



Lowestoft Town Council

Environmental Policy

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Lowestoft Town Council is committed to conducting its business in a productive and positive manner. This includes striving to benefit the community in social, economic and environmental terms. The Council recognises there is a Climate Emergency, and has duly made a declaration, and that it has a responsibility to current and future generations within the Lowestoft area.

2.0 Environmental Impact

2.1 The Council will deliver its commitment to be net zero by 2030 and will have a positive environmental impact where it is reasonable and proportionate to do so, including through:

- a) Implementing its Sustainability Strategy
- b) Complying with relevant environmental legislation
- c) Recognising that investment is necessary for improved outcomes in some cases and setting aside a related budget
- d) Appropriately choosing the method of communication taking into account the environmental impact and with due regard to the importance of community engagement, including through face-to-face meetings
- e) Increasing its website presence as a repository for documents and meeting papers, where appropriate to do so, as an aid to reducing the use of hard copies
- f) Publishing documents on its website where reasonably possible to maximise openness and transparency and reduce the need for requests for hard copy information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004
- g) Recycling and encouraging appropriate recycling
- h) Minimising waste and maximising efficiency
- i) Considering environmental issues where relevant to planning applications and when managing and developing its own assets and services
- j) Taking environmental issues into account when reviewing relevant contracts and suppliers, including those connected to management of its open spaces, utility and energy supplies
- k) Ensuring all energy supplies move to 100% renewable
- l) Considering neighbourhood planning with due consideration to embedding mandatory consideration of environmental issues in relevant spaces in Lowestoft
- m) Reducing unnecessary car travel for its governance, administration, meetings and operations
- n) Considering environmental issues in relation to its office and administration
- o) Developing and implementing further specific policies to support this policy where appropriate
- p) Delivering its biodiversity duty including through the activities at 3.0 below
- q) Consider ways of collaborating and cooperating with outside bodies to implement the Town Council's Earth Protector Town Declaration
- r) Considering the impact of coastal erosion on the town

3.0 Biodiversity

3.1 The Council will fulfil its duty to have regard to conserving and increasing biodiversity and will do so in a reasonable and proportionate manner, including through:

- a) Reminding councillors of the duty in all agendas
- b) Taking biodiversity into account when making relevant decisions including Biodiversity Net Gain
- c) Taking particular account of biodiversity in relation to its considerations of relevant planning applications and when managing and developing its own open spaces
- d) Taking biodiversity into account when reviewing relevant contracts and suppliers, including those connected to management of its open spaces



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- e) Considering neighbourhood planning with due consideration to embedding mandatory consideration of biodiversity in relevant spaces in Lowestoft

Revisions	
Date	Amendment
February 2021	Environmental Impact becomes section 2 and Biodiversity becomes section 3 (previously the other way around).
February 2021	Under Environmental Impact section added a point about the Town Council's commitment to achieve net zero by 2030.
February 2021	Under Environmental Impact section added point to implement the Sustainability Strategy.
February 2021	Under Environmental Impact section added point: <i>Recognising that investment is necessary for improved outcomes in some cases and setting aside a related budget.</i>
February 2021	Under Environmental Impact section added point that environmental issues will be taken into account when reviewing utility and energy suppliers, and ensuring energy supplies move to 100% renewable.
April 2023	Under Environmental Impact section added point q) <i>'Consider ways of collaborating and cooperating with outside bodies to implement the Town Council's Earth Protector Town Declaration.'</i>
February 2024	Clause 1.1 added <i>"...there is a Climate Emergency and has duly made a declaration, and..."</i> Added Clause 2.1r <i>"Considering the impact of coastal erosion on the town"</i> Clause 3.1 added <i>"...and increasing..."</i> Clause 3.1b added <i>"...including Biodiversity Net Gain"</i>
December 2024	Note added that the policy is undergoing a transition to the Climate Action Plan.