

Statement of Intent - Sustainability

Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council recognise that it has a responsibility for and the ability to improve the sustainability of its communities. Through the delivery of its services to the people living, working and visiting the local area, it can have significant impacts on the local, national and even the global environment.

Aim:

To ensure that Cheshire West and Chester Council lead by example, by putting sustainability at the heart of decision making and service delivery.

Key Commitments:

In all its activities, service delivery and internal management, Cheshire West and Chester Council will:

- **Improve the Council's sustainable performance.** Review, annually report, and continually improve its sustainability performance, including progressing on carbon reduction.
- **Comply with environmental legislation,** regulations and requirements the organisation subscribes to and relevant codes of practice and implement an environmental management system.
- **Purchase sustainably.** Select and promote goods and services, using purchasing criteria which balance economic, social and environmental factors, requiring its suppliers to address similar issues.
- **Use natural resources sustainably.** Implement an efficiency programme to reduce energy and water demand and promote and install low carbon technologies in buildings/ other constructions wherever possible, requiring contractors to address similar issues e.g. supplier miles, procurement, local labour etc
- **Travel sustainably.** Encourage sustainable travel amongst its staff, Councillors, service-users, contractors, residents and visitors and use available technologies to reduce/ remove the need for travel.
- **Minimise waste.** Reduce, re-use and recycle resources, as far as is practicable, and ensure responsible disposal of all its residual waste.
- **Manage land sustainably.** Protect, conserve and enhance the natural and built environment, safeguarding heritage, enhancing habitat and biodiversity and the amenity value of its estate.
- **Raise awareness** of this policy and related sustainability issues amongst its staff, employees, contractors, service-users, residents and visitors.
- **Work in partnership** with organisations across Cheshire West & Chester to promote wider responsibility towards sustainability, highlight best practice, share information and encourage joint working.
- **Act urgently and comprehensively** to implement the above commitments, monitoring, reviewing and updating continually in order to meet the timescale and magnitude of our obligations.