

## Agenda item 6

### For decision – Environmental Policy

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### Summary

Frome Town Council seeks to care for the environment and increase wellbeing in all that it does – directly and indirectly – and to influence others to do the same. This is important because it reflects the council’s core ethos and also sets an example for other organisations to share throughout the town.

This policy statement sets out the key actions we will undertake to minimise our environmental impact, report on progress and ensure enhancing the environment and wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do.

### Recommendation

Adopt the Environmental Policy statement below.

## Frome Town Council’s Environmental Policy

The council is committed to playing a leading role in creating a clean and healthy town in which to live, work and play, moving away from fossil fuels for energy and transport by 2046.

One Planet Living is at the core of everything we do through the adopted Neighbourhood Plan. To help resource these ambitions, we have a paid member of staff who leads on ‘resilience’. While much of this work is to catalyse and support community activity to meet Frome’s aspirations, it is important that the council itself has agreed policy and targets.

Enhancing the environment and providing green spaces for people to enjoy is at the core of the council’s work. Both on council owned land and where others can be encouraged and supported, the council should work to enhance natural flora and fauna.

Addressing negative environmental impacts has huge benefits to health and wellbeing, for example, by reducing air pollution and fuel poverty, while retaining and enhancing the environment has intrinsic value for all aspects of life.

As an organisation, in all activity the Council should work to:

- Ensure the things we buy minimise harm to the environment, including the use of harmful chemicals in cleaning, horticultural materials and office supplies.
- Secure goods and services from organisations with a sustainable ethos and/or Fairtrade/organic accreditation where practicable (the criteria for both of these include environmental benefits).
- Conserve energy and water to reduce demand and use renewable energy.

- Reduce waste by improving resource efficiency, repairing, re-using and recycling where possible - both internally and through key projects such as SHARE and the community fridge.

We will also:

- Adopt policies and procurement procedures that help to ensure that the suppliers we work with share our approach.
- Work with other local authorities, organisations, groups and individuals to share ideas, replicate our approach and pool resources
- Monitor and report on our environmental performance annually, developing systems to do this such as the 'suppliers questionnaire' which asks for evidence of adherence to this policy.
- Consider environmental impacts of all new major projects or policy the council intends to undertake, with written statements supporting decision making is in line with environmental policy. Press releases should also include environmental and wellbeing impacts where possible.
- Actively involve our staff through the staff manual, training and awareness programmes to ensure that they are empowered to implement best practice in environmental performance.

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