

# Rushcliffe Borough Council Environment Policy

## Corporate Policy Statement

Rushcliffe Borough Council recognises the effect of its operations on the environment and the influence it can have on the community through its actions. It undertakes to promote an environment compatible with healthy, balanced life styles where the whole community plays its part in environmental protection and improvement.

### The Council will play its full part in achieving this aim by: -

- Ensuring that its own operations meet or exceed all statutory environmental requirements.
- Encouraging others in the community to reduce their negative impact on the environment through information, education and publicity and, where necessary, by enforcement of environmental legislation.
- Identifying areas of public concern and seeking improvements by working in partnership with other interested parties.
- Carrying out periodic reviews of its own policies and actions and seeking continual improvement.
- Striving to provide, the highest quality and most efficient services possible as appropriate.

## Commitments

**1. Environmental Improvement** – We are committed to continual improvement of our performance in order to reduce adverse environmental impacts. We will use the best technology available within our resources to meet our objectives and plan to adapt to the changing environment.

**2. Legislation** – We will ensure that all our operations, whether carried out directly or through contractors, comply with or exceed all statutory environmental requirements.

**3. Energy** – We will seek to reduce energy and water usage in Council buildings and to reduce fuel used by vehicles engaged in Council business. We will use environmentally safe and renewable energy sources where possible.

**4. Waste Management and Recycling** – We undertake to reduce the amount of waste produced by the Council and to encourage and provide facilities to maximise the recycling of waste produced both by the Council and by the businesses and households of the Borough. We will dispose of our waste in a safe and responsible way.

**5. Environmental Protection** – We will adopt the principles of best practicable means and best available technology not entailing excessive costs to minimise and, where possible, eliminate the release of any pollutant that may cause environmental damage to air, water or land.

**6. Use of Materials** – We will progressively specify and purchase the least environmentally damaging and wasteful products and materials which adequately serve requirements within financial and other constraints, taking into consideration manufacture, packaging, transport and disposal.

**7. Planning and Transportation** – We will encourage sustainable patterns of development which will help conserve the environment and we will promote energy efficient and environmentally beneficial means of transport for our staff, Elected Members and the public at large.

**The council will carry out these commitments by: -**

- Ensuring that our environmental principles and the specific requirements that flow from them are met by our contractors and suppliers.
- Respecting the diversity and balance of plant and animal life in the Borough
- Conserving natural landscapes and distinctive buildings
- Employing 'safe' technologies and operating procedures to minimise the risk of environmental damage.
- Preparing contingency procedures to deal with environmental emergencies
- Assessing that all proposed policies, activities and practices for their effect on the environment before they are implemented.
- Providing training for all our employees and Elected Members to ensure that they are aware of the Council's environmental responsibilities.
- Encouraging environmentally-friendly behaviour by the residents of Rushcliffe by providing appropriate information and advice.

**Publicity**

This policy will be publicised to the Council's staff and to residents and businesses of the Borough. We undertake to disclose information regarding our performance measured against this policy and to encourage comment and feedback from the community.

**Approval**

This revised policy has been approved by the Portfolio Holder for Community & Leisure.

**Review**

This policy will be reviewed every five years.