

Environment Policy

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council



November 2017

STOCKTON – ON – TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT POLICY

We take our responsibility to the environment seriously and will do what we can to protect it for future generations. Our vision is to make Stockton-on-Tees Borough a better place to live and a more attractive place to do business with clean streets, well maintained parks and open spaces, affordable and desirable housing. This policy statement sets out our commitments to the environment.

To manage resources sustainably we will:

- Continue to divert the majority of household waste from landfill to an Energy From Waste alternative
- Install measures and raise awareness to reduce consumption of energy and water
- Purchase products and services in accordance with our Social Value Policy

To tackle climate change we will:

- Be more resource efficient, work towards a low carbon economy, and deliver carbon reduction initiatives through our Climate Change Strategy to achieve a reduction of 21%, or 5556 tonnes, in Council CO₂e emissions from 2014/15 levels by 2020
- Work with our partners, commercial organisations and the wider community to reduce Borough wide emissions by 18%, or 411,460 tonnes, on 2013 levels by 2020
- Ensure we take account of predicted changes to our future climate, risk assess the potential impacts to our services and local environment, implement appropriate adaptation measures and ensure business continuity
- Offer sustainable and smarter travel choices including measures to promote public transport, electric vehicles, cycling and walking

To deliver a cleaner, safer and greener environment we will:

- Ensure the principles of sustainable development are embedded in the local development documents of our Local Plan and any Local Development Documents produced
- Manage and maintain parks, open spaces and other green infrastructure to a high standard
- Protect and enhance the local distinctiveness, heritage and biodiversity of the natural and built environment
- Deliver new and improved green infrastructure to enhance, quality of place, promote health and wellbeing, and contribute to sustainable development
- Continue to promote and raise awareness of kerbside recycling
- Use technology to deliver more efficient and effective services

To comply with legislation and other requirements we will:

- Provide training, advice and support to Elected Members and staff to ensure legal compliance
- Review and audit our activities and keep up to date with changes in environmental legislation
- Work with the Combined Authority to develop low carbon initiatives that support those sectors and businesses that are most affected by environmental regulation
- Continue to regularly review and assess air quality to meet the objectives within the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) as set out in Part IV of the Environment Act (1995) and the relevant Policy & Technical Guidance Documents

To manage the environment policy we will:

- Maintain partnerships with local, regional and national organisations.
- Engage regularly with Elected Members and staff to deliver the policy
- Regularly review best practice, government guidance and legislation
- Review the policy annually and regularly publish performance data at: www.stockton.gov.uk/environment-and-housing

This policy is underpinned by adopted strategies on environment and climate change.



Signed: _____

Name: Councillor Bob Cook
Position: Leader of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Date: 5 March 2019

Review Date: January 2021