

TRING TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT POLICY

The quality of life for our community depends upon the adoption of policies which embrace and enhance the principles of best environmental practice. Tring Town Council, by adopting this Policy, both sets itself goals and also leads the way in encouraging others to assess their own standards and adopt more environmentally sustainable methods of conducting their own lives and businesses. Having signed the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, Tring Town Council is committed to the creation of a sustainable community for the benefit of residents today and in the future.

Aim

The aim of the Policy is to maintain the commitment of the Council, its members and officers, to the principles of environmental sustainability as a framework for the maintenance of Council properties and the provision of its services and activities. Environmental well-being is critical and will be taken into account alongside factors such as social wellbeing, public safety, prevention of crime and disorder and equality provision in all the Council's endeavours.

Objectives

In all its activities and operations the Council will:

- 1 Endeavour to improve its environmental performance year on year by complying with environmental legislation, preventing pollution from its properties and minimising waste production. Energy efficiency within its buildings will be monitored and energy conservation practices will be implemented whenever possible. The Council will investigate the feasibility of sustainable supplies of energy to power its premises.
- 2 Ensure all Tring Council procurement decisions are sustainable, consider energy consumption, eventual disposal by recycling and avoid (or seek to reduce) use of unsustainable materials. A "green premium" of 10% would be considered acceptable to implement this policy.
- 3 Safeguard heritage, habitat and promote biodiversity in the parish of Tring Town by enhancing the quality of the natural environment and open spaces. The Council will continue to promote the use of its allotments as a source of local food. It will promote local produce and continue to support the Farmers Market and to support Tring's Fairtrade status.
- 4 Development/Planning – Tring Town Council will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when commenting on planning applications. The Council will also press for the use of planning obligations to

- promote sustainable development and mitigate environmental impacts resulting from development.
- 5 Work in partnership with other organisations to increase awareness and understanding of environmental issues within the parish of Tring Town by promoting good practice and leading by example in supporting sustainable activities. It will act as a voice for local environmental concerns and support a culture of participation and learning within the Town.
 - 6 Make available reasonable budgetary and staffing resources to facilitate local environmental initiatives and support relevant community volunteer groups and local organisations furthering these initiatives.
 - 7 Transport – the Council will continue to encourage sustainable transport systems, promote public transport and non-polluting modes of transport within the town, such as walking and cycling. The Council will consider the use of minimally polluting fuelled vehicles and equipment.

Conclusion

Tring Town Council recognises that these are times of extraordinary challenge for the environment, locally, nationally and globally. Meeting this challenge will involve all the community in recognising the need to adapt to radically changing circumstances in order to ensure the future well-being of ourselves and our environment. It is recognised that the adoption of this policy may require changes to other policies and procedures regulating the actions of Tring Town Council.

Approved by the Finance and Policy Committee on 9th March 2020 and reviewed by the Allotments & Environment Committee on 6th December 2021.