



*Okehampton Town Council*

# Okehampton Town Council

## Strategic Plan 2019-2023

### Climate Change and Biodiversity (Cc)

#### Introduction

This document sits under the Strategic Plan for 2019-2023 which was adopted by Okehampton Town Council on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

#### ‘Climate Change and Biodiversity’ Priorities

The priorities set out in the Strategic Plan 2019-2023 under the Climate Change and Biodiversity heading of the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan are as follows:

Climate Change and Biodiversity (Cc) – Okehampton Town Council has signed up to the Devon Climate Declaration which was prepared by a consortium of public, private and voluntary organisations collaborating through a Devon Climate Emergency Response Group and will review its practices with a view to reducing its carbon footprint, encouraging others to do the same

Cc1 Reduction - the council will review its plans to reduce its carbon emissions to meet or exceed the targets within the Devon Climate declaration

Okehampton Town Council has set up a working group to review its own internal practices including the supplies it uses, the services it provides and other possibilities with a view to reducing its own carbon emissions, buying locally and sustainably where possible. The group will also investigate the feasibility of the provision of additional services and assistance to the community enabling them to reduce their own carbon footprints.

Details of actions taken by the Council as of March 2020 and further ideas for investigation and consideration is included at the end of this document.

Cc2 Working Together – the council will work with town residents, businesses and visitors to assist in the development and implementation of a plan to facilitate the reduction of Okehampton’s production and consumption emissions to meet IPCC recommendations.

A wider reaching group comprising of Members of other surrounding local parish and town councils has been initiated by Okehampton Town Council. The aim of the group is to share ideas, possibilities, practices put into place and the feasibility of bulk purchasing.

Members of the group will feedback information and ideas to their own councils for further investigation and consideration.

Cc3 Risk - the council will work to understand the near-term and future risks of climate change for Devon to plan for how our infrastructure, public services and communities will have to adapt for a 1.5-degree warmer world

To enable the Council to better keep abreast of information and initiatives as they come forward, Members of the Council have been nominated to attend other climate related meetings:

- Okehampton Climate Action Group (Cllr Button)
- Corporate meetings; ie DCC, WDBC (Cllr Goffey)

These Councillors will feedback to the Climate Change Working Group relevant information which will be acted upon accordingly.

Cc4 Encouragement - the council will encourage local organisations, businesses, communities and individuals to do the same

The Council, in January 2020, held an eco-coffee morning with the aim of highlighting to the community and individuals' easy ways in which they can each reduce their carbon footprint and information that may have been relevant to them. This event was successful and further events will be held.

#### **Actions Okehampton Town Council has taken to reduce its impact on the climate and its carbon footprint:**

- Signed up to the Devon Climate Declaration (2019)
- Signed up to the Tree Charter (2019)
- Town/Charter Hall boiler replaced in 2018 with an energy efficient model
- Disposable plastic cups replaced with reusable 'picnic' style glasses for office and visitor use
- Waste collected by Devon Contract Waste who operate a "Zero to Landfill" policy, the waste is sorted and recycled or used for energy generation
- Existing lightbulbs replaced with energy saving LED lightbulbs when necessary
- Shredded paper used in composting from office and parks
- Parks waste from maintenance used in composting which is then used on the parks flower beds
- Parks pond fed by natural water source
- Replanting any trees on its land as and when any are removed due to disease, are dying or have fallen with native species, like for like where possible
- West Bridge verge planted with Wildflowers and maintained as a wildflower meadow
- Recycling of printer ink cartridges and toners
- Charter Hall hirers encouraged to recycle as much waste as possible
- Council coffee grounds used in composting
- Working Group stand at the Rotary Group coffee morning in the Charter Hall on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019 and holding community event/council coffee morning on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2020 promoting climate change
- Supporting the proposed regular rail link from Okehampton to Exeter and beyond
- Has nominated Councillors to attend other climate related meetings:
  - Okehampton Climate Action Group (Cllr Button)
  - Corporate meetings; ie DCC, WDBC (Cllr Goffey)

2020

- Held an 'Eco Awareness' coffee morning on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2020

- Set up a Climate Group outside of the remit of the Town Council for representatives from local councils in the locality to share ideas
- Signed up to Devon Contract Waste's newly formed Circular Economy Scheme to enhance and promote recycling within the Council
- Received and planted a Landmark Tree in March 2020 to help mark and replenish tree loss from the Ash Dieback Disease
- Tree Policy relating to the felling of trees which has yet to be – approved in March
- Working with StOC to improve management of the meadow in Simmons Park to further encourage biodiversity
- Members given the opportunity to 'opt-out' of receiving hard paper copies of meeting agendas and associated papers (as of March 2020 8 Members had signed up)
- Paper supply changed to 100% recycled off white paper (February 2020) following consideration of various alternative providers and research into the carbon footprint of production, air miles and delivery.

**The Council will be:**

The Climate Change Working Group is/will initially be investigating what other actions it can take in relation to its own property/areas of business

- Renewable energy
  - Solar panel installation on the Charter Hall roof as part of the roof replacement project
  - Solar panels to be considered for the Tractor shed in the park
- Wildflower verge planting on other sites i.e. skate park, verges
- Charging point for electric vehicles in Simmons Park
- Production of an Okehampton hub bus map to encourage public transport use
- Review use of chemicals used for weed control