

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

18 April 2019

Report of the Strategic Director Economy, Transport and Environment

**CORPORATE ENVIRONMENT POLICY, STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN
(ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION)**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To seek approval for the revised Corporate Environment Policy, Strategy and Action Plan.

(2) **Information and Analysis**

Background

The Corporate Environment Policy sets out the Council's commitment to putting the principles of environmental sustainability into action in everything the Authority does, so that actions meet the needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The original Policy was adopted by Cabinet in November 2004 and was last reviewed in 2014.

The revised Policy, attached at Appendix A for consideration, has been reviewed and updated to include recent changes to legislation, national policy and environmental standards. The key areas addressed in the revised Policy are as follows:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Using water efficiently in the Council's buildings and operations
- Reducing waste produced by the Council and increasing recycling
- Minimising pollution and the release of pollutants which may cause damage to health or the environment
- Protecting, conserving and enhancing the natural and built environment
- Ensuring all staff have the knowledge, skills and understanding to implement the Corporate Environment Policy
- Ensuring the Council's purchasing power is used positively.

Strategy and Action Plan

The revised Policy sets out the Council's environmental commitments. The detail on how commitments will be achieved is set out in the accompanying Strategy and Action Plan which are attached at Appendix B to this report for consideration and approval.

Relevance to other policies and standards

The recommended changes to the policy are in compliance with the International Standard ISO14001:2015 environmental management systems, which is an essential requirement of the certified environmental management system operated by the Economy, Transport and Environment Department.

The revised Corporate Environment Policy incorporates principles set out in both the Timber Policy, adopted in 2014, and the Corporate Energy and Design Sustainability Policy, adopted in 2006. The Corporate Environment Policy will, therefore, supersede these two policies.

Moving Forward

The Corporate Environment Policy, Strategy and Action Plan will be regularly monitored by the Council's Environmental Sustainability Group, which has representatives from all Council departments. An update on progress in implementing the Policy will be provided to Cabinet on an annual basis. The Policy will be reviewed and updated every three years to ensure it is current and continues to be fit for purpose.

(3) **Environmental Considerations** Implementation of the Corporate Environment Policy will contribute positively to the reduction of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases having positive benefits for climate change and demonstrating the Council's commitment to environmental sustainability. Other benefits will include reduction in the use of single use plastics and a reduction in the amount of energy used by the Council. Wider staff awareness and understanding will encourage environmental considerations to contribute to decision-making in areas such as procurement.

Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: financial, legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, health, property, social value and transport considerations.

(4) **Key Decision** No.

(5) **Call-in** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(6) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That Cabinet:

6.1 Approves the revised Corporate Environment Policy, Strategy and Action Plan.

6.2 Receives an update on the implementation of the Policy, Strategy and Action Plan on an annual basis.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director for Economy, Transport and Environment

CORPORATE ENVIRONMENT POLICY

Derbyshire County Council is committed to putting the principles of sustainable development into action in everything the authority does, so that development meets the needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Managing our environment sustainably will be a part of making Derbyshire a place:

- With resilient and thriving communities
- With happy, healthy people and families
- With a strong, diverse and adaptable economy
- Which is great to live in, visit and work.

We recognise the impact we have on the environment and society through the delivery of our operations and are committed to protecting the environment by minimising any adverse environmental impact, while creating opportunities for enhancing positive environmental effects to improve the quality of life for people.

We will encourage and enable all our employees to do what they can to translate these commitments into practice. We will also work with our contractors and suppliers to improve our environmental performance. This policy will, therefore, be communicated to all employees and contractors working for or on behalf of the County Council.

We will monitor our environmental performance by setting organisational objectives and targets and report on our progress.

In developing the Environment Policy, the Council is publicly setting out its commitment to continual environmental improvement. The Environment Strategy and Action Plan set out the work the Council will undertake to implement this policy.

Approved by: XXXX Issued: XXXX 2019

CORPORATE ENVIRONMENT POLICY

In everything we do, Derbyshire County Council is committed to...

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions

Identifying, adopting and promoting technologies and practices to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, from our estate and operations including Council property, street lighting and fleet and employee travel.

Using water efficiently in the Council's buildings and operations

Using water efficiently in our buildings and operations and ensuring improvements are made to the measurement and monitoring of water consumption across our estate to inform water saving practices.

Reducing waste

Eliminating, reducing, reusing, composting and recycling wastes where possible. Managing our remaining wastes in accordance with our Duty of Care obligations.

Minimising pollution

Minimising, with the goal of eliminating, the release of any pollutant which may cause damage to health or the environment whether from air, land or water.

Protecting the natural and built environment

Protecting, conserving and enhancing the environment, habitats, biodiversity and heritage.

Ensure all staff are able to implement the Corporate Environment Policy

Raising awareness, educating and training employees and those working on our behalf to ensure that all staff have the knowledge, skills and understanding to implement the Environment Policy.

Ensuring that the Council's purchasing power is used positively

Ensuring that the Council's purchasing power is used to reduce negative environmental impacts and to improve the environmental standards and social value of products and services the Council purchases.

We will do this by...

Partnership Working

Working closely with employees, other organisations, interested groups and individuals, where appropriate, to further the aims of this Policy.

Objective Setting

Continually improving our environmental performance by setting realistic but challenging objectives and targets and regularly reviewing our progress as set out in the Environment Strategy and Action Plan.

Legal Compliance

Complying with relevant environmental legislation, Council policies and other commitments and striving to deliver best practice.

Environmental Management Systems

Promoting, operating and extending environmental management systems to control, monitor and enhance our environmental performance and communicating this Policy to all employees and contractors.

Policy Review

Reviewing this Environment Policy every three years in view of changes to the Council's activities and priorities in light of new local, national and international developments.

CORPORATE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY 2019-2022**Purpose**

The Council recognises that all people are reliant on the natural environment. The environment controls air and water quality, regulates the climate, provides food, fuel and other resources. Derbyshire benefits from a rich historical and cultural landscape which in turn contributes to the economy through commerce and tourism and to health and wellbeing through recreation and active lifestyles.

The Council has therefore set out its commitment to managing the environmental impacts of its operations and to further improving its environmental performance in its Corporate Environment Policy. The purpose of this Strategy is to set out how the Council will ensure the Corporate Environment Policy is implemented.

Progress to date

The Council has already made considerable progress in reducing the environmental impact of its operations.

The Council has cut greenhouse gas emissions from its estate and operations (excluding schools) by 33.9% from a baseline year of 2010. It is likely to exceed the target of a 35% reduction by 2022. The reductions so far have been achieved by a rationalisation of Council property and energy efficiency measures; by a reduction in business mileage and through a programme of installing LED lights in streetlighting. Improved environmental performance of energy generation and fuel efficiency have also contributed.

The Council continues to work to reduce, reuse and recycle waste wherever possible. In a recent survey of over 200 council offices, libraries, care facilities and schools over 37% of waste was being recycled. In addition, 8-16,000 tonnes of aggregates and road planings are sent for disposal each year which are then re-used or recycled. The Council has also explored ways of reducing packaging wastes and ensures that it gets the maximum value from scrap metals and waste electrical items.

The way the Council procures and commissions goods and services has changed. There is more awareness that the full lifecycle of a product or service must be taken into account reducing waste, optimising value and minimising environmental impacts from how the product is made to what happens to it when we have finished with it. The social value of goods and services are assessed securing extra social, environmental and economic benefits for Derbyshire.

A number of staff training and awareness programmes have taken place focusing on training key staff in environmental issues and action which could then be shared amongst colleagues. A series of Environmental Mini-guides have also been produced raising awareness of the Environment Policy amongst staff.

The Economy, Transport and Environment Department has an environmental management system (EMS) which is certified to the international standard BS EN ISO 14001:2015. This system provides a set of processes and practices that enable the Council to reduce the environmental impacts and increase the operating efficiency of its work to achieve its environmental goals.

Priorities

The priorities for the Council moving forward have been developed by the Environmental Sustainability Group, (ESG) a cross-departmental working Group, and are linked to the commitments set out in the Environment Policy.

The priorities are for the Council to manage its operations and estate so that we:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the Council's estate and operations
- Use water efficiently in our buildings and operations
- Reduce waste produced by the Council and increase recycling
- Minimise pollution and the release of any pollutant which may cause damage to health or the environment
- Protect, conserve and enhance the natural and built environment as an intrinsic part of service delivery
- Ensure all staff have the knowledge, skills and understanding to implement the Corporate Environment Policy.
- Ensure the Council's purchasing power is used to reduce negative environmental impacts and to improve the environmental standards of products and services the Council purchases.

Actions

In recognition that there is still more to be done, a high level Action Plan has been developed which identifies key areas of work to assist the Council in implementing its Corporate Environment Policy. In the majority of areas, all departments have responsibility to undertake the actions identified, however a lead department has also been identified to drive activity forward.

Measuring Success

Key indicators of success have been identified to assess the Council's progress in delivering the Strategy. By 2022 the Council will:

- Reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from its estate and operations by 35% from a 2010 baseline.
- Establish baseline water consumption data.
- Use the waste database across all departments to implement and monitor targets for reducing and recycling waste.
- Provide awareness training for all staff to enable them to fully implement the Environment Policy in the delivery of their duties.

Further measures regarding waste reduction and water consumption are to be developed once baseline data has been collected.

Monitoring the Strategy

Progress will be regularly monitored through meetings of the ESG and through departmental progress meetings. An annual report of progress will be made to the Council's Corporate Management Team and will be published on the Council's website.

Corporate Environment Policy Action Plan 2019-2022

Priority	Key Actions	Timescale	Departments involved (with lead Dept.)
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the Council's estate and operations	Encourage efficient use of energy within the Council's buildings	35% by 2022	All depts. (CCP)
	Invest in energy efficiency technologies and renewable energy generation	March 2022	All depts. (CCP)
	Implement part-night street lighting and invest in LED technology	March 2021	ETE
	Support employees to use more sustainable modes of travel	Detail in DCC Travel Plan 'Miles Better'	All depts. (ETE)
	Ensure core fleet vehicles specification is to the latest Euro standard exhaust emission regulations deploying ultra-low emission vehicles where feasible and transport management systems where appropriate.	On-going programme of replacement of fleet	ETE
Use water efficiently in our buildings and operations	Improve the measurement and monitoring of water consumption across the Council's estate	March 2022	CCP
	Implement water efficiency measures on the Council estate and in its operations.	March 2022	All depts. (CCP)
Reduce waste produced by the Council and increase recycling	Improve the measurement and monitoring of Council waste and recycling rates	December 2019	All depts. (ETE)
	Eliminate and reduce some corporate waste streams whilst increasing reuse, composting and recycling rates.	March 2022	All depts. (ETE)
Minimise the release of any pollutant which may cause damage to health or the environment	Increase employee awareness of potential pollution issues arising from the products and services used and provided e.g. plastics.	In accordance with ISO14001	All depts. (ETE)
Protect, conserve and enhance the natural and built environment as an intrinsic part of service delivery	Develop guidance and procedures to assist employees to protect and enhance the natural and built environment	March 2020	All depts. (ETE)

Ensure all staff have the knowledge, skills and understanding to implement the Environment Policy	Raise awareness and understanding amongst staff of the Corporate Environment Policy	June 2019	All depts. (CCP)
	Consider the environmental implications and opportunities of policies, projects, decisions and working practices.	March 2021	All depts. (CCP)
Ensure the Council's purchasing power is used to reduce negative environmental impacts and to improve the environmental standards and social value of products and services the Council purchases.	Include environmental considerations when commissioning and procuring goods and services	On-going programme as tenders are produced	All depts. (CCP)
	Ensure potential suppliers and contractors are aware of, understand and abide by the Council's Environment Policy at the time of tendering	On-going	All depts. (CCP)
	Reduce reliance on single use plastics	See proposed 'Plastics Strategy'	All depts. (CCP)