

APPENDIX A(i)

Environmental Policy

Background

The council implemented its first environmental policy in the late 1990s and revised it in 2003.

Why do we need to review it?

- The policy is fourteen years old, so there is a need to bring it up to date
- The council operates an environmental management system in accordance with the requirements of an international standard: ISO14001. The ISO14001:2004 standard has been superceded by ISO14001:2015 which requires new commitments in corporate environmental policies.
- The structure and nature of council services has changed significantly since 2003
- Our ambition and public expectation has increased significantly, particularly in view of our European Green Capital success
- The existing policy is rather wordy and long: it's not clear at first glance what it is we're trying to do, and there is no specific reference to transport
- The scope of the policy isn't clear: is it focused on our internal operations, nor does it include our effects on the city's environmental impact.

What must it include?

ISO14001:2015 has the following requirements:

- the environmental policy and environmental objectives are established and are compatible with the strategic direction and the context of the organization
- Top management shall establish, implement and maintain an environmental policy within the defined scope of its environmental management system
- appropriate to the purpose and context of the organization, including the nature, scale and environmental impacts of its activities, products and services
- commitment to the protection of the environment, including prevention of pollution and other specific commitment(s) relevant to the context of the organization
- commitment to fulfil its compliance obligations
- provides a framework for setting environmental objectives
- commitment to continual improvement of the environmental management system to enhance environmental performance

What should it include?

- Aside from the requirements listed above, ISO14001:2015 does not prescribe any other specific elements. We have sought external advice from Leicester City Council (who have implemented ISO14001:2015) and our environmental auditors on best practice, and recommend that any policy should be clear and concise, in order to improve communication and make a clear statement of what we intend to do.
- If further explanatory text is desired, this could be included as a supporting policy statement, for example Mayoral commitments.

- Other corporate policies should be referred to where relevant, rather than repeated: a non-specific commitment to improving procurement is included, with more detailed commitments to be delivered through the Social Value Policy.

Next Steps:

- The Environmental Performance Team has liaised with the external auditor and confirms that the proposed new policy is compatible with the requirements of the existing and revised standards. Cabinet approval is now sought for formal adoption.

Environmental Policy Comparison

Proposed Policy	Existing Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bristol City Council is a large landowner, employer and consumer. We want to use our influence and powers to enable us, individuals, communities and organisations to improve Bristol's environment, keeping it a Green Capital. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bristol City Council recognises that its wide range of activities and services have positive and negative impacts upon the environment, and that it has a leading role to play in creating a sustainable city. • Providing leadership and support for environmental management within the Council through elected representatives and senior managers. • Actively involving our staff through training and awareness programmes to ensure that they improve their environmental performance.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will continually improve our performance, meet our compliance obligations, prevent pollution and protect the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continually improving our overall environmental performance through the implementation and review of objectives and targets. • Prevention of pollution • Providing for identification and compliance with all environmental legislation, policies and codes of practice relevant to our activities and services. • Identifying and managing significant environmental aspects relevant to Council activities and services.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will manage risks and reduce our direct environmental impacts in energy, travel, waste, water, food, biodiversity and land use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimising the effects of resource use by conserving water. • Reducing the consumption of fossil fuels by conserving energy and promoting the use of renewable sources. • Minimising the disposal of waste through reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery. • Monitoring and protecting biodiversity.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will use our resources efficiently, and work with our suppliers to reduce the impact of the goods and services we buy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraging suppliers and contractors to improve their environmental performance in order to reduce any detrimental environmental impact of the goods and services used by the Council. This will be achieved through the Council procurement strategy and by controlling the on-site activities of contractors.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will use our influence and policies to manage and reduce citywide environmental impacts and improve our resilience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that the environmental consequences of all new policies and practices are assessed. Evaluating and monitoring air, noise, water and land pollution, and influencing others to reduce such pollution.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will provide training, publicly report on our performance regularly and maintain an externally certified Environmental Management System. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council is implementing an independently verified environmental management system across all of its services to ensure that its significant environmental impacts will be monitored and managed, and its overall environmental performance will continually improve. Regularly reviewing and reporting on progress which will include producing an annual Environmental Statement for departments that have been verified. Communicating with interested parties, and making this policy publicly available.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy was approved by the council's cabinet on 07/11/2017. It will be reviewed annually. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy demonstrates our commitment to improving our environmental performance and has been adopted by the City Council.

Proposed Policy

Bristol City Council is a large landowner, employer and consumer. We want to use our influence and powers to enable us, individuals, communities and organisations to improve Bristol's environment, keeping it a Green Capital.

- We will continually improve our performance, meet our compliance obligations, prevent pollution and protect the environment.
- We will manage risks and reduce our direct environmental impacts in energy, travel, waste, water, food, biodiversity and land use.
- We will use our resources efficiently, and work with our suppliers to reduce the impact of the goods and services we buy.
- We will use our influence and policies to manage and reduce citywide environmental impacts and improve our resilience.
- We will provide training, publicly report on our performance regularly and maintain an externally certified Environmental Management System.

This policy was approved by the council's cabinet on 07/11/2017. It will be reviewed annually.

Current Policy

Environmental Policy

Bristol City Council recognises that its wide range of activities and services have positive and negative impacts upon the environment, and that it has a leading role to play in creating a sustainable city. The Council is implementing an independently verified environmental management system across all of its services to ensure that its significant environmental impacts will be monitored and managed, and its overall environmental performance will continually improve.

This policy commits Bristol City Council to the following:

- Providing leadership and support for environmental management within the Council through elected representatives and senior managers.
- Providing for identification and compliance with all environmental legislation, policies and codes of practice relevant to our activities and services.
- Continually improving our overall environmental performance through the implementation and review of objectives and targets.
- Identifying and managing significant environmental aspects relevant to Council activities and services.
- Ensuring that the environmental consequences of all new policies and practices are assessed.
- Prevention of pollution*
- Minimising the effects of resource use by conserving water.
- Reducing the consumption of fossil fuels by conserving energy and promoting the use of renewable sources.
- Minimising the disposal of waste through reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery.
- Evaluating and monitoring air, noise, water and land pollution, and influencing others to reduce such pollution.
- Monitoring and protecting biodiversity.
- Encouraging suppliers and contractors to improve their environmental performance in order to reduce any detrimental environmental impact of the goods and services used by the Council. This will be achieved through the Council procurement strategy and by controlling the on-site activities of contractors.
- Actively involving our staff through training and awareness programmes to ensure that they improve their environmental performance.
- Regularly reviewing and reporting on progress which will include producing an annual Environmental Statement for departments that have been verified.
- Communicating with interested parties, and making this policy publicly available.
- This policy demonstrates our commitment to improving our environmental performance and has been adopted by the City Council.

Barbara Janke

(Leader of the Council)

Nick Gurney

(Chief Executive)

Policy Approved

4th November 2003

**Prevention of pollution shall mean use of processes, practices, materials or products that avoid, reduce or control pollution, which may include recycling, treatment, process changes, control mechanisms, efficient use of resources and material substitution*