



Picture by John Smith, Boston

Environment Policy

February 2021



Boston Borough Council has declared an ongoing climate and environment emergency which recognises the need for urgent action and commits to ensuring environmental consideration and carbon reduction is embedded across all activities.

The environment is one of the three pillars of sustainability and should be equally balanced alongside economic and social considerations to achieve positive change across the Borough.

The Council recognises the impact of its own operations and is committed to using its powers and influence to minimise and address this while supporting others to do the same.

This Environment Policy provides a framework from which more detailed strategic documents and project plans will be developed. It sets out four key themes that provide the context for the Council as it works to deliver the new corporate priority around environmental awareness and accountability.

Theme one:

Protecting and recovering our natural environment

Theme two:

Mitigating and adapting to climate change

Theme three:

Enhancing our built environment

Theme four:

Ensuring a sustainable approach to waste and resource management

Theme one:

Protecting and recovering our natural environment

- ❖ Work collaboratively to ensure the Borough's natural capital is recognised, better managed and more connected
- ❖ Ensure development proposals maximise opportunities to retain, protect and enhance biodiversity
- ❖ Maintain and enhance the quality of Council-managed landholdings to maximise biodiversity potential
- ❖ Recognise and develop the role that the Borough's green spaces have in connecting people to nature and supporting the health and wellbeing of residents

Theme two:

Mitigating and adapting to climate change

- ❖ Implement actions to reduce the carbon footprint of the Council's own estate and operations in line with adopted targets
- ❖ Work collaboratively to support the wider Borough in taking action to address the climate and environment emergency
- ❖ Promote and encourage the development and use of renewable energy solutions
- ❖ Work with local businesses to support the development of a low carbon economy
- ❖ Build increased resilience of our communities by supporting them to adapt to a changing climate

Under each theme, several priorities have been identified.

Theme three: Enhancing our built environment

- ❖ Implement sustainable design and management practices in all Council-led developments
- ❖ Ensure planning policy sets strong ambition for low carbon, energy efficient new housing development schemes and retrofits of existing stock which are fit for the future
- ❖ Provide advice and support to residents to eliminate fuel poverty and pursue energy efficient, affordable heating options
- ❖ Develop an approach that ensures net gain delivers for both biodiversity and our residents

The four key themes outlined in this Environment Policy will be considered across Council operations, ensuring recognition that a healthy natural environment provides the foundations for strong economic and social prosperity.

Under each theme, any statutory obligations will be identified alongside appropriate additional targets and actions under the development of relevant strategies and plans where necessary.

Theme four: Ensuring a sustainable approach to waste and resource management

- ❖ Ensure procurement decisions consider the environmental impacts of goods and services working closely with suppliers/contractors
- ❖ Minimise avoidable single-use plastic usage across Council operations
- ❖ Maximise opportunities to support residents, business and visitors to reduce, reuse and recycle their waste and take a tough stance against environmental crime
- ❖ Demonstrate a commitment to responsible water management across Council operations
- ❖ Promote sustainable travel behaviours amongst local authority employees and members





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