

Our Vision:

“Our vision for Shropshire is to stabilise and progressively reduce our environmental footprint”.

Sustainability is a corporate value and the Council recognises the impact that its day to day activities have on the environment and the importance of managing the resources used. We aim to reduce our resource consumption as an authority and promote sustainable practices throughout our organisation, partners and the county as a whole. The localism agenda will be used to empower communities to become more sustainable and climate resilient.

Our Responsibility:

The corporate responsibility for this policy rests with the full Council and all employees. We expect every decision-maker in Shropshire Council to integrate sustainability, environment and climate change considerations into strategic and day-to-day decision making processes.

The responsibility for policy implementation rests with the Portfolio Holder for Energy and Carbon Reduction.

Our Commitment:

Shropshire Council is committed to enhancing the sustainability of its practices in order to safeguard the County's natural and built environments as set out in the Community Strategy Priority 2. We will commit to protecting the environment through demonstrable and continuous improvement of our environmental performance and full compliance with all relevant legal and other requirements. We will promote good governance throughout the organisation and wider services, actively encouraging and monitoring responsible environmental, social and economic performance by our staff, suppliers and contractors.

Specific Objectives:

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

We will:

- Implement actions to achieve reductions in carbon emissions from council operations through the Carbon Management Plan (CMP), and develop further projects that will achieve the target of a 35% reduction on 2008/09 CO₂ levels by 2014, thereby reducing the Council's carbon footprint.
<http://notes2/shropshire/carbonmanagement.nsf>
- Use the Community Strategy Priority 2, Responding to climate change, and enhancing our natural and built environment, to work with partners to identify a programme of activities to mitigate and adapt to climate change across the county.
- Set indicators to measure performance.

Built Environment

We will:

- Provide a planning system that seeks to ensure the sustainability of all new development.
- Encouraging and demonstrating more sustainable approaches to the built and historic environment through high quality design.
- Minimise levels of air, land and water pollution through intelligent design techniques.
- Meet high standards of sustainable construction and refurbishment in line with the Sustainable Construction Policy.
- Seek to promote innovative sustainable design and construction in the agricultural sector.

Natural Environment & Biodiversity

We will:

- Assist in the delivery of the Shropshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) (<http://bit.ly/ShropshireBAP>).
- Manage council owned land within the county for the benefit of wildlife, particularly through the BAP.
- Conserve and enhance the diversity and character of the Shropshire landscape.
- Seek protection and enhancement of biodiversity and environmental networks through the planning system and other council functions.
- Seek to identify and monitor priority biodiversity assets in Shropshire for the purposes of strategic & development planning and to monitor changes imposed by climate change.
- Work collaboratively with all partners to secure gains for the natural environment, in line with our duties under the NERC Act 2006 and the European Habitats Directive.

Sustainable Resource Management

We will:

- Minimise our own energy use, retrofit energy efficiency measures wherever possible into existing facilities and actively promote the development and implementation of renewable energy sources for both heat and electricity generation.
- Promote new technologies for using energy, water and waste more efficiently without the loss to productivity or comfort.
- Promote sustainable waste management practices throughout the Council; minimising waste generation through reduction of materials consumed and increasing the proportion of the corporate waste which is reused or recycled.
- Work with partners in the Marches LEP to achieve collective progress in reducing carbon emissions.

Procurement

We will:

- Promote and participate in the Council's Sustainable Procurement Policy and Action Plan.
- Promote opportunities for Local Suppliers, Service Providers and Contractors to compete for our contracts and help us to source goods and materials locally wherever possible to support the local economy and to help reduce the Council's overall carbon footprint.
- Source goods from fair and ethical sources when local products are not available, where appropriate.
- Develop sustainable procurement procedures within all elements of the supply chain.
- Actively encourage more sustainable performance from our partners, suppliers and contractors when procuring their services.

Transport and Travel

We will:

- Reduce our Members and employees need to travel through the use of teleconferencing and other sustainable communication techniques.
- Encourage the use of sustainable means of transport including cycling, walking and public transport by members, employees and the wider community.
- Help make Shropshire's roads safer and give communities better access to services and jobs through public transport.

Sustainability Awareness/Communication

We will:

- Educate, train and motivate staff to conduct their activities in a sustainably responsible manner.
- Anticipate the effects of climate change and take adaptive measures to protect Shropshire and our services.
- Work with and within communities to prepare them for, and help them adapt to climate change issues, inspiring others through community leadership.
- Raise awareness of the 'ecosystem services' provided by the natural environment and the economic and social impacts if these services were lost or degraded.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Barrow".

Keith Barrow
Leader of Council

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Ryley".

Kim Ryley
Chief Executive

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Hartley".

Ann Hartley
Portfolio Holder for
Energy & Carbon Reduction