



Sustainability Policy

Introduction

- 1.1 Hadleigh Town Council is committed to supporting the creation of a sustainable community.
- 1.2 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]
- 1.3 The Council recognizes the need to use its powers and influence to protect and improve the environment through good management, and by adopting best practice.
- 1.4 By adopting this Sustainability Policy, the Council is committing to reducing its own and the town's carbon footprint and foster biodiversity.
- 1.5 The Council will work to integrate environmental considerations into its operational decisions and adopt greener alternatives where available.
- 1.6 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.
- 1.7 The Council will make available reasonable budget and staffing resources to facilitate meeting these objectives.
- 1.8 The Town Council, acting as sole trustee of the Hadleigh Market Feoffment Charity, undertakes to apply the same policies in the discharge of its duties as trustee.
- 1.9 The Council will develop and adopt a Climate Change Action Plan to achieve the aims of this policy.
- 1.10 The Council will develop and adopt a Biodiversity Action Plan to achieve the aims of this policy.
- 1.11 The Council's Neighbourhood Plan Sub Committee will take into account the issues arising from climate change, maintaining biodiversity and the environment when developing the Neighbourhood Plan. The Climate Change Emergency and Environment Sub Committee will provide comments, suggestions and recommendations regarding the Neighbourhood Plan to the Council's Neighbourhood Plan Sub Committee for consideration.

Aims of Policy

The aims of the Council's Sustainability Policy are:

- 2.1 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.
- 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 minimize their environmental impact by cutting carbon, waste and pollution.

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 2030.
- 3.2 Will contract to buy from renewable energy suppliers.



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

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

Sustainable Resource Management

The Council will:

4.1 Develop a sustainable resource management strategy to reduce its carbon footprint, minimize its use of the earth's resources and choose reusable resources wherever practical.

4.2 Promote and encourage recycling across the town.

4.3 Use recycled paper products where feasible.

4.4 Minimize the amount of printing and minimize the amount of paper, using electronic communications wherever possible.

4.5 Endeavour to end the use of avoidable 'single use' plastics in and on Hadleigh Town Council property.

4.6 Develop a Green Events Policy, ensuring best practice regarding recycling and sustainability at events.

4.7 Promote water saving actions (like using water butts and toilet flushers that save water) and runoff water in concrete areas.

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 Hadleigh and its open spaces.

5.2 Conserve local natural habitats including but not limited to, trees, woodland, hedgerows, ponds, streams, grassland, and the River Brett.

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.

Sustainable Travel

The Council will:

6.1 Encourage members and officers to minimize car journeys (unless by EV or other non-fossil-fuelled vehicle) made on Council business.

6.2 Promote, and support the use of cycling, public footpaths and public transport.

6.3 Support initiatives to improve sustainable local transport options including frequent and reliable local bus services around town.

6.4 Support and lobby for initiatives to boost investment in infrastructure to enable Electric Vehicle (EV) charging which would boost the adoption of EVs by residents.

6.5 Support efforts to retain a vibrant high street, and thereby reduce desire to travel to other towns for shopping and leisure.



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Engagement, Lobbying & Partnerships

The Council will:

- 7.1 Promote awareness of environmental issues within the community, and encourage sustainable practices.
- 7.2 Act as a voice for the local environmental concerns to those agencies given the statutory powers to tackle problems.
- 7.3 Support local community groups (such as the Hadleigh Environmental Action Team) to promote sustainable environmental practices and increased environmental awareness within the town.
- 7.4 Encourage and lobby other local authorities (Babergh DC and Suffolk CC) and the UK Government to deliver on their commitments regarding climate change, biodiversity and the environment.
- 7.5 Encourage local organisations to develop their own plans to address climate change.

Information Sharing

The Council will:

- 8.1 Develop and maintain its knowledge of climate change issues, relevant local groups and initiatives, local and national government initiatives.
- 8.2 Promote Hadleigh's environmental awareness and initiatives with the district and county councils, nearby parish councils and other official and unofficial bodies.
- 8.3 Share its knowledge and information within the council and with residents, and promote its Sustainability Policy, Climate Change Action Plan, and its actions, events and initiatives to combat climate change and protect our environment.

Measurement

1.1 The success of this policy will be measured by:

- a) the completion of initiatives, tasks and actions identified in Climate Change Action Plan, and
- b) where feasible, estimates of the reduction in carbon emissions by the Council and in Hadleigh. How these estimates could be made is yet to be determined, but it is noted that an initial estimate of carbon emissions for the town is available [2].

Review

- 10.1 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.
- 10.2 Any changes to the Policy will be brought to the attention of all stakeholders.

References

- [1] HM Government Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener, October 2021: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1033990/net-zero-strategy-beis.pdf
- [2] Centre for Sustainable Energy Impact Tool: <https://impact-tool.org.uk/>