

# DOVER TOWN COUNCIL

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Adopted by Dover Town Council at its meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 Minute No. 299c).

### 1. Background / Principals

- 1.1 This environmental policy applies to all aspects of the work of Dover Town Council.
- 1.2 Dover Town Council will use its available powers and resources to protect and enhance the wellbeing of local people and all that comprises the natural and built world (our environment). Accordingly, we will at all times seek maximum sustainability in all our business affecting the environment.
- 1.3 Environmental wellbeing will be considered with all other factors such as social wellbeing, public safety, prevention of crime and disorder, equality provision etc, in all that the Town Council does.

### 2. Commitments

Dover Town Council commits to: -

- 2.1 **Decision-making** – Ensure that all Dover Town Council decisions take into account environmental impact and wellbeing.
- 2.2 **Procurement** – Ensure that all procurement decisions contain weightings for sustainability where applicable; consider embodied energy, eventual disposal by recycling and avoid (or, where impracticable, seek to reduce) use of any unsustainable materials.
- 2.3 **Development / Planning** – Take such action as is within our power and resources to support and encourage sustainability in all forms of development and in our planning responses and where appropriate seek environmental assurances beyond the requirements of relevant legislation. Dover Town Council will encourage revision to the Dover Local Plan to have higher building standards than the existing LP.
- 2.4 **Council estate and facilities** – Manage our land and activities using environmentally-friendly practices that promote biodiversity and enhance habitats, in line with already documented policies and agreements.
- 2.5 **Energy & resource** – Minimise energy and resource use in all activities and buildings. Maximise the use of renewable energy and minimise waste, pollution and use of fossil fuels and other non-renewable resources. Contractors must consider this requirement where possible.

- 2.6 **Climate Change, Pollution and carbon neutrality** – Work with other Dover organisations, to encourage ‘carbon neutrality’ and reduce pollution in the air, water and the ground and from other sources within the Dover area.
- 2.7 **Awareness and information** – Work in conjunction with relevant partners to inform, encourage and promote environmental information across the Council and Community. To train members and officers to respond appropriately to feedback and utilise the process as an aid to progress and an evolving consensus.
- 2.8 **Monitoring and reviewing** – Establish and implement suitable practices and checks to monitor compliance with these objectives/commitments and improve our environmental performance.
- 2.9 **Resources** – Make available reasonable budget and staffing resources to facilitate local environmental initiatives and support relevant volunteer community groups and local organisations furthering these initiatives.
- 2.10 **Other authorities** – Publicise Dover’s environmental awareness and initiatives with the district and county councils, nearby parish councils and other bodies. Share best practice with (and learn from) other Town and Parish Councils and relevant national bodies. Follow any specific guidance issued by Central Government for Town and Parish Councils, following Central Government’s declaration of a Climate Emergency.