

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Sustainable Development Policy Statement

Statement of Commitment

The County Council is committed to making a valuable contribution towards the objectives of sustainable development, through its activities and services and through working with others.

The aims of our sustainable development policy are in line with the government's definition of sustainable development, which is:

- social progress which recognises the needs of everyone;
- effective protection of the environment;
- prudent use of natural resources; and
- maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment;

We will work towards these aims whilst continuing to deliver cost-effective, good quality local services which contribute to achieving our vision of a County that provides opportunity, independence and security for all.

The objectives of our sustainable development policy

We will:

- 1 Promote understanding of sustainable development by Members of the Council, our employees, partner organisations and our communities and raise awareness of the need to work towards sustainable objectives.
- 2 Include sustainability considerations in our decision-making processes so that it becomes part of everything we do.
- 3 Seek out good practice in other organisations, publicise and share our successes and good sustainable practice, and provide a positive role model for others
- 4 Work with and provide opportunities for organisations and individuals to contribute towards sustainable development objectives.
- 5 Within the regulatory and budgetary frameworks and when available, procure goods and services from local sources that support our objectives.
- 6 Work with our suppliers and potential suppliers to ensure that as a minimum their sustainable development objectives match ours.
- 7 Minimise emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases resulting from our activities or from the services that we provide.

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- 8 Protect and enhance the natural and built environment.
- 9 Minimise the use of unsustainable resources.
- 10 Minimise the production of waste; maximise re-use and recycling of the waste produced; and encourage and support others to do likewise.
- 11 Promote, support and develop urban and rural communities in such a way that the intrinsic diversity and character of the County is maintained and enhanced.
- 12 Promote, support and develop the County's economy by supporting business; helping people to improve their skills; and developing the County's infrastructure, whilst causing minimum depredation of the environment.

Applying our sustainable development policy

This policy statement applies to all our activities and services and to our work with others.

We will develop and implement effective and meaningful auditing and monitoring procedures to measure progress towards our sustainable development objectives. The results will be reported, as appropriate, to Members of the Council, our employees, partner organisations and our communities.

Responsibility for implementing our sustainable development policy

All Members and employees of the Council are responsible for putting the policy into practice and supporting it. This will ensure that the Council makes a significant contribution to a sustainable future.

ND S&CPU 17 November 2004
Approved by the CC on 15 December 2004