



# SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

## CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY (DRAFT)

### INTRODUCTION

Shrewsbury Town Council is committed to minimising the environmental impacts of its operations.

In all activities, Shrewsbury Town Council will seek innovative ways to reduce our environmental footprint by setting objectives to mitigate against our environmental impact.

To achieve these objectives we have developed a series of policy statements and have produced an Climate Change Action Plan. The action plan is based on continuous environmental improvement via the establishing of demanding and measurable environmental performance targets, specifically relating to Waste, Energy/Water, Procurement, Transport/Travel and Biodiversity.

The implementation of the Action Plan is monitored by the Climate Change Standing Committee. This Committee demonstrates the Town Council's seriousness in tackling this global issue at a local level. The Committee differs from other standing committees in that it has external representatives including those from lobbying groups such Friends of the Earth and Xtinction Rebellion, specialists in Transport Planning and Biodiversity, organisations with key environmental responsibilities such as the Environment Agency and the Shropshire Wildlife Trust and representatives from the Shropshire Climate Action Partnership who are charged with developing an Action Plan to reduce the carbon footprint of the county as a whole.

Shrewsbury Town Council's Climate Change Policy is supported by series of policies in the following areas:

1. General Environmental Management
2. Waste Management
3. Energy/Water Management
4. Sustainable Procurement
5. Transport/Travel
6. Natural Environment

## 1. General Environmental Management Policy

Shrewsbury Town Council is responsible for delivering numerous services across the town including supporting local communities and initiatives, providing good quality play and recreation areas for all, maintaining green spaces throughout the town, providing activities and facilities for young people and generally promoting the town as a great place to live, work and visit. The very nature of delivering these services has an effect on the local environment.

Shrewsbury Town Council is committed to reducing the environmental impact of its activities on the local environment by proactive environmental management across its land and property portfolio.

### Scope and Objectives

The Town Council aims to improve the environmental quality of the Town by:

- Minimising any adverse environmental impacts resulting from our own activities;
- Encouraging others in the community to do likewise through their activities.

Shrewsbury Town Council will commit to the following:

- Keep its own activities under review, setting objectives, targets and responsibilities to ensure the aims of this policy are met
- Raise awareness amongst staff of the Town Council's Climate Change Policy and objectives;
- Provide information and encourage an open dialogue with the local community on environmental issues.

## 2. Waste Management Policy

The Town Council's policy is to establish systems to ensure compliance with the law and ensure that options to minimise both waste production and disposal are fully evaluated.

The Waste Management Policy sets out our targets identifying areas for improvement. It is designed to help achieve particular goals with a set of realistic objectives. The Town Council is aware of its responsibilities and obligations and encourages a positive recycling culture amongst its staff and the wider population.

### Waste Hierarchy

The main principles of the Town Councils Waste Management Policy are based on the well-established Waste Hierarchy. This has become a cornerstone of sustainable waste management practices, setting out the order in which waste management measures should be prioritised based on environmental impact.



Our targets for Waste Management for inclusion in the Climate Change Action Plan are:

- Produce and publish baseline data for waste/recycling;
- Produce waste recycling plan covering all Town Council waste streams to increase recycling and reduce waste to landfill.

### **3. Energy & Water Management Policy**

The Town Council's policy is to manage energy & water consumption in order to:

- Reduce emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>;
- Avoid unnecessary expenditure.

The Town Council will improve water and energy efficiency throughout all its premises, plant and equipment, wherever it is cost-effective to do so. The Town Council also recognises a duty to provide all building users with comfortable working conditions, whilst minimising the environmental impact of its operations.

#### **Scope and Objectives**

The overarching objectives of this policy are environmental protection and cost reduction. It is recognised that these are not always compatible and that the Town Council may be constrained from certain actions by budgetary constraints.

Recognising those constraints, the Town Council will nonetheless adopt the following objectives:

- To purchase energy supplies from sustainable sources (where possible) at the most economic cost;
- To use energy as efficiently as possible;
- To monitor energy consumption.

Our targets for Energy and Water Management for inclusion in the Climate Change Action Plan are:

- To monitor energy consumption across the Town Council's property portfolio;
- To purchase energy supplies from sustainable sources (where possible) at the most economic cost;
- To use energy as efficiently as possible;
- To continue to raise awareness of energy management issues with all building users;
- To consider electrical generation via the installation of solar panels on suitable Town Council buildings/properties with a payback period consistent with sound investment practice;
- To identify and implement opportunities for improved water efficiency and target setting e.g. install water saving devices on toilet cisterns and low flow shower heads;
- To incorporate water efficiency measures into all new and refurbished facilities;
- To promote awareness of the responsibility for water conservation to staff, and visitors by water saving tips.

### **4. Sustainable Procurement Policy**

Shrewsbury Town Council recognises and is committed to carrying out its procurement function incorporating the principles of sustainable purchasing. Purchasing decisions have a major socio-economic and environmental implication both locally and globally, now and for generations to come.

It will achieve this through:

- Assessment of environmental and corporate risks to the organisation with a commitment to continually improve sustainable performance related to the supply chain;
- Complying with all relevant environmental legislation;
- Educating suppliers about the Town Council sustainable objectives, which include preventing pollution, minimising waste, preserving natural resources and promoting resource efficiency by eliminating, reducing, reusing and recycling;
- Working with key suppliers to bring about changes and thereby spread sustainability improvements through the supply chain;
- Allowing budgets to reflect the need to sustainable purchasing.

Our targets for Sustainable Procurement for inclusion in the Climate Change Action Plan are:

- Reduce CO2 emissions arising from the transport of materials – use local where possible;
- Encourage suppliers to achieve environmental credentials such as environmental management systems ISO14001 or EMAS;
- Ensure that suppliers' environmental credentials are, as far as legally practicable, considered in the supplier's appraisal process;
- Favour products with recycled content or that are biodegradable being mindful of where in the world the product was produced and where the resources were obtained from to produce the product;
- Train and raise awareness of staff on the Council policy and promoting best practice for sustainable purchasing.

## **5. Transport/Travel Policy**

Shrewsbury Town Council recognises its responsibility to minimise the environmental impact of its operations where possible and to seek to improve its performance through implementation of its policy.

Shrewsbury Town Council is committed to implementing a Transport Policy as part of the Climate Change Policy to encourage and maintain sustainable commuting and business travel for staff and visitors in order to reduce further the environmental impact of transport related to council activities.

### **Scope and Objectives**

- Reducing commuter journeys to Town Council workplaces by staff and visitors;
- Reducing unnecessary journeys to other locations for business purposes;
- Reducing the usage /impact of Town Council vehicles.

Our targets for Transport/Travel for inclusion in the Climate Change Action Plan are:

- To produce a Travel Plan to establish current modes of transport used by staff to travel to work and to promote sustainable alternatives;
- Encourage staff travelling on Town Council business to use public transport and/or low carbon emission transport;
- Promotion of the use of telephone conferencing and video conferencing to reduce commuter mileage;
- Promotion of home working to reduce business mileage;
- Reducing the usage /impact of Town Council vehicles via investigation/introduction of suitable alternatives such as electric vehicles;
- To promote to staff the benefits of cycling to/at work. Where bicycles are used for Town Council business allow for an individual to claim up to 20p per mile for business usage.
- To provide a Cycle to Work scheme to all staff via Vivup.
- To encourage route planning in advance and good driving practice to reduce fuel consumption.

## 6. Natural Environment Policy

Shrewsbury Town Council is a major landowner in the Town.

We recognise that we influence and are influenced by the variety of species and habitats that exist within our sites in and around the Town. As a minimum we will ensure compliance with all biodiversity, environmental laws and regulations.

### Scope and Objectives

The overarching objectives of this policy are to balance the needs of the wildlife and flora that call our sites home. We are committed to continually improving our biodiversity performance at our sites, whilst aiming to deliver our services in the most sustainable way.

We will:

- Ensure an overall improvement in the management of the wildlife within our landholding, particularly with regard to an increase in priority habitats and species and managing the spread of invasive species. Continued creation of wildflower/bee friendly planting across our estate;
- Work with Shropshire Wildlife Trust to conduct Habitat surveys of main Town Council sites;
- Ensure compliance with all applicable environmental laws and regulations;
- Protect and enhance biodiversity during our activities with no net loss of 'priority' habitat;
- Provide a platform that will deliver opportunities for more people to enjoy the wildlife on our sites by increasing access/awareness;
- The Town Council has reduced the use of pesticide in light of emerging evidence. It is still used in wildflower areas and also on newly planted trees to reduce competition from grasses and herbs.
- Where possible mitigate against flooding and be as prepared as possible for when flooding does occur.

<b>Approved by Climate Change Standing Committee</b>	
<b>Adopted by Council</b>	
<b>Review Date</b>	