



Environmental Policy

Lead Directorate and service:	Planning and Economic Regeneration Economic Development & Communications (Sustainable Development)
Effective Date:	September 2006
Date Reviewed:	February 2009, February 2012, February 2014, June 2017, May 2020 (Minor review only),
Date Due for Review:	September 2021
Contact Officer:	Jeremy Pickles
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Approved By:	The Cabinet: 18 October 2006 (Minute 2754) 18 March 2009 (Minute 3566) 22 May 2012 (Minute 4450) 24 June 2014 (Minute 5036) 17 October 2017 (Minute 5812) 15 June 2020 (approved under scheme of delegation)

Title: <i>Environmental Policy</i>	Version No. <i>10</i>
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1. Background

An Environmental Policy is ‘a statement of the aims and principles of an organisation in relation to its overall environmental performance, including compliance with all relevant regulatory requirements and giving rise to the organisation’s objectives and targets’ [source: BS EN ISO 14001].

This Environmental Policy acts as an overarching document for the full Council on shaping the environmental improvements it may make and sets a range of objectives that will help to guide future environmental performance.

The presence of a corporate Environmental Policy is a requirement of ISO14001:2015. In January 2010 the Council achieved ISO14001 Certification for all Council services, excluding schools.

The Council’s Environmental Policy and Environmental Management System are managed and coordinated by the Sustainable Development Team, part of the Economic Development & Communications Service.

2. The Council in context

East Riding of Yorkshire Council delivers a comprehensive range of services to approximately 336,685 residents settled over the 930 square miles of the East Riding of Yorkshire. As one of the area’s largest employers and consumers of goods and services the Council recognises that its operations and service delivery affect the environment both at a local level and in the wider context. The Council is committed to effectively managing its own environmental impacts, encouraging and supporting others to do the same and continuously striving to improve the environment for the benefit of its employees, residents, businesses and visitors to the East Riding of Yorkshire. This is reflected with the Council Business Plan through the corporate priority ‘Valuing the Environment’.

3. Definitions for the purposes of this Policy

Environmental Management System

An Environmental Management System (EMS) is similar to other management systems, such as those that manage quality or safety. It assesses an organisation’s strengths and weaknesses, helps identify and manage significant impacts, saves money by increasing efficiency, ensures compliance with environmental legislation and provides benchmarks for improvements.

ISO 14001:2015

ISO 14001:2015 is an internationally accepted standard that sets out a framework of essential elements for putting an effective Environmental Management System (EMS) in place. The standard is designed to address the delicate balance between maintaining efficiency and reducing environmental impact. With the commitment of the organisation, it can enable the Council to achieve both objectives.

Title: <i>Environmental Policy</i>	Version No. <i>10</i>
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4. Policy Statement

East Riding of Yorkshire Council is committed to protecting the environment and preventing pollution across its services and operations.

The Council will undertake to:

- Reduce or manage the local causes of climate change through appropriate mitigation;
- Adapt Council services making them more resilient to the predicted impacts of climate change, and support external partners and communities to become more resilient;
- Consider environmental requirements over the life cycle of the products and services procured;
- Contribute to the creation and maintenance of a sustainable built and natural environment through appropriate planning and development management measures;
- Reduce our impact on the natural environment by protecting and enhancing the diversity of wildlife and natural habitats and appropriately managing our green spaces;
- Prevent pollution and minimise our impacts on the environment;
- Comply with environmental legislation and other relevant compliance obligations;
- Continually improve our environmental management system to enhance environmental performance;
- Work in partnership with, and raise the awareness of, staff, contractors, residents and businesses in reducing their environmental impact and becoming more resilient to potentially harmful environmental impacts.



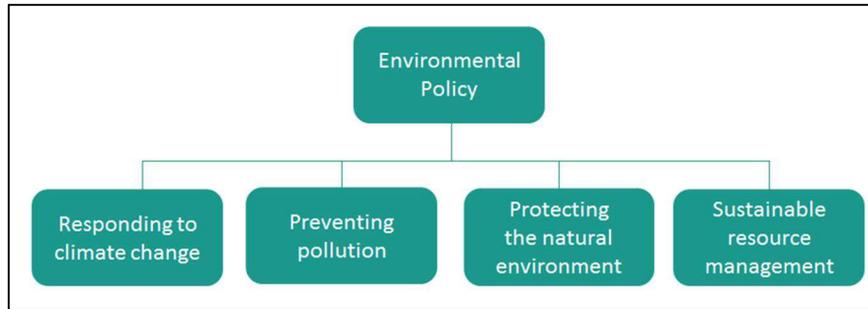
Councillor Richard Burton
Leader of the Council



Caroline Lacey
Chief executive

Title: <i>Environmental Policy</i>	Version No. <i>10</i>
Date <i>15/06/2020</i>	Reviewed and approved by: <i>Alan Menzies and Councillor Stathers</i>

5. Policy diagram and objectives



ERYC Environmental Objectives

To improve the resilience of Council services, and local communities against the predicted impacts of climate change

To increase awareness of environmental requirements when procuring products and services (considering whole life cycles)

To prevent pollution incidents caused by Council activity and be prepared to respond to potential emergency situations

To reduce the environmental impact of waste from across Council activities by implementing effective waste management controls

To reduce the environmental impact of Council vehicles and business travel

To support East Riding of Yorkshire residents and businesses to reduce their environmental impacts

To conserve biodiversity when exercising Council activity and through partnership work

To maintain an Environmental Management System to meet the requirements of ISO14001:2015

To improve efficiency of energy and water use across Council activities

Title: <i>Environmental Policy</i>	Version No. <i>10</i>
Date <i>15/06/2020</i>	Reviewed and approved by: <i>Alan Menzies and Councillor Stathers</i>

6. Corporate requirements

This Policy helps to deliver the Council's corporate priorities, in the following ways:

A Growing the economy

The East Riding is a popular place to live, work and visit. Much of this success is built on its landscape and historic environment. This policy will help conserve and enhance the East Riding's valuable environmental character and thereby ensure that residents and visitors are able to derive maximum benefit from the area's natural assets, and businesses and industries are able to attract and keep the best people to work and reside within the East Riding. A proactive response to climate change mitigation and adaptation will increase the resilience of the East Riding's communities, economy and environment against potentially harmful impacts. Projects that help to both adapt to and mitigate against the impacts of climate change have the potential to achieve a high level of value for money.

B Valuing the environment

This policy is fundamental to this priority and will lead the delivery of a large number of measures to support it. The continual improvement of the Environmental Management System will ensure all aspects of resource use, pollution prevention and control and other environmental impacts are taken into account when planning and delivering Council services.

C Protecting the vulnerable

Areas of environmental management such as sustainable energy and sustainable use of water are especially important for more deprived residents of the East Riding. This is particularly important in respect of issues such as fuel poverty and rising energy prices which can have a negative impact on the lives of elderly and other vulnerable residents.

Issues such as climate change are already starting to have an impact on communities within the East Riding. It is important that we understand the threats that some of these environmental factors can pose to the economy and social wellbeing of our communities so that we can manage any changes in behaviour or planning required.

D Promoting healthy lifestyles

The emergency preparedness and response element of this policy will support the development of measures which will reduce the impact of extreme environmental events, such as flooding or heat waves. The prevention and management of possible pollution incidents and the auditing of legal compliance serves to protect the public from possible pollution from Council operations and those of external organisations. The Council's Risk Management Strategy specifically highlights the Environmental Management System (of which this Policy is part) as part of the corporate approach to risk management.

Improving the natural environment such as green spaces delivers wider health and wellbeing benefits, for example access to good quality green space helps people to be more active and has a positive impact on mental health.

Title: <i>Environmental Policy</i>	Version No. <i>10</i>
Date <i>15/06/2020</i>	Reviewed and approved by: <i>Alan Menzies and Councillor Stathers</i>

E Helping children and young people achieve

Areas of environmental management such as environmental protection and working in partnership will be for the benefit of children and young people.

Improving the environment we live in and making sure that the impacts of climate change are minimised will provide a much enhanced environment to help our children and young people achieve.

7. Policy development

This policy was developed by the Sustainable Development team, within Economic Development & Communications in June 2017. Key officers from all service areas were consulted on the development of this policy. All those officers were invited to attend workshops to discuss the policy and objectives.

The following people were also consulted during the most recent review of this policy:

- Corporate Management Team
- Senior Management Team
- The Cabinet
- Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee
- Member Training and Development

The contact officer for this policy would welcome any additional feedback on the policy from all interested parties. This feedback will be used at the next policy review.

Review of policy

A minor review of the policy was undertaken in May 2020 to reflect the recent changes in leadership and corporate priorities. A full review of the policy will be undertaken in September 2021.

8. Links with other Policies

The Environmental Policy will link with a wide range of corporate and partnership policies and strategies. The Environmental Policy Action Plan highlights the relevant policies in relation to each of the objectives, but the list below provides a reference to key policies and strategies that share common goals with this Environmental Policy.

Council Policies/Strategies (A-Z)

Affordable Warmth Strategy
Carbon Management Plan (draft)
Community Transport Strategy
Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy
Council Business Plan
East Riding Economic Strategy 2018-22
East Riding Local Plan
Flood Risk Management Strategy

Partnership Policies/Strategies (A-Z)

East Riding of Yorkshire Biodiversity Action Plan
East Riding of Yorkshire Community Plan
East Riding of Yorkshire Rural Strategy
Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Strategy
Health and Wellbeing Strategy
Shoreline Management Plan
Joint Sustainable Waste Management Strategy Review

Title: <i>Environmental Policy</i>	Version No. <i>10</i>
Date <i>15/06/2020</i>	Reviewed and approved by: <i>Alan Menzies and Councillor Stathers</i>

Health and Safety Policies
 Home Energy Efficiency Policy
 Housing Strategy
 Local Transport Plan
 Procurement Policy
 Public Protection Enforcement Policy
 Rights of Way Improvement Plan
 Service Plans

Shoreline Management Plan
 Waterways Strategy

9. Outcomes and impacts

When this policy is implemented it will have the following outcomes and impacts:

- Continuous improvement in our environmental performance;
- A cohesive and co-ordinated approach to environmental management across all directorates, facilitated by the EMS and other appropriate policy documents;
- A demonstrable and transparent commitment to minimising harmful environmental impacts from Council operations and service delivery;
- Reduced costs due to improvements in resource efficiency and modern efficient electronic approaches.
- Demonstrating excellence in environmental management.

10. Policy implementation

To help deliver against this policy a number of environmental objectives and targets have been set, and an Environmental Management System is being maintained.

Environmental Objectives

In order to deliver against the aims of this policy a number of environmental objectives and targets have been set. These environmental objectives are listed in the Environmental Policy Action Plan (Appendix A). These plans highlight the role that the Council’s existing policy framework will take in delivering against these objectives.

The objectives within the action plan will be delivered in the first instance using existing Council and partnership policies and strategies. For each objective a lead delivery mechanism has been identified. This will be directly involved in the delivery of that particular environmental objective and compliance with necessary and applicable legal requirements.

Performance evaluation and reporting (Environmental Statement)

Sustainable Development, working with relevant lead officers/teams, will collate monitoring and performance information for each of the environmental objectives to produce an annual evaluation of performance known as the Environmental Statement.

Environmental Management System (EMS)

All directorates and service areas have a direct impact on the environment, so responsibility for delivering improved environmental management and compliance to EMS standard must be shared

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across the whole Council. Proactive and committed involvement in applying this Policy is therefore crucial. The scope of the EMS covers all council sites and activities, excluding schools. Through the EMS a network of environmental coordinators has been established which can provide support within each service area to help deliver this Policy.

As the Sustainable Development team in Economic Development & Communications leads on the Environmental Policy, it will provide advice and support to all Directorates in consultation with any other services as appropriate.

This policy will be communicated to all employees and will be made available to the public via the Council website. An Environmental Policy summary will also be made available, which will be a shorter, more user friendly version of this one (this is shown as Appendix B of this document).

11. Financial Implications

The Policy sets out the broad objectives for improving the Council's environmental performance. It is hoped that through the implementation of improved environmental management there will be a number of cost reductions. For example, with a functioning EMS the Council will be less likely to find itself in breach of environmental legislation and therefore avoid potential fines and reputational harm. The EMS helps to ensure prudent and efficient use of resources and also encourages savings. More 'sustainable' use of energy will help to alleviate ever increasing energy costs.

In order to achieve cost reductions it may be necessary for financial investment to be made to provide the necessary infrastructure, training, advice and other resources in order to realise savings. Any such projects beyond the normal scope of the EMS will be taken forward on a case by case basis with each having to justify value for money before it is initiated.

12. Evaluation

The Environmental Policy will be updated every three years (or more often if required) to reflect new legislation, guidelines and codes of practice. It will also be updated to reflect continual improvement and any changing requirements under the management system and as requested by the Council or its officers.

13. References

BS EN ISO14001:2015

14. Appendices

Appendix A: Environmental Policy Action Plan

Appendix B: Summary Environmental Policy

Title: <i>Environmental Policy</i>	Version No. <i>10</i>
Date <i>15/06/2020</i>	Reviewed and approved by: <i>Alan Menzies and Councillor Stathers</i>