



BODMIN TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY: ENVIRONMENT POLICY

APPROVAL:

	Date	Minute Reference
Approved by Policy Committee:	05/12/19	POL/2019/054
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REVISION SUMMARY:

Revision Date	New Version Number	Summary of Changes



BODMIN TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT POLICY

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Bodmin Town Council is committed to the creation of a sustainable community, balancing and integrating economic, social and environmental components. Developing a more sustainable community will benefit present-day residents and businesses, as well as future generations.
- 1.2 Bodmin Town Council will operate in compliance with all relevant environmental legislation and will strive to surpass those regulations. Where practical we will aim to eliminate or minimise the adverse environmental impacts and prevent pollution.

2. Aim

- 2.1 These guidelines aim to provide Councillors and employees with information to carry out work in an efficient way that minimises or eliminates its adverse impacts on our environment, in order to assist in combatting climate change. To support our community in its enjoyment of our local environment and to promote the importance of protecting the environment for Bodmin residents.

3. Definition

- 3.1 Climate change is a large-scale change in global or regional climate patterns, predominantly caused by burning fossil fuels, which add heat-trapping gasses to the Earth's atmosphere. These phenomena include the increased temperature trends described by global warming but also include changes such as: sea level rise, ice mass loss, shifts in flower/plant blooming and extreme weather events.

4. Awareness and Commitment

- 4.1 Our policy towards the environment will be readily available and promoted. We will endeavour to implement our environmental commitment and objectives.
- 4.2 Bodmin Town Council's Environmental Policy will be available to view on our website.
- 4.3 The Council will communicate the Environmental Policy and train staff to ensure its effective implementation.
- 4.4 The Council will include aims for sustainability and environmentally friendly practices in our future Aims & Objectives.

5. Transport and Equipment

- 5.1 Bodmin Town Council will endeavour to reduce the impact on the environment wherever possible for transport.
- 5.2 We will eliminate unnecessary and inefficient use of Bodmin Town Council owned vehicles and wherever possible, any other vehicles associated with Bodmin Town Council. Car pooling will be recommended when possible.

- 5.3 When purchasing new vehicles and equipment, energy efficient and environmentally friendly options such as electric fuelled vehicles will be considered; to reduce the number of Bodmin Town Council vehicles, machinery and equipment that rely on fossil fuels.
- 5.4 To avoid unnecessary travel, Bodmin Town Council will encourage staff and visitors to use alternate methods of travel, such as public transport, or cycling or walking.
- 5.5 Bodmin Town Council will support and encourage contractors and suppliers to minimise their impacts on the environment.

6. **Energy & Water Consumption**

- 6.1 Bodmin Town Council accepts a share of the UK's commitment to a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by attaining greater efficiency in total energy consumption. We will monitor our energy use and improve upon energy efficiency within our buildings by adopting energy saving measures, e.g. purchasing electrical equipment with good energy ratings.
- 6.2 We will make every effort to use water efficiently and avoid pollutants entering the drainage system. Including purchasing only environmentally friendly cleaning products.
- 6.3 Bodmin Town Council will increase awareness of energy efficiency amongst employees and encourage energy saving behaviours. For example: fully turning off computers and monitors over night to avoid energy wastage. We will maximise the use of electronic communication and information storage as an alternative to paper.
- 6.4 In the Council's Parks and Open Spaces, planting schemes and technology that minimise the need for watering will be used. We will continue to implement water-saving measures where possible.

7. **Waste Generation & Management**

- 7.1 Bodmin Town Council will try to minimise the production of waste and pollution; including unnecessary packaging and single use plastic. Bodmin Town Council will implement measures to reduce the volume of waste generated and increase the proportion of that waste which is recycled.
- 7.2 Bodmin Town Council will compost organic waste and utilise used, reclaimed or recycled materials wherever appropriate and possible.
- 7.3 We will minimise our waste production wherever possible, by reducing, repairing and reusing resources and by recycling the waste. Rubbish will be disposed of safely, following the correct procedures and only licensed contractors will be used to deal with hazardous waste.
- 7.4 Bodmin Town Council will aim to incorporate the possibility of pollution in our risk assessment procedure and will use this system to minimise the risks and implement mitigation strategies.

8. **Biodiversity & Green Spaces**

- 8.1 Bodmin Town Council will, wherever possible, consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity in all its activities, but particularly with regard to land management.

8.2 We will seek to manage green spaces in a manner that promotes and protects biodiversity. This includes the management of invasive plants on our land and using planting schemes that exclude species known to be invasive in Cornwall.

8.3 We will protect and, where possible, enhance the quality of Bodmin's natural environment and open spaces. We aim to make open space accessible wherever possible.

Areas of land the Council considers to be underused or not used to their full potential by the public will be reviewed and may result in the creation of more wildflower meadows or environmentally sensitive parklands for the town.

9 **The Built Environment**

9.1 Bodmin Town Council will continue to work in partnership with Cornwall Council to preserve and enhance the built environment and will make appropriate representations through the planning process to influence the innovation of sustainable future development, which is in-keeping with the local identity and does not compromise existing structures of historical importance to the town.

9.2 The Council will promote the use of brownfield sites as potential development areas to the Local Planning Authority and Developers, wherever this is practicable before greenfield sites are considered.

9.3 The Council will support planning policies that conserve the countryside, with the aim of minimising the impact of the built form on the natural environment.

10 Procurement

10.1 Bodmin Town Council will 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, use and disposal.

10.2 We will review contractors and suppliers' environmental credentials to ensure that, when working for the Council, they have environmental standards in place and are working towards reducing environmental impact.

10.3 Bodmin Town Council is committed to sustainable procurement by ensuring that social, economic and environmental issues are considered during all stages of a procurement process and as part of the whole life of a contract. The Council will do this by ensuring that sustainability considerations are embedded within its procurement processes and by promoting good practices with those we do business with.

10.4 The Council is committed to improving community well-being in both the local and regional economies by encouraging local purchasing of goods and services, where they offer best value, to create local employment and training opportunities

10.5 The Council is committed to ensuring that its procurement activities and, where possible, those of its suppliers do not have a detrimental effect on the environment and have a positive influence on supporting the Council's sustainability and environmental aims. The Council will aim to reduce the environmental impact of the goods and services that it buys by considering the effect of its decisions and by working with suppliers where appropriate to ensure, where possible, that they have a similar commitment. Further information on environmental procurement is included as Annexe 1 in the Council's Procurement Policy.

10.6 Bodmin Town Council will seek to move towards purchasing renewable/recycled, environmentally low-impact and recyclable materials, so long as the requirements for value for money and quality are met.

10.7 Sourcing materials locally, where feasible, will reduce carbon emissions resulting from transporting produce. The Council will promote local produce and products within the community as appropriate, which will have the additional positive effect of supporting the local economy.

11 Adherence to Policy

11.1 It is the responsibility of all Line Managers to notify and share this information with all employees within each department.

12 Review

12.1 This policy will be reviewed every four years (or earlier if required by changes to legislation or additional documentation) and amended as necessary based on good practice or evidence taken forward.

13 Alternative Formats

13.1 The Equality Act 2010 – copies of this document in large print (A3 Format) or larger font size, or recorded onto tape as a ‘talking book’ can be made available for those with sight impairment on request from the Council Office or by telephoning 01208 76616 or e-mailing policy@bodmin.gov.uk

13.2 The Council can also arrange to provide versions in other languages for staff whose first language is not English.

14 Freedom of Information

14.1 In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this document will be posted on the Council’s Website www.bodmin.gov.uk and copies of this document will be available for inspection on deposit in the Council Office.

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