



Lowestoft Town Council

Environmental Policy

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Lowestoft Town Council is committed to conducting its business in a productive and positive manner. This includes striving to benefit the community in social, economic and environmental terms. The Council recognises that it has a responsibility to current and future generations within the Lowestoft area.

2.0 Biodiversity

2.1 The council aims to fulfil its duty to have regard to conserving biodiversity and will do so in a reasonable and proportionate manner, including through:

- Reminding councillors of the duty in all agendas.
- Taking biodiversity into account when making relevant decisions.
- Taking particular account of biodiversity in relation to its considerations of relevant planning applications and when managing and developing its own open spaces.
- Taking biodiversity into account when reviewing relevant contracts and suppliers, including those connected to management of its open spaces.
- Considering neighbourhood planning with due consideration to embedding mandatory consideration of biodiversity in relevant spaces in Lowestoft.

3.0 Environmental Impact

3.1 The council will work towards reducing its environmental impact and will do so in a reasonable and proportionate manner, including through:

- Complying with relevant environmental legislation.
- Appropriately choosing the method of communication taking into account the environmental impact and with due regard to the importance of community engagement, including through face-to-face meetings.
- Increasing its website presence as a repository for documents and meeting papers, where appropriate to do so, as an aid to reducing the use of hard copies.
- Publishing documents where reasonably possible to maximise openness and transparency and reduce the need for requests for hard copy information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004.
- Recycling and encouraging appropriate recycling.
- Minimising waste and maximising efficiency.
- Considering environmental issues where relevant to planning applications and when managing and developing its own assets and services.
- Taking environmental issues into account when reviewing relevant contracts and suppliers, including those connected to management of its open spaces.
- Considering neighbourhood planning with due consideration to embedding mandatory consideration of environmental issues in relevant spaces in Lowestoft.
- Reducing unnecessary car travel for its governance, meetings and operations.
- Considering environmental issues in relation to its office and administration.