

Environmental Policies

Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment, as Chair of the Environmental Performance Board ("the Board")

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Cabinet (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.

Recommendation: It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (a) adopts the attached suite of three new environmental policies relating to waste, procurement and countryside and heritage issues;**
- (b) notes the content of the countryside and heritage action plan that responds to Councillor Wright's Notice of Motion as referred to Cabinet on 9 November 2016.**

1. Summary

This report presents three new environmental policies and summarises the content of their action plans that will enable the Authority to continue to enhance its environmental performance and deliver its over-arching Environmental Policy (Appendix 1).

2. Background

Following the focus of the Environment Project Board on energy issues, which resulted in the Energy Policy and Action Plan adopted by Cabinet in October 2015, the Board has undertaken gap analyses to develop detailed policies and action plans to improve performance across three further components of the Environmental Policy; Waste produced by the Authority's activity (not local authority collected waste), Procurement and Countryside and Heritage.

3. Proposal

The Corporate Waste Management Policy (Appendix 2) documents the Authority's intention to continue engaging all staff to reduce, reuse, recycle and compost. A significant part of the action plan is to work with Norse FM to improve data about how much waste is produced and how it is managed.

The Sustainable Environmental Procurement Policy (Appendix 3) renews the authority's commitment to ensuring environmental risks and opportunities are considered at the outset of procurement activity. The action plan majors on raising awareness of this commitment at all levels of the organisation and re-launching the sustainable procurement impact assessment tool.

The Countryside and Heritage Policy (Appendix 4) looks to enhance the Authority's project appraisal processes to improve outcomes for environmental issues (such as wildlife, landscape and historic assets), reduce legislative and reputational risk for the authority and demonstrate community leadership on significant issues such as ash dieback. The action plan's focus is on enhancing specific processes by making appropriate data and expertise

available at key points to influence a project's design in a positive, collaborative fashion between project managers and environmental specialists. In preparing this document, particular consideration has been given to the Notice of Motion from Councillor Wright, endorsed at the recent meeting of the County Council, which highlights the ongoing issues facing our natural environment; its content shows how this authority will take additional action to help in tackling relevant issues. The action plan is included in Appendix 4.

These policies and the action plans have been developed and endorsed by the Board (comprised of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment, the Head of Digital Transformation and Business Support, the Environment Manager and the Cabinet Member for Community and Environmental Services), which will monitor the delivery of the Action Plans on a quarterly basis and ensure the policies remain relevant to the Authority's activities.

4. Financial Considerations

The issues and opportunities raised within these policies and action plans are not new to the Authority – indeed Devon County Council has a reputation for leading on many environmental issues. The route forward in the action plans, on the whole, is for improvement of already 'good' performance that does not require new resources at this stage. None of the actions require new financial allocations and will be delivered using existing resources.

Through better consideration of its use of resources and more consistent identification of environmental and legislative risks the Authority will be in a better position to avoid unexpected costs from rising commodity prices and potential fines.

5. Environmental and Equality Considerations

Where relevant to the decision the Equality Act 2010 Public Sector Equality Duty requires decision makers to give due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding. taking account of age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), gender and gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women/ new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage/civil partnership status in coming to a decision, a decision maker may also consider other relevant factors such as caring responsibilities, rural isolation or socio-economic disadvantage.

This may be achieved, for example, through completing a full Equality Impact Needs Assessment/Impact Assessment or other form of options/project management appraisal that achieves the same objective. In progressing the suite of environmental policies, an Impact Assessment has been prepared which has been circulated separately to Cabinet Members and also is available alongside this Report on the Council's website at: <https://new.devon.gov.uk/impact/environmental-policies-and-action-plans/>, which Members will need to consider for the purposes of this item.

The suite of environmental policies will have no negative effects on equality considerations. The policies have been designed with the objective of improving environmental outcomes. This will have a subsequent flow of benefits for health and wellbeing of the whole population and help maintain the flow of natural resources into the local economy.

6. Risk Management Considerations

The policies and action plans have been developed in response to the issue of the global need to improve environmental quality, not least for its intrinsic value, but also for the environment's fundamental role in providing elements vital for life, such as clean air and water, productive soil to provide food and other resources, and recreational and cultural experiences that improve our health, enrich our wellbeing and support our economy.

These policies and action plans will further reduce the likelihood of the Authority finding itself in breach of environmental legislation.

7. Alternatives

The alternative is not to adopt the revised policies and action plans that have been developed following analyses of current practice in comparison to the objectives of the over-arching Environmental Policy.

9. Reason for Recommendation

Adopting the policies and action plans will contribute to delivering the Environmental Policy, will enable the Authority to demonstrate vital community leadership on environmental best practice, and will provide improved measures for managing legislative compliance and insulating the Authority from rising commodity prices.

Appendices

1. Devon County Council's over-arching Environmental Policy
2. Corporate Waste Management Policy
3. Sustainable Environmental Procurement Policy
4. Countryside and Heritage Policy and Action Plan

Dave Black
Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Services: Councillor Roger Croad

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Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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Background Paper	Date	File Reference
1. Impact Assessment	December 2016	https://new.devon.gov.uk/impact/environmental-policies-and-action-plans/

Devon County Council's Environmental Policy

May 2011

We are reliant on the natural environment. It controls air and water quality, regulates global climate, circulates vital nutrients to enable the provision of food, fuel and pharmaceutical resources. Partnered with historical and cultural offerings it provides recreation and tourism experiences that are beneficial for our health and well-being and economic prosperity.

Devon County Council recognises its responsibility to minimise the impact of its own operations on the environment and acknowledges the contribution it can make to protecting and enhancing Devon's distinctive natural, historic and cultural surroundings whilst being sensitive to economic and social considerations. Minimising the use of resources will help protect the authority from future increases in energy and utility prices.

Devon County Council will...

Embedding & Educating

Consistently consider the environmental implications and opportunities of policies, projects, decisions and working practices.

Encourage environmental best practice among employees, Members and school communities.

Community Leadership

Set an example by continually seeking to improve the authority's environmental performance.

Help improve communities' environmental awareness and encourage individuals to take responsibility for their actions.

Procurement

Ensure the environmental impact of goods and services is considered within its procurement decisions.

Work with suppliers, contractors and tenants to lessen the environmental impacts of their operations.

Transport & Travel

Help employees, Members and school communities minimise the environmental impact of commuting.

Reduce the need for fleet, work and school related travel and minimise the environmental impact of that which is necessary.

Water & Sewage

Monitor, manage and reduce its use of fresh water by cutting demand and improving efficiency in existing and new buildings.

Ensure sewage disposal occurs through appropriate mechanisms.

Environmental Risk

Meet the requirements of relevant legislation.

Suitably store, use and dispose of hazardous materials.

Ensure its services are resilient to extreme weather and a changing climate.

Countryside & Heritage

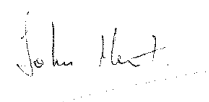
Promote the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, landscape, built environment, maritime, cultural and historic interests through its estate and activities and through its work with others.

Energy

Reduce its demand for energy, improve energy efficiency and utilise renewable energy technologies where appropriate in existing and new assets.

Waste

Minimise waste and make the best use of resources by encouraging employees, Members and suppliers to reduce, reuse, recycle and compost.



Cllr. John Hart
Leader of the County Council



Phil Norrey
Chief Executive

Devon County Council Corporate Waste Strategy

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Devon County Council's Environmental Policy states that Devon County Council will:-

Minimise waste and make the best use of resources by encouraging employees, Members and suppliers to reduce, reuse, recycle and compost.

May 2011

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is:-

- To set out the Authority's strategy and its associated, policies and action plans, in relation to waste generated by the Authority's activities as a result of both statutory and discretionary services provided directly or indirectly through its contractors to the communities of Devon.
- To implement the Environmental Policy commitment

GLOBAL CONTEXT & DRIVERS FOR CHANGE

Resource Consumption

The waste created as a result of activities in Devon and by the Authority is part of a global economy, and with a rising population and standards of living, there is an increasing demand for the world's finite resources. In the UK our current lifestyle consumes resources 3.5 times faster than the environment can replenish them; we need to consume less and reuse and recycle more.

Historically in the UK and in Devon waste has been disposed of in landfill sites, the use of which prevents the resource from being used again and in the case of organic waste contributes to climate change. However, over the past 20 years the waste industry has transformed to meet the growing need for more sustainable solutions. For many years the Waste Hierarchy (Figure 1) has been, and still is, a founding principle for sustainable waste management. However there has been a significant shift in thinking towards adopting a more Circular Economy (Figure 2) in recent years.

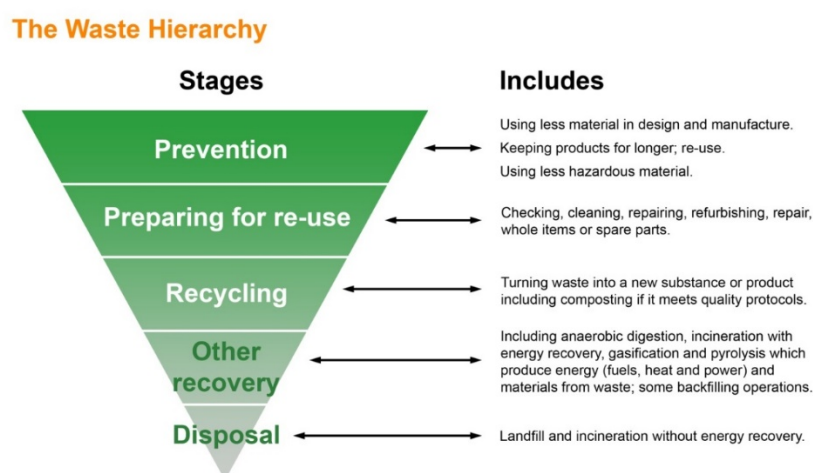


Figure 1

A circular economy is an alternative to the traditional linear economy (make, use, dispose) in which we keep resources in use for as long as possible, extract the maximum value from them while in use, then recover and regenerate products and materials at the end of each service life¹.



Figure 2¹

The model of a Circular Economy reflects how waste is increasingly seen as a valuable resource and how more organisations are taking steps to recover value from the materials that were previously viewed as just waste. This has in turn led to improvements in efficiency which can save money and help to reduce our impact on the natural environment.

As a leading community organisation, the Authority has an important role to promote sustainable waste and resource management, not only through the services it provides to residents of Devon, but in the way it manages its own waste.

Managing Cost

Reductions in Government funding have required the Authority to make significant changes to how it operates and resulted in the disposal of assets, a reduction in staff, and increased commissioning of services. Despite all these changes, the Authority remains a strong influence and needs to actively promote and demonstrate good practice in relation to sustainable waste and resource management, working with its staff, delivery partners and the public.

Managing waste at higher levels of the waste hierarchy will often reduce costs in comparison to landfilling and purchasing new resources.

AIMS

The overarching aims of this strategy, applicable to its entire scope, are to:

- ensure awareness of and full compliance with all relevant waste-related regulations
- record waste arisings data where appropriate
- use arisings data to manage waste and resources in the most cost-effective and sustainable manner and strive for improvement
- keep under review opportunities for waste resources to generate income or energy

¹ WRAP website February 2016

- provide guidance to all staff involved in waste and resource management
- provide staff based in DCC corporate buildings with access to recycling facilities where practicable
- ensure new and refurbished buildings have access to recycling facilities and that space for receptacles are integrated into the design
- ensure staff have suitable guidance and systems in place to facilitate the reuse of furniture and equipment within the authority and with partner organisations.
- encourage the Authority's staff and its contractors to purchase materials from recycled or sustainable sources where practicable.
- try to ensure waste and resource management is a material consideration in the commissioning and procurement of goods and services where relevant.
- investigate and adopt where appropriate new and innovative waste and resource management approaches and technologies.

SCOPE

Due to the diverse nature of the Authority's responsibilities, this document briefly summarises 6 strategic elements and sign posts to further documentation where appropriate.

The 6 strategic elements are:-

1. Local Authority Collected Waste

The County Council, as a Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) is responsible for the treatment and disposal of Local Authority Collected Waste collected by the District Councils which incorporates domestic and offensive (low level clinical waste) from households, waste collected from some commercial sources, street sweepings, litter and fly tipping. In addition it provides a network of Recycling Centres where members of the public can deposit their bulky household waste.

How this waste is dealt with is detailed in 'The Waste and Resource Management Strategy for Devon. This document can be found at:-

http://www.devon.gov.uk/dcc_waste_strategy_review.pdf.

Current waste performance data can be found in the Waste chapter of the Devon and Torbay State of Environment at <http://www.naturaldevon.org.uk/state-of-environment/>

The County Council is also the Waste Planning Authority and as such has been responsible for publishing the Waste Local Plan. This is a land use planning document identifying where suitable sites for waste and resource management facilities might be located. This document can be found at <https://new.devon.gov.uk/planning/planning-policies/minerals-and-waste-policy/devon-waste-plan>

2. Corporate Estate (Property)

Recycling

Recycling of white office paper was first introduced at County Hall in 1996 with ad hoc arrangements in some other buildings. In 2004 the current multi material recycling system was trialled as part of the Recycle@work campaign and formal targets were set in 2006. By March 2010 75% (5,191) of staff had access to recycling facilities, in 41% (141) of the County Council's properties across Devon.

Against a backdrop of significant changes to the corporate estate, figures are now (2015) estimated at:-

- Percentage of DCC building (non school) with recycling facilities:- 58.7%
- Percentage of staff (non school) with access to recycling facilities: 90.1%

Contractual arrangements for the collection of waste and recycling from properties is arranged at a local level by the Facilities Management staff. Consideration needs to be given to the cost benefits of a corporate contract, however it would be wise to delay this until after the current contraction of buildings is complete and new facility management arrangements for all buildings are finalised.

Reuse

Over the past 2 years staff at Devon County Council have recorded over £125,000 in avoided procurement and disposal costs and saved 22 tonnes of waste by using a web based system called WARPIt. The scheme has the potential to be used more widely across the Authority by more staff and will continue to record the significant savings that efficient use of resources can have.

3. Land Management

The Authority is responsible for a significant amount of land and the following outlines briefly what the current arrangements for waste management are.

County Farms

NPS South West Ltd manages the County Farms Estate of 3,894 hectares (Dec 2015)). The Estate currently comprises 69 fully equipped residential Dairy and Mixed Livestock farms categorised into Starter and Progression Units ranging from 37 to 301 acres. Strategic, policy and operational management decisions are considered by its own Committee, but how waste is managed is the responsibility of each tenant, however specific guidance on sewage sludge, slurry and silage management is provided to farms located within Nitrate Vulnerable Zones.

Grounds Maintenance

Devon County Council has contracts with a number of contractors for the grounds maintenance of sites such as schools and other DCC establishments. The majority of waste materials created as a result of normal operations by grounds maintenance is left on site e.g.: grass cuttings. However the Authority's tree framework contract does generate arisings that have to be removed from site and the contractor is expected to comply with all relevant legislation and the guidance provided within their contractual agreement with the Authority.

Highway Verges

Under the terms of the current highways term maintenance contract:-

- Vegetable material is left in situ to rot down. Tree and shrub cuttings are taken to tip as green waste for composting.
- Arisings from edge ploughing of the road are distributed on verges local to the works
- Arisings from gullies are deemed to be contaminated waste and after desiccation (to reduce hauled mass) are taken to licenced waste management site
- Road planings are reutilised wherever possible or sold on by the contractor as a secondary aggregate for use by private individuals.

Public Rights of Way (PROW) Maintenance

As the Highway Authority for Devon, the County Council is responsible for 3,200 miles (4,960km) of public rights of way. A significant amount of the materials created from works is organic in nature and dealt with in situ. However, where waste material does need to leave site, then the contractor is expected to comply with all relevant legislation and the guidance provided within the contractual agreement.

Country Parks (Stover and Grand Western Canal)

Devon County Council has responsibility for two Country parks; The Grand Western Canal and Stover Country Park. Both sites deal with organic waste in situ and have recycling facilities in place for materials generated from their buildings. Residual waste is dealt with via appropriate waste collection services.

4. Schools

The Authority does not have direct control over how a school manages its waste. Due to the increasingly complex nature of school funding and waste management the Authority can only offer advice and support to schools rather than direct intervention.

Schools Waste Education

The Devon Waste Education programme offers support to all schools in Devon. Educating children is an essential part of Devon's long term Waste & Resource Management Strategy, aiming to achieving a more sustainable future, with an increasing emphasis on waste minimisation, resource management and greater awareness of the issues surrounding consumerism. In addition it is a very effective way of encouraging both the schools and parents to manage their waste in a more sustainable manner. The Authority renewed its commitment to the Waste Education Programme in 2012 by retendering the Waste Educators Contract for a further 3 years with and by extending it by a further 2 years. The Waste Education Strategy can be found at:-

http://www.devon.gov.uk/waste_education_strategy_2014_-_17.pdf

Building of new schools

Devon has a statutory responsibility to ensure that every child in Devon has a school place and to increase opportunities for parental choice. The changes in the Government's approach to education provision in recent years has resulted in a change to the Local Authority's statutory role from provider of school places to commissioner of school places.

When new school buildings are built, Site Waste Management Plans (SWMPs) are considered a best practise tool which encourages designers to estimate the volumes of waste generated and to consider how this could be reduced through the design and construction process. The regulations also required contractors to record the amount and types of waste produced during the construction process and ensure as far as reasonably practicable that the waste produced was reused, recycled or recovered. The 2008 Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP) regulations were repealed by government in 2013. The Built Environment Team (BET) recognising the benefits of SWMPs and the repealed regulations and continue to adopt SWMPs and associated requirements by way of contractual conditions for schemes over £300k. For schemes under £300k contractors are required to adopt the same ethos but without the requirements to record the volumes of waste generated.'

Through initiatives such as 'Class Space', (a DCC standardised classroom design developed in part to minimise waste). The use of co-ordinated dimensions and products ensures that site material wastage is minimised and site process efficiency is maximised. Although

projects are not ordinarily designed to BREEAM standards, BET briefs require designers to adopt the ethos used in Class Space as an alternative standard to BREEAM.

5. Engineering Design Group

The Authority is responsible for a wide variety of engineering projects across the County, and, as with the building of new schools, the Engineering and Design Group gave consideration to the costs and associated benefits of SWMPs and decided to continue with them as a best practise tool for schemes over £300k. They also require contractors to adopt the same ethos for smaller schemes.

6. Procurement and Commissioned Services

The Authority has developed a Procurement Sustainability Matrix which includes sustainable waste management as one of its elements. The tool is designed to help identify the potential sustainability issues associated with the product or service that is being purchased or commissioned. It is used at the outset of a procurement activity so that staff can incorporate the outcomes into the specification. All procurement activity over £10,000 must make use of this tool but lower value activity can benefit from using the tool too.

CONCLUSION

Devon County Council is a large authority going through a period of significant change. Managing its waste and resources in a more sustainable manner is an important step, not only for the environment, but as a tool to aid the Authority in becoming more efficient and cost effective in its everyday operations.

The majority of the Authority's waste appears to be being managed well, however there is a need to improve and update the way the corporate estate manages and monitors its waste and for guidance to be provide to staff with responsibilities for activities/services that generate waste.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND REVIEW

The Environmental Performance Board is responsible to the Corporate Leadership Team and the Community and Environmental Services Cabinet Member for ensuring that the objectives of this strategy are met. It will review progress on a quarterly basis and will publish an annual Environmental Performance Statement that will include a Waste & Resource performance report. It will also regularly review and update this strategy to ensure it remains consistent with and relevant to the Authority's vision and targets.

The Head of Business Strategy and Support is accountable for leading and reporting on the implementation of the Devon County Council Corporate Waste Strategy on behalf of the Authority with responsibility for project delivery with the relevant Head of Service.

APPLICABILITY

It is fully recognised that everyone in the organisation should be responsible for their own actions with respect to sustainable waste management. Accordingly staff, Members and contractors are expected to support the Authority's objectives and to cooperate actively in achieving them. In order to facilitate this process, this document will be shared with all tiers of the Authority's management structure and across all service areas.

ADOPTION

This document was adopted by Cabinet on xxxx

Devon County Council Environmental Sustainable Procurement Policy 2016 – 2020

Devon County Council will ensure the environmental impact of goods and services is considered within its procurement decisions and work with suppliers, contractors and tenants to lessen the environmental impacts of their operations.

DCC Environmental Policy

Aim

The Council will consider its impacts within sourcing strategies, specification, evaluation and contract management in acquiring goods and services that not only meet users' needs and deliver long term value for money, but at the same time maximise social and economic benefits and minimise damage to the environment and health.

1. Introduction:

The purpose of this environmental sustainable procurement policy is to set out a methodology for procurement activity within Devon County Council (DCC) to consider opportunities for sustainable environmental improvement.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with other DCC policy documents and is to be applied in compliance with organisational values.

This policy aims to show the “journey” for addressing sustainability. It is to be noted that it is a live document and is subject to corporate governance.

This policy encourages activities to:

- Reduce waste, optimise value and minimise environmental impacts
- Build supply chain resilience
- Improve delivery efficiencies, ensuring continuity of supply.

2. Objectives and Commitments:

The objectives of this policy are as follows:

2.1 Sustainable environmental practices will be considered for all aspects of contracting activity.

2.2 Developing staff understanding of what sustainable procurement is and engage them in delivering it

2.3 Sustainable environmental practices will be promoted through the following routes:

- 2.3.1 Continue supporting and fostering sustainability champions within Procurement to embed sustainable behaviours by making a commitment to make sustainability relevant to everyday activities and contracted service provisions.
- 2.3.2 Empowering decision makers to opt for sustainable procurement as good practice
- 2.3.3 Educating and encouraging suppliers and service providers to use sustainable methods of service delivery with the aim of motivating suppliers to offer more sustainable products and services.
- 2.3.4 Include sustainable requirements that maximises social and economic benefits and minimises damage to the environment and health within sourcing specifications where relevant to the subject matter, practical proportionate.

2.4 Assessment of sustainable Procurement practices will be carried out with a view to:

- 2.4.1 Measuring the environmental risks and their impacts on the organisation through Application of the sustainability impact assessment and corporate impact assessment tools.
- 2.4.2 Refer any benefits or issues identified during sustainability assessment to the Environmental Group for review / comment.
- 2.4.3 Striving for continuous improvement through contract monitoring and management
- 2.4.4 Challenging sustainability targets with commissioners and measuring progress in current and future activity

2.5 Commissioners will be encouraged to:

- 2.5.1 Ensure procurement costs take into account whole life costing including disposal
- 2.5.2 Ensure that suppliers' environmental credentials are, as far as legally practicable, considered in the suppliers appraisal process
- 2.5.3 Ensure that (where appropriate), environmental performance is used in the awarding of contracts
- 2.5.4 Explore opportunities for the reduction, reuse and recycling of materials as appropriate and the reduction of waste
- 2.5.5 Ensure that appropriate consideration is given to the costs and benefits of environmentally preferable products and service alternatives.
- 2.5.6 Identify risk and opportunities in the supply chain of products supplied to DCC and work with the supply chain to mitigate or utilise as appropriate
- 2.5.7 Work for a reduction of waste to improve resource use efficiency
- 2.5.8 Promote and encourage the use of new technology where it has sustainable benefits or other benefits to DCC.
- 2.5.9 Encourage the utilisation of recognised sustainable product accreditation

2.6 To work with the wider environment by:

- 2.6.1 Working in partnership with others in the community to promote environmental and ethical standards.

- 2.6.2 Considering the contribution we make to local communities when carrying out procurement activities.

3. Monitoring and Review:

In order to ensure this policy remains effective, it will be reviewed on an Annual basis to ensure that:

- 3.1 The policy is adopted and reviewed by management at the appropriate level.
- 3.2 Any environmental and sustainable procurement targets will be included within the overall Objectives and targets as set by members.
- 3.3 The policy's outcomes link back to its objectives.

4. Guidance

Sustainable procurement in government: Guidance to the flexible framework:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainable-procurement-in-government-guidance-to-the-flexible-framework>

Green Public Procurement:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/index_en.htm

4.1 Case Studies:

There are a number of sustainability case studies here:

<http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/sustainable-procurement>

http://www.actionsustainability.com/resources/case_studies.aspx

<https://www.sustainablepurchasing.org/library/>

4.2 Other resources:

WRAP: <http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/sustainable-procurement>

Procurement Policy Note 14/15: supporting apprenticeships and skills through public procurement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/procurement-policy-note-1415-supporting-apprenticeships-and-skills-through-public-procurement>

Procurement Policy Note 06/15: sustainable skills development through major projects:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/procurement-policy-note-0615-sustainable-skills-development-through-major-projects>

Devon County Council Countryside & Heritage Policy

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

“Devon County Council will promote the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, landscape, built environment, maritime, cultural and historic interests through its estate and activities and through its work with others.”

DCC Environmental Policy

PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

- Add substance to the Environmental Policy statement of commitment
- Provide a framework to develop action plans and monitor performance,
- Fulfil Devon County Council's (DCC) statutory duties to have regard to natural and cultural environment issues thereby minimising legal, financial and reputational risk.

VISION

DCC will have a 'net positive impact' on countryside and heritage interests so that the environment is left in a better state than it was found.

KEY AIM

All DCC activities will incorporate countryside and heritage considerations into decision making on a proportionate basis and implement appropriate mitigation and enhancement actions to deliver multiple environmental benefits and improved outcomes for DCC's services.

SCOPE

The policy is applicable to all activity undertaken by DCC (the Authority) directly or through its partnership arrangements, contractors or commissioned services that have potential to significantly enhance or harm countryside and heritage interests, such as:

Wildlife and geology	Historic, archaeological and cultural assets
Flood and coastal risk	Landscape, including the built environment.
Air (inc. noise), water and soil	

DCC as a Developer

The Authority is responsible for the design, construction and management of various built assets in the county, including highways, bridges, waste management facilities, flood defence structures and buildings such as office premises, depots and local authority maintained schools.

DCC as an Asset Manager

Asset management responsibilities include maintenance of roadside verges, public rights of way, hedges and trees; letting of County Farms; buildings' grounds maintenance; and management of Country Parks and other countryside sites. School grounds maintenance is

the responsibility of individual schools and is therefore not included in the scope of this policy.

DCC as a Regulator and Policy Maker

DCC develops and implements a wide range of statutory and non-statutory policies, plans and guidance and implements regulatory processes which directly affect elements of countryside and heritage. Examples include DCC's role as a waste and minerals planning authority, AONB Management Plans and providing Land Drainage Consent.

DCC as a Facilitator and Enabler

DCC coordinates, supports and funds a range of environmental partnerships which seek to protect, enhance and promote the understanding of countryside and heritage assets and encourage sustainable access and recreation.

DCC as a Provider of Knowledge and Expertise

DCC maintains and provides access to environmental data and offers specialist environmental expertise to help develop and influence policy, strategy, sustainable development and good business practice which promotes positive environmental management and resilience.

DCC as a Service Provider

Purchasing and commissioning services, undertaking business travel, managing its own waste and material resources and consuming water and energy can affect countryside and heritage. Furthermore, DCC's services can take advantage of Devon's outstanding countryside and heritage to get improved value and outcomes for people and places.

OBJECTIVES

- Raise awareness amongst all staff of:
 - The importance of countryside and heritage assets for everyone's health, wellbeing and economic prosperity.
 - How DCC's activity can negatively and positively affect countryside and heritage quality.
- Support staff responsible for the design, construction and maintenance of built assets and those responsible for land management in considering countryside and heritage within decision making.
- Ensure the design of DCC's plans and regulatory systems safeguards and enhances countryside and heritage interests.
- To ensure relevant countryside and heritage elements and associated benefits are considered within the commissioning and procurement of goods and services where applicable.
- Work with a variety of partnership arrangements to deliver this policy.
- Facilitate enhanced understanding of, and access to, the county's rich and varied countryside and heritage to help communities reduce their environmental effects.
- To ensure awareness of and full compliance with all relevant countryside and heritage legislation, policy and guidance.
- Maintain and provide access to environmental data systems and provide specialist environmental expertise to support decision making and the delivery of this set of objectives.
- Test new valuation methodologies to help understand the true value of the wider benefits provided by countryside and heritage assets. Where appropriate, enable DCC services to use these benefits positively in service delivery.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND REVIEW

The Environmental Performance Board is responsible to the Corporate Leadership Team and the Community and Environmental Services Cabinet Member for ensuring that the objectives of this policy are met. It will review progress on a quarterly basis and will publish an annual Environmental Performance Statement that will include a Countryside and Heritage report. It will also regularly review and update this policy to ensure it remains consistent with and relevant to the Authority's vision and targets.

The Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment is accountable for leading and reporting on the implementation of the Countryside and Heritage Policy on behalf of the Authority with responsibility for project delivery with the relevant Head of Service.

ADOPTION

This Countryside & Heritage Policy was adopted by Cabinet in **XXXXXX 20XX**.

Countryside and Heritage Action Plan

For the purpose of conciseness the findings of the gap analysis between the Authority's current Countryside and Heritage practices and best practice is not described in this report. Below is the list of actions arising from the gap analysis.

No.	Task	Who	When	Resource
2.0a	Implement the actions within the DCC Pollinators' Action Plan.	Various	2016-2021	The majority of actions will have no new financial implications. Opportunities for external funding for improved management of roadside verges are being explored.
DCC as a Developer				
2.1a	Update the Environmental Appraisal process and extend its use to all development activity (in a manner commensurate with the scale of the task), not just highways schemes, and ensure it is used early in the project development cycle. Begin the roll-out with the Engineering and Design Group.	Environment Group and Engineering Design Group	Development is ongoing. Staff induction on new tool expected early 2017/18 for highways schemes.	Within existing staff resource
2.1b	Provide, mapped environmental data to fit engineers' and designers' needs, having piloted in autumn 2016.	Environment Group	February 2017	
2.1c	Ensure the CEMP production process is fully integrated into the Environmental Appraisal tool so that it receives input from the Environment Group.	Environment Group, Engineering and Design Group	See 2.1a	See 2.1a
2.1d	Implement a proportionate monitoring system for permitted development highways schemes.	Environment Group and Transportation	November 2017	Within existing staff resource
DCC as an Asset Manager				
2.2a	Develop a system for Highways Task Orders to receive a proportionate Environmental Appraisal.	Environment Group and Highways Management	November 2017	Within existing staff resource

2.2b	Provide mapped environmental data to fit Highways Locality Officers' requirements			
2.2c	Prepare a Heritage Partnership for listed bridges within the southwest ADEPT area.	EDG Bridges and Structures	Already started. Ongoing.	Within existing staff and budget resource
2.2d	Integrate wildlife guidance into the information pack for Community Road Wardens and the Self-Help Scheme in order to help communities manage verges for wildlife	Env Group and Highways Management	November 2016	Within existing staff resource
2.2e	Pilot community engagement in managing verges for wildlife through the North Devon Biosphere HLF Project.	Env Group and Highways Management and Community Groups	Nov 2016 for three years	HLF funding
2.2f	Provide mapped environmental data to fit PRow Wardens' requirements	Environment Group and PRow Service	November 2017	Within existing staff resource
2.2g	Enhance the environmental checklist used for PRow maintenance works to ensure a proportionate Environmental Appraisal occurs			
2.2h	Provide mapped TPO data within all Devon districts and publicise to relevant DCC service areas and external partners	Environment Group	TBC - Dependent upon the involvement of district authorities that hold this data.	
2.2i	Support the delivery of the Devon Ash Dieback Action Plan, including the development of an ash replacement scheme for implementation by DCC and other Forum members.	Devon Tree Board	Replacement scheme established by April 2018.	Existing staff resource, plus MTFs requirement for DCC response to dying ash trees.
2.2j	Review the process of preparing and implementing County Farm Re-Letting Reports to ensure the advice and information provided is appropriate and proportionate to the individual holding.	Environment Group	April 2017	Within existing staff resource
2.2k	Work to bring all scheduled monuments within the County Farm Estate into positive management, through the County Farm re-letting reports.	Environment Group and NPS	Ongoing	Within existing staff resource

2.2l	Prepare County Hall management plan and Heritage Partnership	Environment Group and Property Services	By April 2018	Within existing staff and budget resource
2.2m	If the Heritage Lottery funding is successful (to be announced December 2016), deliver the master plan from January 2017 – August 2021.	Public Rights of Way	From January 2017	Existing staff resource and new Heritage Lottery funding
DCC as a Regulator and Policy Maker				
2.3a	Implement an enhanced environmental monitoring system for all development.	Development Management and Environment Group	April 2017	Within existing staff resource
2.3b	Revise and relaunch the environmental section of DCC's Impact Assessment Tool and develop monitoring arrangements.	Environment Group, Organisational Change	September 2017	
2.3c	Review the Land Drainage Consent process to ensure compliance with statutory environmental requirements.	Environment Group	September 2017	
DCC as a Facilitator and Enabler				
2.4a	Facilitate the development of the Devon Invasive Species Initiative with Natural Devon partners	Environment Group with Natural Devon Partners	Spring 2017	Within existing staff resource
DCC as a Provider of Knowledge and Expertise				
2.5a	Refine, publicise and promote Environmental Data Online	Environment Group	April 2017	Within existing staff resource
2.5b	Provide an annual update to the Devon and Torbay State of Environment and publicise it widely	Environment Group	Annually	
DCC as a Service Provider				
2.6a	Environment Group to be invited to comment on procurement specification where the Sustainability Impact Tool identifies potential significant effects.	Procurement	By April 2017	Within existing staff resource
2.6b	DCC will pilot an approach to valuing the true worth of natural and cultural assets in part of its estate.	Environment Group, Property, NPS	By April 2018	Within existing staff and budget resources