



WESTGATE-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT POLICY

ADOPTED: 05.04.2022 REVIEW DUE: 04.2023

1. Background

- 1.1 This environmental policy applies to all aspects of the work of Westgate on Sea Town Council.
- 1.2 Westgate on Sea Town Council will use its available powers and resources to protect and enhance the wellbeing of local people and all that comprises the natural and built world (our environment). Accordingly, we will at all times seek maximum sustainability in all our business affecting the environment.
- 1.3 Environmental wellbeing will be considered with all other factors such as social wellbeing, public safety, prevention of crime and disorder, equality provision etc, in all that the Town Council does.

2. Commitments

Westgate on Sea Town Council commits to:-

- 2.1 **Decision-making** – Ensure that all Westgate on Sea Town Council decisions consider environmental impact and wellbeing.
- 2.2 **Procurement** – Ensure that all procurement decisions contain weighting for sustainability where applicable; consider embodied energy, eventual disposal by recycling and avoid (or where impracticable, seek to reduce) use of any unsustainable materials.
- 2.3 **Development/Planning** – Take such action as is within our power and resources to support and encourage sustainability in all forms of development and in our planning responses and where appropriate seek environmental assurances beyond the requirements of relevant legislation.
- 2.4 **Council assets and facilities** – Manage our land and facilities/activities using environmentally-friendly practices that promote biodiversity and enhance habitats, in line with policies and agreements.
- 2.5 **Carbon Footprint** – Calculating our basic carbon footprint including our gas, electricity and petrol/diesel use and start to set aside an earmarked reserve to reduce these emissions.
- 2.6 **Energy and resource** – Minimise energy and resource use in all activities and buildings. Maximise the use of renewable energy and minimise waste, pollution and use of fossil fuels and other non-renewable resources. Contractors must consider this requirement where possible.
- 2.7 **Climate Change, Pollution and Carbon Neutrality** – Work with other Westgate on Sea organisations to encourage ‘carbon neutrality’ and reduce pollution in the air, water and the ground and from other sources within the Town.
- 2.8 **Biodiversity Gain** – To promote and support in the Town as one of the main aims.
- 2.9 **Awareness and information** – Work in conjunction with relevant partners to inform, encourage and promote environmental information across the Council and Community. To train Members and officers to respond appropriately to feedback and use the process as an aid to progress and nurture an evolving consensus.

- 2.10 **Monitor and review** – Establish and implement suitable practices and checks to monitor compliance with these objectives/commitments and improve our environmental performance.
- 2.11 **Resources** – Make available reasonable budget and staffing resources to facilitate local environmental initiatives and support relevant volunteer community groups and local organisations furthering these initiatives.
- 2.12 **Other Authorities** – Publicise the Town Council environmental awareness and initiatives with the District and County Councils, nearby local Councils and other bodies. Share best practice with (and learn from) other local Councils and relevant national bodies. Follow any specific guidance issued by Central Government for local Councils, following Central Government’s declaration of a Climate Emergency.

3. Allotments

Allotments still serve a vital place for local residents who wish to grow their own vegetables, fruit and flowers. The allotment site supports healthy food and also by being local dispenses with transport issues created by the national food producers. Other benefits of the site are its ability to offer physical exercise to those suffering from stress and the organic management by many plot holders lends support to local biodiversity.

The overall benefits of allotments are well established.

The benefits include:

- Providing a sustainable food supply
- Giving a healthy activity for people of all ages
- Fostering community development and cohesiveness
- Acting as an educational resource
- Providing access to nature and wildlife and acting as a resource for biodiversity
- Giving open spaces for local communities
- Reducing carbon emissions through avoiding the long-distance transport of food