) / PI's / Corporate Plan Objectives (CPO)	Officer	Progress Outcome
PRIORITY AND HOUSE GROVE GARDENS SERVICE PLANS	<b>Litter and Waste Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work in partnership with other agencies, organisations and local businesses to deter littering in the gardens.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	NBI	CBC		JC / IS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replace metal litter bins with general waste and recycling split bins.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Existing revenue or allocated reserves	None		JC / IS	
	<b>Environmental Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopt a Corporate Environmental Policy and work towards carbon neutral status.</li> </ul>	Policy adopted					
	<b>Chemical Use</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eliminate use of herbicides entirely in the gardens by 2019/20. Trial town ranger hot water pressure system in 2018.</li> </ul>	Completed and ongoing	Existing revenue	None		Rangers	
	<b>Peat Usage</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek further reductions in the use of peat for growing bedding plants beyond the current 50% reduction</li> </ul>	Completed and ongoing	Existing revenue	Bedding plant suppliers		JC / IS	



TABLE TO SHOW THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROVISIONS CONTAINED WITHIN THE INDIVIDUAL 2020/21 SERVICE PLANS FOR EACH SERVICE AREA WITHIN THE COUNCIL

Objective (What?)	Action	Timescale	Budgeted Unbudgeted Resources NBI No budgetary implication	Partners	Council Priorities (CP) / P1's / Corporate Plan Objectives (CPO)	Officer	Progress Outcome
	<p><b>Waste minimisation.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss and review options for improved waste separation and collection at source with existing and future waste collection and disposal companies.</li> </ul>	2020/21	TBD	Cawleys		JC	
	<p><b>Conservation of Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review battery powered strimmer and hedge cutter options to reduce fuel use, noise and air pollution.</li> </ul>	<p>Review completed at Cemetery and now need to roll out to other sites / teams</p>	Existing revenue or allocated reserves			IS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep under close review options for replacing grounds maintenance vehicles with hybrid / electric alternatives.</li> </ul>	<p>Trail of electric vehicle completed. Purchase 2020</p>	Allocated vehicle reserve	Suppliers		IS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider feasibility for capturing rainwater for re use to irrigate bedding displays</li> </ul>	2021/22	TBD	Unknown		JC / IS	

**TABLE TO SHOW THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROVISIONS CONTAINED WITHIN  
THE INDIVIDUAL 2020/21 SERVICE PLANS FOR EACH SERVICE AREA WITHIN THE COUNCIL**

Objective (What?)	Action	Timescale	Budgeted Unbudgeted Resources NB/ No budgetary implication	Partners	Council Priorities (CP) / PI's / Corporate Plan Objectives (CPO)	Officer	Progress Outcome
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compost leaves for reuse as soil conditioner in horticultural displays beds.</li> </ul>	Completed and ongoing	Existing revenue	None		Grounds team	
<b>RECREATION GROUNDS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake an audit of needs and costs to establish level of funding required. Take account of Corporate Plan aspirations and objectives. Identify grant funding opportunities</li> </ul>	By Dec 2020	New fund to be established during 21/22 budget setting	Grant bodies	PI 16	JC / P&GSDO	<b>3</b>
CP 19 Develop an investment fund for the upgrade and refurbishment of all open spaces and play areas to improve Council owned public open space CP 26 and 33	Mentmore Improve pedestrian access, provide new toddler play equipment, create wildflower landscapes and trees	By Dec 2023	S106 / CIL / Allocated reserves	CBC	PI 16	JC / IS / P&GSDO	<b>3.4</b>

TABLE TO SHOW THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROVISIONS CONTAINED WITHIN THE INDIVIDUAL 2020/21 SERVICE PLANS FOR EACH SERVICE AREA WITHIN THE COUNCIL

Objective (What?)	Action	Timescale	Budgeted Unbudgeted Resources <i>NBI</i> <i>No budgetary implication</i>	Partners	Council Priorities (CP) / PI's / Corporate Plan Objectives (CPO)	Officer	Progress Outcome
Objective 3 - Maintain trees in a safe condition and manage tree stock.	Survey trees in accordance with TEP survey plan and carry out necessary works	May / June 2020	Existing revenue and allocated capital reserve	TEP Consultant and tree contractor	PI 16	JC	3
Objective 5 Secure more biodiverse habitats in DTC green spaces	Work with Wildlife Trust to identify opportunities at all sites	TBD		Wildlife Trust	PI 16	JC / P&GSDO	3,4
<b>3. Finance and Support Services</b>							
Reduce paper usage and postage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issue invitations by e-mail wherever possible – including the 2019 AGM</li> <li>Continue to encourage/invite on-line applications/ payments for event tickets, etc</li> </ul>	Throughout the year				SL	Reduce paper usage and postage
						SL	

TABLE TO SHOW THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROVISIONS CONTAINED WITHIN THE INDIVIDUAL 2020/21 SERVICE PLANS FOR EACH SERVICE AREA WITHIN THE COUNCIL

Objective (What?)	Action	Timescale	Budgeted Unbudgeted Resources NB/ No budgetary implication	Partners	Council Priorities (CP) / Pt's / Corporate Plan Objectives (CPO)	Officer	Progress Outcome
Raise awareness of Environmental Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wherever possible review and reduce energy costs. Investigate installation of LED lighting (some replacements completed)</li> </ul> <p>Work with Councillors to create Working group on Environmental Policy and achieve Corporate plan objectives</p>	By end of 2020  April 20				HoS/JS  SL	