

# OFFA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

### 1. Introduction

1.1 Offa Community Council is committed to supporting the creation of a sustainable community.

1.2 The UK Government has set a nationwide target to reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2050, with a reduction to 68% of 1990 levels by 2030, and a 78% reduction by 2035. [1]

1.3 The Council recognizes the need to use its powers and influence to protect and improve the environment through good management, and by adopting best practice.

1.4 By adopting this Sustainability Policy, the Council is committing to reducing its own and the town's carbon footprint and foster biodiversity.

1.5 The Council will work to integrate environmental considerations into its operational decisions and adopt greener alternatives where available.

1.6 Councillors and council staff will be provided with information and training to enable them to perform their duties in a way that supports this environment policy and objectives.

1.7 The Council will make available reasonable budget and staffing resources to facilitate meeting these objectives.

1.8 The Council will develop and adopt a Climate Change Action Plan to achieve the aims of this policy.

1.9 The Council will develop and adopt a Biodiversity Action Plan to achieve the aims of this policy.

1.10 The Council's Carbon Neutral Sub Committee will provide comments, suggestions and recommendations to achieve these aims.

### 2. Aims of Policy

The aims of the Council's Sustainability Policy are:

2.1 To carry out our work in an efficient way that minimizes or eliminates its adverse impact on our environment, and minimizes or eliminates the Council's contribution to climate change.

2.2 To promote the importance and value of protecting our environment and combatting climate change, in order to protect the quality of life of our community now and in the future.

2.3 To promote a sense of community, and support residents in their efforts to improve and protect our local environment and to minimize their environmental impact by cutting carbon, waste and pollution.

### **3. Energy Use & Management**

The Council

3.1 Commits to reducing its carbon footprint through energy efficiency throughout its operation to achieve becoming carbon neutral on energy use by 2030.

3.2 Will contract to buy from renewable energy suppliers.

3.3 Commits to support the community to reduce Hadleigh's carbon footprint with the goal to become a carbon-neutral town by 2050 and will allocate funding to projects that aim to achieve this.

3.4 Will develop a policy for including carbon reduction criteria when selecting suppliers.

### **4. Sustainable Resource Management**

The Council will:

4.1 Develop a sustainable resource management strategy to reduce its carbon footprint, minimize its use of the earth's resources and choose reusable resources wherever practical.

4.2 Promote and encourage recycling across the community.

4.3 Use recycled paper products where feasible.

4.4 Minimize the amount of printing and minimize the amount of paper, using electronic communications wherever possible.

4.5 Endeavour to end the use of avoidable 'single use' plastics in and on Hadleigh Town Council property.

4.6 Promote water saving actions (like using water butts and toilet flushers that save water) and runoff water in concrete areas.

### **5. Conservation & The Natural Environment**

The Council will support and promote endeavours to:

5.1 Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the natural environment of Hadleigh and its open spaces.

5.2 Conserve local natural habitats including but not limited to, trees, woodland, hedgerows, ponds, streams, grassland, and the River Ceiriog.

5.3 Conserve and promote local biodiversity in all its activities, but particularly with regard to the management of its land, and where possible land adjacent to sensitive habitats and enhancing

connectivity by preserving and creating wildlife corridors within the community.

5.4 Oppose use of bee harming pesticides and herbicides and support growth of wildflowers on available spaces to encourage prosperity of bee and insect populations.

## **6. Sustainable Travel**

The Council will:

6.1 Encourage members and officers to minimize car journeys (unless by EV or other non-fossil fueled vehicle) made on Council business.

6.2 Promote, and support the use of cycling, public footpaths and public transport.

6.3 Support initiatives to improve sustainable local transport options including frequent and reliable local bus services.

6.4 Support and lobby for initiatives to boost investment in infrastructure to enable Electric Vehicle (EV) charging which would boost the adoption of EVs by residents.

## **7. Engagement, Lobbying & Partnerships**

The Council will:

7.1 Promote awareness of environmental issues within the community, and encourage sustainable practices.

7.2 Act as a voice for the local environmental concerns to those agencies given the statutory powers to tackle problems.

7.3 Support local community groups to promote sustainable environmental practices and increased environmental awareness within the community.

7.4 Encourage and lobby other local authorities and the Welsh Government to deliver on their commitments regarding climate change, biodiversity and the environment.

7.5 Encourage local organisations to develop their own plans to address climate change.

## **8. Information Sharing**

The Council will:

8.1 Develop and maintain its knowledge of climate change issues, relevant local groups and initiatives, local and national government initiatives.

8.2 Share its knowledge and information within the council and with residents, and promote its Sustainability Policy, and its actions, events and initiatives to combat climate change and protect our environment.

## **9. Measurement**

9.1 The success of this policy will be measured by:

- a). the completion of initiatives, tasks and actions identified in the Carbon Reduction Action Plan, and
- b). where feasible, estimates of the reduction in carbon emissions by the Council and in Offa.

## **10. Review**

10.1 This policy and its application will be subject to annual review and revised as necessary, to ensure that it continues to reflect the aims and objectives of the Council and promotes continuous environmental improvement throughout the Council's operations.

10.2 Any changes to the Policy will be brought to the attention of all stakeholders.