

Environmental Policy

Bedford Borough Council covers the county town of Bedford, the urban area of Kempston and 45 rural parishes - an area of 476 square kilometres. The population of the Borough is estimated at 163,924, with 68,000 households (mid 2015 estimate).

A Unitary authority, the Borough Council is responsible for delivering services including Adult and Children's services, planning, refuse collection, disposal and recycling, tourism, benefits, licensing, public health, parks and open spaces, housing advice, recreation and leisure.

The Council recognises that the provision of these services has impacts on the Borough, and that the Council has a responsibility to manage those impacts and lead by example.

Vision

To ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, the Council aims to deliver services that consider equally social, economic and environmental issues. The Council will therefore seek to integrate the principles of sustainable development within its policies and strategies, and will:

Carbon

- Promote the carbon reduction and financial benefits to the community of reducing energy consumption from improving the energy efficiency of homes and businesses.
- Continually improve its environmental performance by involving staff in reducing resource consumption within Council activities.

Waste

- Promote and encourage waste minimisation, reuse and recycling and general resource efficiency to the community;
- Ensure that levels of environmental pollution are kept to a minimum and where possible encourage improvement in the general standard of the quality of the environment;

Transport

- Promote greener travel behaviours and encourage the use of more sustainable modes of transport (cycle, walk, use public transport) within the Council and the wider community;

Land use and wildlife/biodiversity

- Maintain and enhance the natural environment through the delivery of the Sustainable Communities Strategy, Corporate plan, Greenspace strategy and Biodiversity Action Plan;

Resource Use

- Promote responsible procurement in terms of addressing social, economic and environment issues, local sustainability and equality and diversity;

Local and sustainable food

- Support and promote awareness of local and seasonal foods, and the prevention of food waste;

Water use

- Promote and encourage sustainable water use within Council activities and the community;

Health and well-being

- Ensure that all children, young people and adults have the support they require to lead healthy, safe and independent lives, are provided with opportunities to realise their full potential and have timely access to high quality, appropriate health and social care services;

Culture and local communities

- Use the process of planning policy review to achieve sustainable communities, working with existing communities and developers;
- Engage, encourage and enable more individuals and communities to actively participate in the Borough's cultural, creative and sporting activities;

Equity and the local economy

- Ensure suppliers and contractors are aware of and support this Policy.