

Environmental Policy

Rochford District Council is committed to minimising the environmental impacts of the organisation and to the improvement of the local, national and global environment in whatever way it can within resource limits.

1. As a large organisation and employer, the Council aims to do this by:

meeting, and where possible exceeding, the requirements of all applicable legislation and regulations;

- taking account of environmental factors in all council decisions;
- eliminating unnecessary use of energy and other natural resources through water and energy saving measures and by investigating alternative sources of energy;
- encouraging staff and elected members to minimise their use of cars for travel to work and support any means which will reduce the need for travel, or encourage greater use of public transport, car sharing, cycling and walking as alternative means of travel;
- purchasing goods and materials which can be manufactured, used and disposed of in an environmentally sustainable way;
- where possible, purchasing goods and services locally in order to minimise the environmental impact of transportation and support the local economy;
- minimising the amount of waste produced and promoting better recycling of waste materials from its activities;
- providing staff with regular environmental awareness training;
- working with contractors and suppliers to help improve their environmental performance and doing all we can to ensure that they apply environmental standards at least as high as our own;
- ensuring this policy is widely communicated to all staff, elected councillors, contractors and suppliers;

2. As a regulator, provider of services, and a key player in the district community, the Council can aim to implement this policy by:

enforcing regulations and legislation in as effective and fair way as possible in the interests of the environment and the quality of life of people in the district;

- continuously monitoring the environmental impact of its services (including energy, water, transport, impacts, and natural resources) to help find ways of improving service delivery;
- considering the environmental impact of all new policies and services;
- encouraging road safety and a reduction in petrol consumption and vehicle emissions through appropriate council policy;
- encouraging residents of the district to consider car sharing, cycling, walking and using public transport for journeys as the best environmental options and through working with others, secure improved facilities for these forms of transport;
- monitoring, within available resources, the quality of the environment of the district in terms of water, noise and air pollution, traffic congestion, health and safety, and cleanliness. We will, through continuous improvement seek to ensure that the highest possible standards are achieved;

- protecting the built and natural environment by enforcing appropriate regulations consistently, ensuring the highest possible standards of design and encouraging others to care for their own environment;
- whilst promoting tourism within the district, ensuring that any environmental impacts on our historic towns and villages are minimised;
- looking for opportunities to maintain and improve existing and create new wildlife habitats;
- encouraging sound environmental practice in the local economy by welcoming 'green' businesses into the district and supporting established businesses to adopt good eco-management practices in the interests of their business and the local environment;
- raising awareness about environmental issues and encouraging good practice;
- actively promoting the principals of Local Agenda 21 throughout the district;
- ensuring, in conjunction with the County Councils Emergency Planning Team, that appropriate contingency procedures are in place in the event of environmental accidents or emergencies.