



Environmental Policy

DERBY CITY COUNCIL'S ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Introduction

Derby City Council is committed to protecting and enhancing the environment, both locally and globally. This environmental policy:

- outlines the overall aims and principles of action we have adopted
- provides a framework to develop more detailed environmental objectives and action plans
- will help to inform our employees and the community we serve about our commitment to safeguard the health of the local and global environment.

Sustainability and Local Agenda 21

Our environmental policy is clearly linked to sustainability and Local Agenda 21. Sustainability is about providing a good quality of life for people today without compromising the ability of future generations to enjoy a similar or better quality of life.

Many local authorities and governments use sustainability to guide their decision making processes, from economic development to nature conservation.

Local authorities throughout the world are currently working very hard to put this concept into practice through a process called Local Agenda 21. It is called Local Agenda 21 because it is:

- local** - about us in Derby. We need to look at what's good and what's bad about our area and to get ideas about what we want it to be like in the future
- agenda** - this means it's a plan about realistic changes we can make to improve things
- 21** - because it's about the future, about the 21st century, which is less than two years away.

Our environmental policy will be a key component of the City's Local Agenda 21, because the health and integrity of the environment is crucial to providing a good quality of life both today, and for years to come.

The environmental role of Derby City Council

We can affect the environment through our day to day activities in a number of different ways:

- as a service provider, we can promote good environmental management through all our service activities
- as the level of government closest to the public for the delivery of certain services, and as a democratically elected body, we can work closely with local people and organisations to tackle environmental problems
- as a major purchaser of goods and services, we have some ability to specify the type and nature of the products we buy, and to specify conditions for our contractors to follow
- as a large employer, we can set the standards for other organisations to follow, by promoting good environmental practice to our staff and to our service users
- as an organisation experienced in forming partnerships, we can bring bodies together to share information and pool resources so we can take certain projects forward
- as a local government body, we can lobby for change to policy development and legislation at both a national and international level
- as an education provider, we can help raise the environmental awareness of local people.

It is important that we consider these areas so we can translate the aims of our policy into practical action.

Key working practices of the Council

So we can meet the main aims of our policy, we will adopt the following working practices in everything we do.

We will:

- consider the environmental implications of all our activities
- make sure that our environmental priorities are integrated into all decisions we make
- work corporately to make sure that all services work together to implement the policy
- consult widely with the people of Derby so they play an active part in the environmental decision making process

- work in partnership with other key local, national and international organisations to share expertise and pool resources
- promote access to environmental information to help raise the public's interest and understanding of environmental issues
- aim to make our working practices transparent, accessible and understandable
- continue to investigate and adopt examples of environmental best practice where possible.

Environmental Policy

Our overall aim is . . .

'To continually improve our environmental performance in everything we do, and, where possible, to go beyond the requirements of all relevant environmental legislation'.

We will also tackle particular environmental issues by enhancing existing policies, or developing new policies in these areas.

1. Transport

Reduce the need for motor vehicle journeys, especially the private car, within the city by encouraging walking, cycling, rail and bus travel.

2. Built environment

Conserve and enhance the city's built environment to make sure it is diverse, pleasant and safe.

3. Pollution

Minimise air, land, water and noise pollution.

4. Waste

Minimise the creation of waste by reducing, reusing and recycling materials.

5. Purchasing and contracts

Encourage the purchase of goods and services that cause least harm to the environment.

6. Energy

Eliminate the unnecessary use of energy, promote the benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources whenever possible.

7. Health

Protect and improve the environment for the benefit of the health of the people of Derby.

8. Environmental education

Increase the understanding of, and involvement in, environmental issues, by the public and our employees, through education, information and consultation.

9. Biodiversity

Protect and enhance the variety of wildlife in the city.

Putting the Policy into action

It is important that our environmental aims are translated into practical action. To achieve this, we will:

- build the environmental policy into the City's Local Agenda 21, and the Council's approach to Best Value and corporate planning
- develop a corporate environmental management system, based on a recognised standard, which will address the different ways we affect the environment in a systematic and co-ordinated way including, where possible, the use of indicators.
- set targets for making further progress to improve the environment, and make this information available to our citizens
- tackle some of our own internal environmental issues by harnessing the enthusiasm of committed staff through our Green Team
- continue to develop initiatives to improve the environment, through other policies and strategies, including our Local Plan, Health Strategy and Economic Development Strategy
- make our employees and elected members aware of our environmental policies and objectives
- periodically monitor and review this policy so we can take account of the Council's environmental activities and new developments.

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