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City of Lincoln Council's Environmental Policy

Scope of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to set out our goals for protecting and improving the environment. The Policy covers all of our activities and estate, by which we mean properties and land owned and managed by the City Council, including our 'landlord' responsibilities for property and council homes.

All Council employees must apply the Policy where it relates to their role in the authority's corporate activities. We will encourage and support our partners to adopt their own policies.

We will also ensure, through the procurement process, that suppliers and outsourced service providers apply the policy to services or goods supplied to us, or have an equivalent policy to work to.

As part of the council's vision 2025 priorities the council is committed to the following priorities:

- Let's drive economic growth
- Let's reduce inequality
- Let's delivery quality housing
- Let's enhance our remarkable place
- Let's address the challenge of climate change

Our Environmental Policy supports these priorities and will guide the development and delivery of a programme of actions across the five themes above.

Environmental Policy

In addition to fulfilling our statutory environmental responsibilities and complying with all legal and other requirements, including any voluntary commitments, we will use our powers and influence to further protect and improve the environment – making continual improvement in our performance.

We will:

- Work with our community on a city-wide programme to make Lincoln a net zero carbon city by 2030 and reduce our own emissions of greenhouse gas.
- Set out the modelling approach to achieve net zero carbon target in the 'Lincoln 2030: Climate Strategy and Action Plan'
- Anticipate the effects of climate change and adapt our services to protect the City.
- Prevent or minimise pollution to air, water and land (including noise pollution, litter, fly tipping, soil and water contamination and the impact of car travel).
- Protect and, where possible, enhance the quality, extent and accessibility (where appropriate) of Lincoln's open space, trees and natural environment for people and wildlife.



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- Contribute to the creation of a sustainable, built environment through Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Policies and its implementation of adopted Local Plan Policy through the Council as the local Planning Authority.
- Where possible take steps to improve the environmental performance of residential and commercial, Council owned properties.
- Consider the embodied carbon and take steps to minimise the energy and water demand of all our planned new buildings, both residential and commercial
- Encourage and adopt the appropriate generation and use of renewables and low carbon energy.
- Commit to reducing the council's own carbon pathway measures by 2% per year as set out in the Council's Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan.
- Use products and materials such as paper efficiently and specify goods that, wherever possible, have a minimal environmental impact in the extraction or sourcing of materials, manufacture, transport, use and disposal.
- We will comply with all relevant environmental legislation.

Implementing the Policy

▪ Environmental Management

At the City of Lincoln we recognise that we can affect the environment through: the services we provide and how we deliver them, our policies, our enforcement of laws and regulations, the choices we make when buying goods or commissioning services – as well as our role as community leader.

We will manage the significant environmental aspects of our activities to implement this Policy through a single Council-wide environmental management system. An Environmental Management System (EMS) is a structured and documented approach to manage and report on an organisation's environmental performance and responsibilities.

The EMS will be monitored by an independent, accreditation body. We will use the EMS to monitor implementation of this Policy, taking steps to understand and control any risks of harm to the environment resulting from our activities, and to respond to opportunities for environmental improvement.

▪ Sustainability

The Council are committed to delivering value for money to the people of Lincoln, this will require consideration to financial viability and whole life costs in all decision making. The Council will have regard for the social, environmental and economic impacts so they are considered in conjunction with each other and that the wider effects of proposed initiatives are brought into the decision-making process.

▪ Communication, Participation and Dialogue

We recognise the importance of effective communication in delivering this policy, as well as the potential of participation and dialogue to enhance progress.



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We will communicate this policy within the Council and to our external stakeholders, enabling our employees and elected members to fulfil their role in delivering the Policy by providing information, training and other support to Council Officers and Elected Members.

We will also encourage dialogue within the Council and with our stakeholders to foster debate, learning and greater environmental improvement. This will include the public, business, education and community organisations and regulators.

Through our procurement processes, we will seek to ensure that goods and services we buy meet our environmental requirements and we will work with our contractors and suppliers to help them improve their environmental performance.

We will encourage the public, schools and partners to take action too, through environmental information, advice and services.

- **Accountability**

The Policy will need to be considered by our Policy Scrutiny Committee, approved by the Executive and will be reviewed annually.

All ColC's committee reports will need to consider any environmental implications.

Environmental issues should be given preliminary consideration as part of new Council contracts and when reviewing existing contracts to ensure that enough time is allowed to explore options, consider best practice elsewhere and to consult with the Climate Change Vision group.

Delivery of the Environmental Policy is the overall responsibility of the Council's Corporate Management Team and will be overseen by the Climate Change Vision group, chaired by the Director of Major Developments. The Council will publicise its environmental performance each year to enable the people of Lincoln to hold us to account.

For further information call 01522 873311

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Councillor Ric Metcalfe
Leader of the City Council
September 2021

Angela Andrews
Chief Executive
September 2021