

Draft Sustainability Policy, September 2018

Lewes District Council

The government has set a clear agenda to be “the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than it was found”, with plans to deliver on a range of objectives, from cleaner air and water to minimising waste, and a greenhouse gas emissions target of 80% reduction by 2050.

Lewes District Council acknowledges the community leadership and enabling role the council plays in the long-term sustainability of our communities as it continues to provide new homes, infrastructure, regeneration and public realm improvements throughout the district. This is reflected in the priority themes within the Council Plan and the vision to deliver outstanding customer service and provide communities with a great place to live, work and enjoy.

The basic principles of sustainable development are generally accepted as:

- Living within environmental limits
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
- Achieving a sustainable economy
- Promoting good governance
- Using sound science responsibly

This policy sets out high-level principles that we will endeavour to apply to our work and developments. The policy is set out according to the 3 pillars of sustainability: the environment, the economy and social community. We accept that actions we take will be in line with the council’s overarching vision and objectives and will be subject to viability analysis.

Actions that result to implement and fulfil this policy are embedded within the theme plans, service plans and the work of our CLEAR Futures Joint Venture (through which we will deliver many of our building projects with an emphasis on energy and sustainability).

We are aware of and will work to reduce our environmental impact wherever it is within our power to control or influence this:

We will embed sustainability into our procurement practices;

We will seek out opportunities to improve biodiversity and green infrastructure within our district;

We will seek to improve air quality and mitigate concerns where it is within our power to do so;

We will develop our coastal asset plan to integrate coastal issues and risk management in harmony with the natural environment;

We will reduce waste and increase recycling in our own operations and enable residents to do the same;

We will use our CLEAR Futures Joint Venture to encourage the highest standards in our developments, going above and beyond minimum standards;

We will become more efficient in our use of energy at our sites, making targeted improvements where cost effective to do so.

We will facilitate sustainable economic growth, for example:

We will work with private and public sector partners to drive projects on key strategic sites in conjunction with infrastructure and housing projects to enable sustainable communities;

We will provide advice and support to small businesses and the self-employed;

We will work with others to address the skills gap and tackle employability issues;

We will work with the region's educational establishments to enable the further development of a knowledge-based, innovative economy;

We will enable our communities to thrive, for example:

We will seek to deliver affordable housing that provides the best possible living environment for residents;

We will work to tackle fuel poverty and improve the energy efficiency of existing housing stock;

We will enable resilient communities and create places where people can and want to live into the future;

We will seek to reduce the risk to our communities from flood events and coastal erosion;

We will work in partnership with the voluntary & community sector so that communities can be encouraged to mobilise themselves to solve local problems and meet local needs;

We will promote equality and foster positive relationships;

We will promote the health and well-being of our residents and improve access to health services, working with CCGs on the provision of Health Hubs.