



**Corporate Policy &
Resources**

Date 12/04/2018

Subject: Corporate Environmental Sustainability Policy

Report by:

Eve Fawcett-Moralee
Economic and Commercial Growth Director
01427 676535
Eve.Fawcett-Moralee@West-Lindsey.gov.uk

Contact Officer:

Saul Farrell
Senior Project Officer
(Visitor Economy & Places)
01427 676136
Saul.Farrell@West-Lindsey.gov.uk

Purpose / Summary:

To present a proposed policy for corporate environmental sustainability and to seek approval for the adoption of the document as corporate policy.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

To endorse and authorise the adoption of the proposed Corporate Environmental Sustainability Policy as Council Policy.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

There are no direct legal implications arising from the adoption of this policy.

Financial : FIN/1/19/TJB

None from this report.

Staffing :

Officers have advised that there are no direct Human Resources Implications arising from this policy. The commitments engendered by the operation of this policy shall be met through existing staffing arrangements.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

An initial equality and diversity impact screening assessment has been conducted in consultation with the officer responsible, it was determined that this policy has no direct impacts upon equalities and diversity, nor those defined as having a 'protected characteristic' by the 2010 Equalities Act.

Risk Assessment :**Non-Adoption**

Failure to adopt an environmental sustainability policy would result in the council being unable to submit the appropriate supporting documentation for a full application to the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :

None.

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

None.

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

Introduction

- 1.1. West Lindsey District Council currently does not have any formalised policy commitment towards protecting and preserving the environment and environmental sustainability. Some aspects are covered in our five-yearly Carbon Management Plan but this will also require review subsequent to the completion of the Carbon Efficiency Project. This policy represents an opportunity for us to express our commitment as a council towards protecting our shared natural and built environment.

Background

- 1.2. Submitting a corporate sustainability policy is one of the requirements of full European Regional Development Fund bids. As the council is likely to submit a full bid under Priority Axis 6 for the Gainsborough Green Corridor and may be invited to submit a full bid under Priority Axis 3 for the Saxilby Enterprise Workspaces, the lack of a corporate sustainability policy may pose a risk to the success of our funding bids. As we worked in partnership with Lincolnshire County Council to deliver the Priority Axis 6 bid for the Gainsborough Blue Green Corridor, we were able to utilise their corporate sustainability policy. This is not an option for the funding process for these two projects, which are both likely to reach their denouement in early 2018.
- 1.3. Expressing a strong corporate commitment towards sustainability, energy efficiency and a low carbon footprint is a vital part of our agenda for sustainable economic growth. An attractive and healthy living environment is vital for ensuring a reduction in health inequalities and a rise in living standards for all in our local society. The council, as a major local employer, has a major impact upon the natural environment. Total WLDC Greenhouse Gas emissions in 2016-17 were 1592t CO₂e (Carbon Dioxide Equivalents – the standard measure recommended in Carbon Dioxide recording). This represents

a substantial reduction (21.8%) on the baseline year of our first Carbon Management Plan (2008-9). This rate of reduction is likely to accelerate subsequent to the conclusion of the Carbon Efficiency Project later this year. This is a real success story for the council and expressing our further commitment to sustainability only serves to enhance our image as a 'green council'.

- 1.4. West Lindsey District Council is also one of the few councils within the County of Lincolnshire which does not currently possess a corporate sustainability policy. Adopting this policy, with the strong commitments toward the environment that it entails, would bring us into line with policy practice across the county.
- 1.5. The proposed policy has been created in consultation with the Corporate Policy Manager and a screening assessment has been conducted in order to ensure that there are no ramifications for equality and diversity in our district.

The Policy Document is appended to this report.



West Lindsey District Council

Corporate Environmental Sustainability Policy

1. Introduction

Conservation of the natural environment is at the heart of all activity conducted here at West Lindsey District Council. As part of the council's ambitious regeneration Programme for Gainsborough and the wider district of West Lindsey, we are seeking to ensure that our natural environment, from the open green spaces enjoyed in our rural locales to the air quality in our urban centres, is protected and enhanced through activities undertaken by the local authority. The provision of both a diverse natural environment and aesthetically attractive amenity sites are absolutely central to the council's core agenda of making West Lindsey an attractive place to live, work and invest.

As a major local employer delivering a multitude of services, the work of West Lindsey District Council has an impact on the environment. Therefore, as an authority, we believe that any damage wrought by our activities must minimise impacts upon the environment. Furthermore, we must also act as a lead advocate for both businesses and individuals in our district reducing their impact upon our shared natural environment. This commitment arises not only from an awareness of potential threats to our local environment, but a commitment to both sustainable development and improving the quality of life for all in our local community.

2. Objectives

We wish to express our commitment to sustainability by setting the following objectives for the council:

- Minimising and mitigating any impact on the natural environment wrought by any activity undertaken by the council.
- Continuing our commitment to the enhancement of green spaces in and around the district of West Lindsey.
- Acting as a lead advocate for sustainability in our local community.

3. Our Commitment to the Environment

These goals will be met through:

- a. **Reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions**, in line with the corporate Carbon Management Plan, set every five years. This shall be achieved through reducing energy consumption and promoting energy efficiency in all activities undertaken by the council, including transport. **This will be monitored through the annual assessment and reporting of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions** (measured through Carbon Dioxide Equivalents (CO₂e)) generated by direct and indirect activity undertaken by the council.

- b. **Promote sound waste management practices** within both West Lindsey District Council and the wider district of West Lindsey. This includes re-using and re-cycling waste wherever possible.
- c. Where possible, **purchase products and services which do the least damage to the environment.**
- d. Work in partnership to **protect and enhance both the natural and built environment.** This includes a desire to ensure increased biodiversity in our green spaces and protective measures for both flora and fauna where appropriate.
- e. **Minimise water consumption** in all council buildings and on council land. We are committed to ensuring that pollution does not enter the water and we will seek to recycle water wherever possible.
- f. **A strong commitment to celebrate, protect and preserve our historic buildings, conservation areas and ancient monuments.** The utilisation of heritage assets often represents one of the most sustainable forms of development and as a council, we are **committed to heritage-led regeneration.**
- g. Work with partners to ensure that the district of West Lindsey has a **public transport system with less emphasis on polluting vehicles**, with a particular focus on promoting effective public transport in our local area.
- h. **Work with businesses, partners and others in the local community to encourage good environmental practice.**
- i. **Remain compliant with all relevant environmental legislation.**
- j. Encourage and support, where possible, the **sustainable use of local materials and expertise.**
- k. **Work with and encourage Council partners, contractors and suppliers to set and maintain environmental standards similar to the council's own high standards in environmental protection.**

The council will keep these activities under review, setting objectives, targets and responsibilities where appropriate in order to ensure that the aims and commitments expressed in this policy are met.

For more information, please contact:

Saul Farrell

Senior Project Officer

(Officer responsible for corporate sustainability)