

Haverhill Town Council

Environmental Policy

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Haverhill Town Council is committed to supporting the creation of a sustainable community.
- 1.2 By adopting this policy and an action plan, the Council is committing to reducing its own and the town's carbon footprint;
- 1.3 The Council recognises the need to use its powers and influence to protect and improve the environment through good management, and by adopting best practice;
- 1.4 The Council will work to integrate environmental considerations into its operational decisions and adopt greener alternatives where available;
- 1.5 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;
- 1.6 The Council will make available reasonable budget and staffing resources to facilitate meeting these objectives;
- 1.7 The Town Council, acting as Sole trustee of the Haverhill Community Trust, undertakes to apply the same policies in the discharge of its duties as trustee.

2. Aims of Policy

The aims of the Council's Environmental Policy are:

- 2.1 To carry out our work in an efficient way that minimises or eliminates its adverse impact on our environment, and minimises or eliminates the Council's contribution to climate change;
- 2.2 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;
- 2.3 To promote a sense of community, and support residents in their efforts to improve and protect our local environment and to minimise their environmental impact by cutting carbon, waste and pollution.

3. Energy Use & Management

The Council

- 3.1 Commits to reducing its carbon footprint through energy efficiency throughout its operation to achieve becoming carbon neutral on energy use by 2025;
- 3.3 Will contract to buy from renewable energy suppliers;
- 3.4 Commits to support the community to reduce Haverhill's carbon footprint with the goal to become a carbon-neutral town by 2050 and will allocate funding to projects that aim to achieve this.

4. Sustainable Resource Management

The Council will:

- 4.1 Develop a sustainable resource management strategy to reduce its carbon footprint, minimise its use of the earth's resources and choose reusable resources wherever practical;
- 4.2 Develop a composting strategy to recycle food waste and to facilitate responsible disposal of compostable alternatives to plastics;
- 4.3 Promote and encourage recycling across the town;
- 4.4 Use recycled paper products where feasible;
- 4.5 Minimise the amount of printing and minimise the amount of paper, using electronic communications wherever possible;
- 4.6 Endeavour to end the use of avoidable 'single use' plastics in and on Council property;
- 4.7 Develop a Green Events Policy, ensuring best practice regarding recycling and sustainability at events.

5. Conservation & The Natural Environment

The Council will support and promote endeavours to:

- 5.1 Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the natural environment of Haverhill and its open spaces;
- 5.2 Conserve local natural habitats including but not limited to, trees, woodland, hedgerows, ponds, streams and grassland;
- 5.3 Conserve and promote local biodiversity in all its activities, but particularly with regard to the management of its land, and where possible land adjacent to sensitive habitats and enhancing connectivity by preserving and creating wildlife corridors within the town;
- 5.4 Oppose use of bee harming pesticides and herbicides and support growth of wildflowers on available spaces to encourage prosperity of bee and insect populations.

6. Engagement, Lobbying & Partnerships

The Council will:

- 6.1 Promote awareness of environmental issues within the community;
- 6.2 Act as a voice for the local environmental concerns to those agencies given the statutory powers to tackle problems;
- 6.3 Support the formation of a community group to promote sustainable environmental practices and increased environmental awareness within the town;
- 6.4 Promote Haverhill's environmental awareness and initiatives with the district and county councils, nearby parish councils and other official and unofficial bodies.

7. Sustainable Travel

The Council will:

- 7.1 Encourage members and officers to car-share where possible when a car journey must be made on Council business;
- 7.2 Promote, and support the use of cycling, public footpaths and public transport;
- 7.3 Ensure Council vehicles are serviced and maintained to a high standard;
- 7.4 Support initiatives to improve sustainable local transport options including frequent and reliable local bus services around town;
- 7.5 Support and lobby for initiatives to boost investment in infrastructure to enable EV charging which would boost the adoption of EVs by residents;
- 7.6 Support efforts to retain a vibrant high street, and thereby reduce desire to travel to other towns for shopping and leisure.

8. Review

- 8.1 This policy and its application will be subject to annual review and revised as necessary, to ensure that it continues to reflect the aims and objectives of the Council and promotes continuous environmental improvement throughout the Council's operations.
- 8.2 Any changes to the Policy will be brought to the attention of all stakeholders.