Environmental and Sustainability Policy

Policy Statement

Howden Town Council is committed to preserving and protecting the environment by adopting an Environmental and Sustainability Policy. In all decisions taken by Howden Town Council staff and councillors, the environmental impact will be taken into account, and a green or greener option will be adopted unless there is a significant or justifiable reason not to do so.

Aims

Howden Town Council is committed to protecting the environment and the natural heritage of the town and recognises the importance and value of this environment and its contribution to quality of life for the wider community.
In carrying out its own activities Howden Town Council will strive to make a positive contribution to protecting the local and wider environment.
In conjunction with local businesses, community groups, schools and the public, Howden Town Council aims to meet the needs of today's society without compromising future generations' ability to meet their own needs.

Council Activities

In carrying out its own activities, where practicable and economical, Howden Town Council will:

- Minimise waste and pollution
- Reduce the use of resources
- Reuse materials wherever possible
- Recycle when waste is produced
- Seek to eliminate the unnecessary use of energy
- Provide information electronically as much as possible
- Avoid and advocate the use of single-use plastic items
- Minimise the environmental impact of travelling on Council business, by where practicable and safe walking, cycling, car sharing or the use of public transport

Procurement

When purchasing services and goods, where practicable and economical, Howden Town Council will give preference to:

- Local suppliers
- Options that are environmentally friendly
- Products that have been manufactured from recycled materials
- Products that can be disposed of in an environmentally sustainable manner
- Products manufactured and sourced in the UK where possible

Contractors and Maintenance

Howden Town Council will require that contractors, councillors and volunteers who carry out maintenance, at the instigation of Council officers:

- Minimise the use of harmful pesticides and chemicals
- Minimise adverse impacts on air quality
- Undertake the work in a manner that, where practicable, benefits wildlife and the environment
- Where practicable, use locally sourced plants grown in the UK. In appropriate locations encourage the use of native, wildflower and bee friendly species

Decision Making

In its decision-making Howden Town Council will take careful consideration of:

- The importance of encouraging walking, cycling and the use of public transport where practicable
- The need to reduce, reuse and recycle to protect resources
- The need to avoid adverse impacts on air quality
- The need to conserve and improve natural habitats
- The need to protect vulnerable and protected species
- The need to conserve the natural beauty of its woodlands and surrounding landscape

General

Where Howden Town Council has the opportunity, in a way that is both practical and economic, it will:

- Encourage a plastic free environment by discouraging the use of single use plastics and encouraging businesses to use alternatives (NB Plastic free does not mean avoiding use of all plastic it refers to eliminating single-use plastics such as plastic bottles, plastic cups and straws)
- Encourage the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources
- Encourage reduction, reuse and recycling of resources

- Encourage the use of materials and systems that improve energy efficiency of developments, both new-build and changes, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Recognise the importance of trees, hedgerows and deadwood, as an essential corridor for the movement of wildlife, and a support for animals and plants
- Encourage local activities in support of the environment
- Highlight the importance and value of our local environment and its contribution to our community's quality of life
- Ensure the nature conservation value by encouraging maintenance and enhancements
- Encourage any person or organisation carrying out works to do so in line with the points made above

This policy is to be used alongside the adopted Bio-Diversity Policy.

Policy to be reviewed annually.