

Environment Policy

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council



January 2016

STOCKTON – ON – TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT POLICY

We take our responsibility to the environment seriously and will do what we can to protect it for future generations. We want Stockton-on-Tees to be a Borough that is clean and green, with appropriate and sustainable housing provision and an environment that is protected for future generations. We will deliver our 'Green Vision' which is 'to achieve a healthy, vibrant and successful low carbon economy, resilient to the challenges of climate change and resource pressures'. This policy statement sets out our commitments to the environment:

To manage resources sustainably we will:

- Provide staff and residents with facilities to manage resources efficiently so that we reduce, reuse, recycle and recover value from waste where possible.
- Install measures and raise awareness to reduce consumption of energy and water.
- Purchase products and services in accordance with our Social Value Policy.

To tackle climate change we will:

- Be more resource efficient, work towards a low carbon economy and deliver carbon reduction initiatives through our Climate Change Strategy to achieve a reduction of 21%, or 5556 tonnes, in Council CO₂e emissions from 2014/15 levels by 2020.
- Work with our partners, commercial organisations and the wider community to reduce Borough wide emissions by 18%, or 411,460 tonnes, on 2013 levels by 2020.
- Ensure we take account of predicted changes to our future climate, risk assess the potential impacts to our services and local environment, implement appropriate adaptation measures and ensure business continuity.
- Offer sustainable and smarter travel choices including availability of pool cycle schemes and associated facilities.

To deliver a cleaner, safer and greener environment we will:

- Ensure the principles of sustainable development are embedded in the core strategy and all local development documents of our Local Plan.
- Ensure that our parks, countryside, open spaces and green infrastructure meet the highest environmental standards.
- Protect the distinctiveness and biodiversity of our natural and built environments, including ensuring sustainable development as part of future economic growth.
- Deliver effective waste management and encourage increased domestic recycling.

To comply with legislation and other requirements we will:

- Provide training, advice and support to Elected Members and staff to ensure legal compliance.
- Review and audit our activities and keep up to date with changes in environmental legislation.

To manage the environment policy we will:

- Maintain partnerships with local, regional and national organisations.
- Engage regularly with Elected Members and staff to deliver the policy.
- Regularly review best practice, government guidance and legislation.
- Review the policy annually and regularly publish performance data at www.stockton.gov.uk/environment-and-housing

This policy is underpinned by adopted strategies on environment and climate change.

Signed:

Name: Councillor Bob Cook

Position: Leader of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Date: xx January 2016

Review Date: xx January 2017