

Appendix 4

Leicester City Council's Environmental Policy March 2004

Leicester City Council's strategic objective is to improve our environment to make local neighbourhoods and the city centre places for people to be proud of. The Environmental Policy highlights our aims and the principles to which we are working to ensure that we play our part in creating a better environment for generations to come.

Our Aims

Improving our environment

Wherever possible, we will make continual, measurable progress in our environmental performance, reduce our own environmental impact and improve the environment for Leicester, whilst maintaining the city's economic viability.

Environmental Legislation

We will fulfil our statutory environmental responsibilities and use our influence in Leicester to bring about improved environmental performance. We will also ensure that all city council operations and activities carried out on behalf of the council, comply with or exceed all statutory environmental requirements.

Protecting our Environment

We will aim to improve our own environmental performance and to influence improvement in Leicester, by adopting the principles of best practice and best technology wherever possible. We shall do this through:-

the wise use of energy water and other natural resources

We will conserve energy and other natural resources by adopting water and energy-saving measures in council buildings and reducing the amount of fuel used by vehicles on council business. We will encourage the conservation of energy in Leicester's buildings.

the wise use of manufactured materials

We will aim to purchase goods and materials that can be manufactured and disposed of in an environmentally sustainable way. We will aim to reduce the volume of paper used in the council and ensure that we buy paper that maximises recycling and minimises environmental damage throughout its whole life cycle.

minimising and safely disposing of waste

We will reduce the amount of waste produced by the council and provide opportunities and facilities to maximise the quantity of both the council's own waste and waste arising from Leicester that is recycled.

avoiding pollution

We will minimise the release of any pollutant that may cause environmental damage to air, water or land including noise pollution and damage to our built heritage. We will do this by controlling our own activities and by using our statutory powers to influence activities in the city. We will seek to improve air quality in the city through traffic management, to reduce emissions from council buildings and aim to run a cleaner vehicle fleet.

enhancing open space and the natural environment

We will protect and, where possible, enhance the quality of Leicester's natural environment and quantity of open space. We will ensure that prime

wildlife sites are retained and that open space is retained and easily accessible by all.

enhancing the built environment

We will use our statutory powers to seek to create a sustainable built environment in Leicester and to improve street cleanliness.

Reducing Risks

We will minimise the risk of causing environmental damage by employing safe technologies and operating procedures. We will also co-operate with other public and statutory bodies and prepare contingency procedures to deal with such accidents.

Our Staff

We will aim to provide environmental training for councillors and employees of the city council. We will also consult our staff as widely as possible on new environmental activities and encourage their active involvement wherever we can.

Contractors and Suppliers

We will work with our contractors and suppliers to help them improve their environmental performance and ensure that, when working for the council, they adopt equivalent environmental standards.

Environmental Information

We will encourage the people of Leicester to protect the environment by providing appropriate information and advice.

Working Together

We will work with schools and other partners across Leicester, raising environmental awareness and encouraging action aimed at improving the quality of our local environment.

We will implement this policy through EMAS (The Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) and by:

- Assessing, in advance, the environmental impact of changes to our activities and the products we buy.
- Reviewing our environmental impact as an organisation and setting up systems to monitor this impact regularly.
- Establishing procedures to monitor our compliance with this policy and developing procedures to tackle any non-compliance with our Environmental Policy, objectives and targets

This policy has been approved by Leicester City Council's Policy and Resources Committee.

Revisions

Leicester City Council Environmental Policy, 17th June 1997

Leicester City Council Environmental Policy, 19th May 1998

Leicester City Council Environmental Policy, 19th April 1999

Leicester City Council Environmental Policy, xx March 2004

Signed

Chief Executive

Leader of the Council

Further copies of this policy can be obtained from:

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