COPDOCK & WASHBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

CLIMATE AWARENESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

This policy statement affirms that Copdock & Washbrook Parish Council (the Council) is committed to tackling the Climate Crisis and to the preservation of the environment.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Council will strive to:

- raise the awareness of key decision makers;
- ensure that the implications of health, social, environmental and economic well-being of the community are considered within policies;
- share good practice with partners and the community;
- undertake training and education and share that knowledge.

The Council believes that this policy must have the support of staff, partners and the community to be successful. The policy will be measured and reviewed on a regular basis.

APPROACHES

The approaches the Council will take in adhering to this commitment are:

- embedding green awareness in policy and organisational development;
- implementing environmental measures;
- information, education, and personal development;
- alliance and partnership working;
- transportation management.

PROCEDURE

Objectives

Copdock & Washbrook Parish Council shall:

- maintain respect for natural resources by ensuring the most efficient use of materials and by using renewable, recyclable products wherever possible;
- ensure the use of environmentally friendly products wherever practicable;
- minimise, where possible, the creation of waste, especially hazardous waste, and wherever possible, recycle or reuse materials; dispose of all waste through safe and responsible methods in compliance with the relevant environmental legislation;
- ensure the responsible use of energy throughout the Council by conserving energy, improving energy efficiency, seeking to utilise safer energy sources and giving preference to renewable over finite energy resources wherever possible;
- encourage the minimising of the effects of atmospheric pollution from vehicles;
- encourage the use of public transport and minimising car journeys wherever reasonable and practicable;
- encourage cycling and walking wherever practicable

This policy will apply to all aspects of the Council's activities including all projects, buildings, machinery, and transportation.

Activities to Achieve the Objectives

Copdock & Washbrook Parish Council shall:

- raise awareness of the climate crisis and environmental matters within the community;
- actively engage the community in activities to mitigate damage to the environment and to address the climate crisis;
- monitor and coordinate the environmental performance of the organisation;
- conduct periodic environmental reviews and self-evaluation of its compliance with the environmental policy;
- prepare, implement and monitor action plans to improve performance;
- report these findings to the community.
- support and encourage contractors, suppliers and other associates to minimise their impact on the environment through the communication of its environmental policy and strategic purchasing and contract policies;
- actively seek to influence others to adopt environmental policies and good environmental management;
- actively seek the purchase of materials and the appointment of local contractors whenever such skills and materials exist locally.

Contracts / Tenders

Since the Council, as a public body expending public funds, is also required to secure good value for money, purchasing decisions will take account of both environmental and value for money factors.

Financial Regulations must be observed in conjunction with the Council's Standing Orders and any individual financial regulations relating to contracts.

Every contract shall comply with the Council's financial regulations, and no exceptions shall be made otherwise than in an emergency.

General

Each member and employee of the Council will:

- take responsibility for the implementation of the environmental policy;
- encourage volunteers and members of other organisations to adopt good practices to improve the environmental performance of their organisation and improve its impact upon the environment.