



FLITWICK TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

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

The Council acknowledges its duty to consider the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out its functions under the provisions of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, s40, and has issued a separate statement to this effect.

This Policy is intended to support the aims of the Council's Strategy. It will embrace the concept of sustainability and acknowledge the need to reconcile environmental, social and economic demands which links this policy with others including Equality; Community & Social; Investment and Procurement. In this way we will ensure environmental considerations are central to the ethos of the organisation.

One of five pillars of its Strategy is "A Sustainable Environment", a commitment to improve the quality of the public realm, respond to climate change issues and protect the local environment.

The Council will undertake periodic audits to ensure up to date assessments of its environmental impacts are maintained and the progress of action plans are monitored. As part of this it will measure the organisation's carbon footprint and take the necessary actions to reduce it.

The Council will ensure that Councillors and employees receive training to enable them to understand and control the environmental effects of their work and the opportunities available to them in the governance of the town.

The Council will comply with all relevant legislation and where possible set standards which are more stringent than the legal minimum.

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 is not a large energy user but will take any opportunity to manage energy with a view to minimising its consumption both in its buildings and its transport management.

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 direct its efforts to make the Town sustainable, working alongside like-minded community groups and statutory partners and will review the benefits of together making a formal commitment through a Local Authorities "joint pledge" approach.

The Council will gather baseline data on the environment and sustainability within the Town, on which to prioritise future actions.

The Council will promote Environmental awareness in the Town.

The Council recognises that diet and food choices can have a significant impact on carbon emissions and is potentially more important than sourcing locally. The Council will look at influencing on the benefits of a fresh diet and good nutrition.

The Council will recognise Central Bedfordshire Council's Sustainability Plan 2020 and support it where it benefits the town.

Approved: January 2024

Review Date: January 2026