



Sustainability Policy

Adopted 29 April 2005

Our Commitment to Sustainability

Sustainability is a corporate value. It is a process of ensuring the wise use of all resources within a framework in which economic, environmental and social factors are integrated and balanced. This means improving the quality of life both now and for generations to come.

The Council, in partnership with other agencies, recognises its responsibility of stewardship for the environment of Shropshire, for the County's current and future prosperity and for the health and well being of its people. We recognise that sustainability is a local, regional, national and global responsibility.

The Council will meet its commitment to sustainability through the services it provides and in the way it operates as an organisation.

Responsibility

The corporate responsibility for this policy rests with the full Council and all employees. The Leaders of all political groups represented on the Council, the Chief Executive and Corporate Directors are personally committed to its success.

The responsibility for policy implementation rests with the Portfolio Holder (Cabinet member) for Sustainability & Performance and the Director of Economy & Environment. The lead officer for this policy is the Sustainability Manager.

The Corporate Directors and their management teams have a key role in understanding and leading this work in their directorates.

The Council is committed to consultation, monitoring and publication of the results of this policy as set out here and in the biennial Action Plan.



Aims of the policy

Demonstrate leadership in sustainability across the region

The Council will:

- Set best practice standards
- Meet and surpass requirements of environmental legislation targets, at a global, national, regional and local level
- Build partnerships and projects that create learning networks
- Take account of the impact on future generations when making decisions

Accountability in corporate performance

Each directorate will:

- Make whole life costs integral to the delivery of all council services
- Encourage employees and contractors to incorporate informed sustainability perspectives within their work
- Operate in ways that balance social and economic impact and minimise any adverse impacts to the local community
- Deliver an improved quality of life for our customers

Accountability in service delivery

Each service will:

1. Develop sustainable procurement procedures within all elements of the supply chain
2. Encourage repair, reuse and recycling ahead of the responsible disposal of surplus materials, and minimise waste generation
3. Maximise the efficient use of energy and materials
4. Increase the use of renewable resources
5. Take positive actions promoting continual improvement in sustainability performance
6. Set and achieve clearly defined sustainable development objectives and targets
7. Recognise, celebrate and reward achievement in order to promote the Council as a sustainable organisation
8. Develop the capacity of staff to promote the understanding of the principles and practice of sustainability

Measuring progress and impact

The Council will:

- Set indicators to measure progress
- Encourage other partners to adopt sustainable best practice
- Carry out a biennial review of this policy and action plan

This leaflet can be provided in large print, Braille or audio cassette.
Please contact the Sustainability Group on Tel:01743 252562.