

Report to:	Cabinet
Date:	5 December 2018
Title:	Sustainability Policy
Report of:	Ian Fitzpatrick, Director of Planning and Regeneration
Cabinet member:	Councillor Isabelle Linington, Cabinet member for environmental impact
Ward(s):	All
Purpose of report:	To introduce the Sustainability Policy for Lewes District Council
Decision type:	Key
Officer recommendation(s):	To approve the Sustainability Policy for adoption
Reasons for recommendations:	Provide a policy frame work for Lewes District Council
Contact Officer(s):	Name: Jane Goodall/Kate Tradewell Post title: Strategy and Partnership Lead, Quality Environment/Strategy and Corporate Projects Officer (Quality Environment) E-mail: jane.goodall@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk Telephone number: 01273 085383

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Lewes District Council has undertaken a range of work relating to sustainability goals over the years, for example the installation of PV panels and electric vehicle charge points; supporting Wildflower Lewes and pesticide free; and collecting food waste for composting as part of our recycling offer.
- 1.2 On 2 July 2018, Cabinet authorised the Strategy & Partnership Lead, Quality Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet member for Environmental Impact, to prepare a Sustainability Policy to provide a framework for council activities for consideration and approval at Cabinet later in the year.
The need for such a framework has been strengthened by the recent publication of the IPPC Special Report on Global Warming stating that to limit climate change to 1.5°C would require “rapid and far-reaching” transitions in land, energy and industry, buildings, transport and cities.
- 1.3 The sustainability policy aims to comprise a number of core values guided by the generally accepted definition of sustainable development:

“Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” Brundtland Report, 1987

The core values will echo commitments already made to residents in the Corporate Plan and will direct them as to how we operate our own business.

- 1.4 The Sustainability Policy was reviewed at Scrutiny Committee on 13 September 2018 and, with minor revisions since incorporated, was welcomed.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 That this policy is recommended for adoption at Cabinet.

3 Outcome expected and performance management

- 3.1 The adoption of a set of guiding principles in the form of an overarching Sustainability Policy will bring Lewes District Council into line with many other councils nationally. The policy will support planning policy and guidance which is in turn supported by the National Planning Policy Framework 2012, guide procurement decisions, potentially reduce costs with regards to energy and waste (through staff education and project initiatives) and generally work to ensure the council has ‘its own house in order’ before guiding others.
- 3.2 The policy is intended to provide a high level framework to inform the work of the council through future projects activities and plans including those taken forward by our delivery vehicle Clear Futures.

Clear Futures has already strengthened our capability to provide new sustainable development within the district and will ensure this for the long term.

4 Consultation

- 4.1 A draft of the policy was reviewed and agreed at Scrutiny, 13 September 2018.

5 Corporate plan and council policies

- 5.1 Corporate Plan: We expect the district to remain a clean and beautiful place to live, work and visit, as a result of continued effort to protect the quality of the local environment
- 5.2 This policy builds on a number of initiatives in Lewes district including the installation of 224 PV panels; the introduction of innovative recycling schemes; the installation of EV charge points and commitment to further expansion of this network; commitments to reduction of single use plastics in council offices.

6 Business case and alternative option(s) considered

- 6.1 Future projects and activity arising from the adoption of this policy will be subject to viability analysis.

7 Financial appraisal

- 7.1 No financial implications arising from this report. Future projects and activity arising from adoption of this policy will be subject to viability analysis and due diligence

8 Legal implications

- 8.1 Under the Localism Act 2011 section 1, the general power of competence, the Council has the power to do anything that an individual can do that is not specifically prohibited or to which a more particular power or duty does not apply. The actions proposed in this Report fall within this power. Report considered by Legal on 31 August 2018 (IKEN-007643-LDC-OD).

9 Risk management implications

- 9.1 The risk of not developing a sustainability policy is that the organisation will lack a coherent framework by which it considers environmental impacts in its approach to plans projects and activities.

10 Equality analysis

- 10.1 EaFA 'no relevance' completed and part of the background papers.

11 Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Lewes district council sustainability policy

12 Background papers

The background papers used in compiling this report were as follows:

- [Decisions taken by the Cabinet on 2 July 2018 -](#)
- [IPCC Special Report](#) on Global Warming
- [National Planning Policy Framework 2012](#)