

Climate Change Policy

Approved at Full Council meeting 5 March 2019



Introduction

1. All levels of government (national, regional and local) have a duty and responsibility to act to limit the negative impacts of Climate Change.
2. Local action can make a difference and will be essential. While our direct impacts may be limited, that is no reason or excuse for inaction on our part. We can catalyse, support and influence actions by residents, other councils, national government and business on a national or global scale.
3. The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be a priority for all councils.
4. Positive action can deliver benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings, market opportunities, and improved health and well-being locally and worldwide.

The Council resolves to:

5. To consider climate impacts in all decision making.
6. Take account of the latest IPCC report findings that we have at most 12 years to avoid dangerous climate change.
7. Commit to help make our community carbon-neutral by 2030 by carrying out the following actions:
 - (a) Ensure residents have appropriate information about how local action can make a difference and what actions they can take;
 - (b) Seek to ensure the highest sustainability standards for all major new development and infrastructure (including transport) and work with WODC and developers to ensure enforcement;
 - (c) Draw the attention of WODC and developers to the relevant areas of the Neighbourhood Plan;
 - (d) Develop a Climate Resilience Plan to enable our community to become more resilient in the face of extreme weather such as flooding and heat.
8. To consider how best to work with other local councils and organisations as appropriate to:
 - (a) Determine and implement the ways in which we can best help to limit global warming to less than 1.5°C, and develop relevant strategies and plans to deliver our goals;
 - (b) Encourage UK national government to provide the policies, powers and resources to reduce the nation's emissions and enable local communities to accelerate the pace and scale of local action to make the 2030 target possible.

Further information

The Local Government Association - <https://www.local.gov.uk/councillor-workbook-acting-climate-change>