

# **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 managers. 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:** John Kane  
**Signature:** .....  
**Position:** Town Mayor  
**Date:** Reviewed 25/06/2018 (Minute 137/2018)