



HEXHAM TOWN COUNCIL - SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Hexham, in line with all other communities, faces the global challenges of demographic change, resource constraints, increases in waste, rising energy costs, climate change, the requirements of a low carbon economy and loss of biodiversity. Hexham Town Council is committed to caring for a sustainable future for the town based on sustainable development. The generally accepted definition of sustainable development is “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

Hexham Town Council supports the principle of sustainable development and will aim to fulfil this by adopting this Sustainability Policy. It is a Policy that states what the Council can be responsible for and is able to achieve.

In addition to putting its own affairs on a more sustainable footing the Council will ensure sound and defensible decisions are made to support local needs. It will aim to influence wider strategic planning so that sustainability is at the heart of decision making on e.g. planning and physical development.

In all its activities the aim will be for the Council to:

- Pursue the social, health and economic needs of the town while minimising environmental impacts;
- Seek to ensure local needs are met through local resources;
- Seek to minimise and ensure the efficient consumption of energy, water and other natural resources;
- Seek to minimise the production of waste and reduce the impact of its disposal;
- Seek to reduce or prevent pollution and minimise emissions of greenhouse gases wherever possible;
- Protect and enhance the biodiversity of the town.

Hexham Town Council Sustainability Policy, adopted by the Council on 6th July 2015, revised and readopted on 5 November 2018

1. Council will endeavour to ensure whenever and wherever possible all Council created pollution, waste or greenhouse gases are reduced and/or prevented.
2. Council will endeavour to adopt sustainable working practices for its members and its employees.
3. Council will wherever possible ensure sustainable procurement is adopted with suppliers.
4. Council will collaborate with local organisations in order to encourage and promote the use of sustainable working practices within the local community.
5. Council will endeavour to promote, encourage and raise awareness of sustainable working practices by the public when holding promotions at public events.
6. Council will encourage the adoption of sustainable working practices by its stakeholders, local businesses, other public bodies, local organisations and individuals.
7. Council will endeavour to support and or promote the adoption of sustainable development within any local plan, the Neighbourhood Plan and within any new developments.
8. Any use of energy, water and other natural resources by the Council will always be by the most efficient methods.
9. Council will, whenever this is possible, ensure local needs will be met from local resources.
10. Council will periodically review its performance on sustainable development to help to identify new initiatives and approaches.

Date for Review: November 2021
clerk@hexhamtowncouncil.gov.uk