



# **Lostwithiel Town Council**

## **Environmental Sustainability Development Policy**

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Approved 02 April 2024 Minute 319/23**

## **1. Introduction**

Lostwithiel Town Council (the Council) is committed to supporting the creation of a sustainable community and continuous improvement in its environmental performance.

The UK Government has set a nationwide target to reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2050, with a reduction to 68% of 1990 levels by 2030, and a 78% reduction by 2035. [1] The Council recognises and supports Cornwall Council's Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Environmental Growth Strategy 2020-2065

The Council acknowledges there is a climate change emergency and accepts that its activities may have an adverse impact on the environment and that it can take steps to minimise any such impact. The Council will strive to make a positive contribution to protecting and enhancing the local and global environment whilst preserving local heritage

The Council will ensure that all of its operations and any activities undertaken by or on behalf of the Council comply with or exceed all environmental regulations, laws and codes of practice, as applicable.

The Council understands the need to use its powers and influence to protect and improve the environment through good management, and by adopting best practice. By adopting this Sustainable Development Policy, the Council is committing to reducing its own and the town's carbon footprint and foster biodiversity.

The Council will work to integrate environmental considerations into its operational decisions and adopt greener alternatives where available.

Councillors and council staff will be provided with information and training to enable them to perform their duties in a way that supports this environment policy and objectives.

The Council will make available reasonable budget and staffing resources to facilitate meeting these objectives.

The Council will develop and adopt a Climate Change Action Plan to achieve the aims of this policy.

The Council will develop and adopt a Biodiversity Action Plan to achieve the aims of this policy.

The Council's Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will take into account the issues arising from climate change, maintaining biodiversity and the environment when reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan.

## **2. Aims of Policy**

The aims of the Council's Sustainability Development Policy are:

To carry out our work in an efficient way that minimizes or eliminates its adverse impact on our environment and minimizes or eliminates the Council's contribution to climate change.

To promote the importance and value of protecting our environment and combatting climate change, in order to protect the quality of life of our community now and in the future.

To promote a sense of community, and support residents in their efforts to improve and protect our local environment and to minimize their environmental impact by cutting carbon, waste and pollution.

To ensure consideration is given to the environment whilst the Council and its employees are conducting its business and activities & to support the community of Lostwithiel in its enjoyment of the local environment

## **3. Energy Use & Management**

The Council: -

Commits to reducing its carbon footprint through energy efficiency throughout its operation to achieve becoming carbon neutral on energy use by 2030.

Will contract to buy from renewable energy suppliers.

Commits to support the community to reduce Lostwithiel's carbon footprint with the goal to become a carbon-neutral town by 2030 and will consider allocating funding to projects that aim to achieve this.

Will develop a policy for including carbon reduction criteria when selecting suppliers.

The Council consulted with the community to produce the current Lostwithiel Neighbourhood Plan, and the policies for sustainable planning that it contains.

We commit to promoting the Plan as a blueprint for future development, upholding, as far as we are able, the policies within it and updating it regularly.

The Council will consider NDP policies, sustainability, environmental impact, and biodiversity when developing or redeveloping any of its own buildings.

#### **4. Environmental Impacts**

The Council recognises that it has a responsibility to manage its activities in a way that reduces negative environmental impacts and increases positive impacts.

The Council will aim to minimize:

- use of energy to reduce carbon emissions
- use of water
- use of resources
- production of waste and increase reuse and recycling
- loss of biodiversity
- our carbon footprint

The Council will seek to protect and enhance the quality of Lostwithiel's natural environment and open spaces and will support the conservation and careful management of its land to protect, restore, enhance and promote biodiversity and where appropriate encourage the use of native and wildlife friendly species in planting schemes

The Council will support the conservation of trees and hedgerows and will ensure that Council owned parks are maintained in an environmentally sensitive way (within financial and operational constraints).

The Council will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when responding to planning application in line with the Lostwithiel Neighbourhood Plan.

The Council will not permit the release of balloons or sky lanterns as part of its activities or on land it controls.

#### **5. Sustainable Procurement**

Council procurement is continually assessed for sustainability implications, with the intention of purchasing renewable/recycled, environmentally low-impact and recyclable materials, so long as the requirements for best value and quality are met.

Where possible, the Town Council will use local suppliers to encourage economic growth within the town, recognising that sourcing materials, goods and services locally, where feasible, will reduce carbon emissions resulting from transport.

The Council will continue to look for ways to reduce energy and water consumption and where practicable introduce energy saving measures in all premise refurbishment and new build projects

The Council will aim to minimise the creation of waste and increase recycling and reuse of materials. When practicable the Council will endeavour to use locally sourced and sustainably produced food at Town Council events whilst maintaining value for money and quality. It will not support the use of Single Use Plastic items including single use tableware.

## **6. Social Impacts**

The Council recognises that the quality of the local environment is a vital ingredient in contributing to the quality of life for residents and visitors to the town. It also recognises that by improving the local environment this will make a contribution towards improved health, better social cohesion, economic prosperity and a diverse and rich natural environment.

The Council will engage with local residents, organizations and businesses to share and learn better practices in an effort to lower carbon footprints and support them in their adoption of lower impact practices.

Where appropriate the Council will act as a voice for local environmental concerns to those agencies given the statutory powers to tackle problems.

The Council will support, whenever possible, the use of footpaths, cycling and public transport.

In implementing this policy, the Town Council and delivery organizations will furthermore:

- comply with all relevant legal requirements including: (a) disposal of its waste using a registered waste collector and (b) observe and comply with the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulations
- give appropriate consideration to environmental and social criteria when purchasing products and services and select contractors and

suppliers who can demonstrate environmental management and performance in line with this policy.

- raise awareness of appropriate environmental issues amongst those engaged with projects – this will include staff, participants, subcontractors and the wider community

## **7. Legal Requirements**

### The Water Act 2003.

This Act places a duty on all public bodies to take into account, where relevant, the desirability of conserving water supplied or to be supplied to Council premises.

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as it is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006. This Act gives specific powers to town and parish councils to tackle climate change. The Act places an obligation on town and parish councils to improve their energy efficiency.

Duty of Care (Waste). The Duty of Care covers any business that produces or disposes of waste and requires the business to ensure that any waste produced is handled safely and in accordance with the law.

The Environment Act 2021 – which aims to improve air and water quality, protect wildlife, increase recycling, and reduce plastic waste.

## **8. References**

[https://www.lostwithielplan.org.uk/data/uploads/337\\_2045774564.pdf](https://www.lostwithielplan.org.uk/data/uploads/337_2045774564.pdf)

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/ozhj5k0z/adopted-local-plan-strategic-policies-2016.pdf>

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/uxgjk4jn/climate-emergency-dpd.pdf>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a11af7e8f5ec000f1f8c46/NP PF December 2023.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a11af7e8f5ec000f1f8c46/NP_PF_December_2023.pdf)

<https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/environmentalgrowth>