
Executive Decision Environmental Policy Refresh 2021

Decision to be taken by: Deputy City Mayor Environment
and Transportation

Decision to be taken on: 22 September 2021

Lead director: Matt Wallace

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer
- Author contact details: 37 2284
- Report version number: 1

1. Summary

The council's Environmental Policy sets out the council's goals for protecting and improving the environment and supporting Leicester to become a carbon-neutral and climate adapted city. Following the council's declaration of a climate emergency in 2019 the policy has been updated in consultation with colleagues across the council to reflect changes since it was last updated in 2016. It is proposed to publish the policy on the council's website, replacing the current version.

2. Recommended actions/decision

That the updated policy is approved and published on the council's website

3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement

The existing policy was shared with a number of teams across the council to seek their input on changes to existing wording and new additions relevant to their specialist areas. Following this exercise an updated policy was produced; and endorsed by the teams consulted. The policy was then approved at Energy & Sustainability LMB by Councillor Clarke and at CMB by the City Mayor.

4. Background and options with supporting evidence

The council's Environmental Policy sets out the council's goals for protecting and improving the environment and supporting Leicester to become a carbon-neutral and climate adapted city. It sets out the principles staff are expected to follow when carrying out their roles, and that should be taken into account within service delivery, commissioning and procurement. The existing policy is used internally and displayed on the council's website.

The policy has been previously been updated numerous times, most recently in 2016. As such, following the council's declaration of a climate emergency a decision was taken to refresh the policy to reflect this. Other council teams working on environmental issues were also consulted, to ensure the update reflected the current status of the council's work in their specialist areas.

Option 1: To publish the updated Environmental Policy on the council's website.

This is the recommended option, as the existing policy is out of date in relation to the council's approach to climate-change and environmental issues.

Option 2: Not to publish the updated Environmental Policy.

As noted above, this is not recommended, as the existing policy is out of date.

5. Detailed report

The council's Environmental Policy sets out the council's goals for protecting and improving the environment and supporting Leicester to become a carbon-neutral and climate adapted city. It sets out the principles staff are expected to follow when carrying out their roles, and that should be taken into account within service delivery, commissioning and procurement. The existing policy is used internally and displayed on the council's website.

Following the council's declaration of a climate emergency in 2019, a decision was taken to refresh and update the policy which had been in place in its current form since 2016. It was intended for this refresh to reflect the council's new carbon neutrality ambition for 2030, as well as other changes to our understanding of environmental challenges and the work in place to address them.

The existing policy was shared with a number of teams across the council to seek their input on the commitments within the policy relating to their team. This includes changes to existing commitments and further additions where these areas were not covered in the existing policy. The teams/areas consulted were as follows:

- Air Pollution
- Procurement
- Planning
- Estates
- Nature Conservation
- Noise
- Litter
- Trees
- Fleet
- Waste

Further updates incorporated into the policy include reference to the role of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by Full Council in 2021 and an update to the City Mayor and Executive's commitments for Leicester.

Going forwards it is proposed to review the policy once every four years, in line with the timeframe for council elections, or more frequently if required.

Following approval, it is proposed to upload the Environmental Policy to the council's website, replacing the existing policy. The related webpage will also be updated to align with the refreshed policy.

6. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

6.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this policy statement. However, many of the actions do carry financial implications, particularly regards capital investment; these are considered when reviewing how and when the various strands can be delivered.

Colin Sharpe, Deputy Director of Finance, 0116 454 4081

6.2 Legal implications

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

Mannah Begum, Principal Lawyer, Jane Cotton, Qualified Lawyer

6.3 Equalities implications

There are no direct equality implications arising from the report.

Surinder Singh, Equalities officer, ext. 37 4148

6.4 Climate Emergency implications

This report deals directly with climate change and the council's approach to tackling the climate emergency.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, Ext 37 2284

6.5 Other implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

7. Background information and other papers:

None

8. Summary of appendices:

9. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No

10. Is this a "key decision"? If so, why?

No