



# OTTERY ST MARY TOWN COUNCIL

## CARBON & ENERGY POLICY

This Carbon and Energy Policy was adopted by the Council on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019 and is next due to be reviewed in November 2020

Ottery St Mary Town Council will:

*...develop a range of strategies to make Ottery St Mary a carbon neutral town by 2030 and maximise the benefits to employment, tourism, health, agriculture, transport and local businesses, while ensuring that the carbon footprint is considered in all council business and activity.*

Council Motion, 3rd June 2019

### **STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT**

Ottery St Mary Town Council ('the Council') consumes energy in its operation of buildings, equipment and facilities, and through its commissioned services.

It is committed to responsible energy management through continuous improvement of its energy performance in order to avoid unnecessary expenditure, reduce carbon emissions, protect the environment, and meet all relevant legislative and statutory reporting requirements.

It will promote and practise energy conservation, energy efficiency and the avoidance of energy waste and will invest in low carbon energy measures whenever and wherever it is cost-effective or otherwise expedient to do so.

### **SCOPE**

This policy is applicable to energy consumption arising from all statutory and discretionary services provided by the Council directly or indirectly through its contractors across its property portfolio.

### **KEY AIM AND TARGET**

The Council undertakes to provide reasonable resources to develop and implement an affordable energy strategy that minimises its energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions and deploys renewable energy where appropriate.

The specific carbon target for the Council of being net carbon neutral by 2030 exceeds the UK Government's legal target to bring all greenhouse gas emissions of the UK to net zero by 2050

## **OBJECTIVES**

The following policy objectives will deliver the required strategic approach to energy management:

- To purchase the most cost-effective and sustainable energy and fuels.
- To ensure that energy performance is a material consideration in the commissioning and procurement of goods and services where relevant.
- To implement a comprehensive energy performance management system in accordance with the principles of ISO 50001:2018 Energy Management Systems.
- To use energy performance data to identify the most cost-effective opportunities for improving the energy efficiency of the residual estate and related assets.
- To develop a renewable energy strategy.
- To ensure that all new and refurbished buildings meet appropriate energy efficiency standards by integrating whole life costing and energy management into all relevant decision making, and by working collaboratively with our partners.
- To use the most appropriate investment models and resources for cost-effective projects in support of our agreed target and objectives including taking advantage of energy-related financial incentives schemes where appropriate.
- To ensure awareness of and full compliance with all relevant energy-related regulations in a timely fashion, and to document and meet all formal requirements for energy and emissions reporting.
- To investigate, market-test and adopt where appropriate alternative delivery/funding/contracting models for energy performance, management and efficiency enhancements, and for deploying renewables.
- To develop policies and practices to promote sustainable business travel and commuting of council staff and residents.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY AND REVIEW**

The Council's Property and Management Committee ('the Committee') is responsible for ensuring that the objectives of this policy are met. The Committee will review progress on a six-monthly basis and will publish an annual Environmental Performance Statement that will include an energy performance report, and also regularly review and make recommendations to update this policy to ensure it remains consistent with and relevant to the Council's vision and targets.

## **APPLICABILITY**

It is fully recognised that everyone in the organisation should be responsible for their own actions with respect to energy conservation and efficiency. Accordingly, staff and contractors are expected to support the Council's objectives and to cooperate actively in achieving them. In order to facilitate this process, the policy will be documented and communicated to all tiers of the Council's management structure and across all service areas. If required, appropriate awareness-raising and training will be provided aimed at reducing energy consumption and improving energy efficiency.

## **ADOPTION**

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