

## **ESSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

All activities have some impact upon the environment. Essington Parish Council (“the Council”) recognises its responsibilities to minimise the impact its operations have on the environment to the benefit of EPC and local residents.

### **1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish broad objectives to enable the development of activities or procedures that will minimise negative effects on the general environment and enhance and protect the Council’s immediate environs.

### **2. KEY PRINCIPLES**

- 2.1 To strive to make a positive contribution to protecting and enhancing the local and global environment.
- 2.2 To be mindful of the fact that the Council’s actions often have an impact on the environment when decision-making.
- 2.3 Where relevant to build environmental considerations and sustainability into the Council’s policies.
- 2.4 To minimise environmental pollution and waste in the Council’s activities and encourage the conservation, re-use and appropriate recycling of resources within the Parish.
- 2.5 To reduce the effect of adverse impacts, the Council will aim to embrace the following objectives:
  - Minimise material consumption and consider the lifecycle impact of any purchase;
  - Reduce waste and re-use material wherever possible and in particular to reduce the use of single-use plastic where possible;
  - Embrace recycling opportunities for re-used waste;
  - Improve the quality of its working environment;
  - Minimise CO<sup>2</sup> emissions produced by EPC activities;
  - Minimise energy use and emissions to air;
  - Encourage suppliers to raise their environmental performance;
  - Encourage users of Council owned grounds to raise their environmental performance;
  - Conserving biodiversity on Council owned grounds and to manage the same so as to encourage wildlife and plant-life where appropriate.

### **3. SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS**

#### **3.1 Energy Efficiency**

The Council is committed to responsible energy management and will, where possible, promote energy efficiency through its operations by the following actions:

- Increase awareness of energy efficiency amongst employees;
- Recommend energy conservation technology where applicable

**3.2 Recycling and Conservation**

Where possible, the Council's contractors should recycle, or re-use, any recyclable material.

**3.3 Office Equipment**

Generally, new equipment will be selected from product ranges with good environmental standards and ratings, both in use and disposal.

**3.4 Local Sourcing**

Where possible, the Council will seek to minimise environmental damage caused through transportation of goods by sourcing materials locally. This also has the positive effect of supporting the local economy.

**4. PURCHASING**

Where possible purchasing decisions will take account of both environmental and value for money factors.

**5. GENERAL**

Each employee and Councillor will:

- Take responsibility for the implementation of the Environmental Policy.
- Encourage volunteers and members of other organisations to adopt good practices so as to improve the environmental performance of the Council and to improve its impact upon the environment.

**Approved: 01 March 2021**

**Review date: March 2024**