

GOOLE TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Goole Town Council (GTC) is a third tier local authority, responsible for providing a range of services for the 19,000 population of the East Yorkshire town. These include:

- Junction, the town's multi-purpose arts venue and cinema which also houses the town council offices. The flexible 165 seat auditorium is used for live events (theatre, music, dance, children's events) and cinema screenings (about 180 per year) and is also hired by external users. There is a busy workshop programme (some 200 per year) and a café-bar, operated by a private company. The building also provides office space for Council employees and a council chamber/community room, which is available for hire.
- Goole Cemetery.
- Two large public parks, West Park and South Park, two local nature reserves, five public gardens, nine children's play areas and the football and athletic facilities at Victoria Pleasure Grounds.
- Nine allotment sites providing 310 rentable allotments.
- Town Centre CCTV system (outsourced under a Service Level Agreement).

The Council's area of operation is limited to the town itself but in carrying out its work, it will bring in individuals, groups or companies from a local, regional or national (seldom international) origin to deliver services or attend events.

Among its Corporate Objectives, the Council is committed to Conserving and Enhancing the Environment (CO 17), Being a Responsible Employer (CO 19) and where possible, sourcing goods and services from Goole and East Riding area (CO 22).

GTC recognises that there are negative environmental impacts from its activities described above and is committed to understanding and reducing these through good management and adopting greener alternatives wherever possible, relating to:

- Energy consumption (gas, electricity and fuel consumption in Council-run buildings and vehicles).
- Water consumption at all sites, including Junction, other buildings, allotments and parks.
- Production and disposal of waste materials from all sites and use of potentially hazardous materials.
- Consumption of materials and resources, including for the theatre, offices and grounds maintenance operations.
- Capital works.

By adopting this policy document Goole Town Council (GTC) is committed to ensuring that all GTC operations are conducted with the least impact on the environment. GTC will encourage and enable all employees, contractors and suppliers to improve our environmental performance.

Policy Commitments

In addition to meeting current and any future statutory requirements, including sustainability reporting requirements to ACE (which apply specifically to Junction), this policy is intended to result in GTC understanding, measuring, improving and communicating its environmental performance.

In order to discharge its responsibilities, GTC will:

- bring the Environmental Policy Statement to the attention of all staff, suppliers, stakeholders and funders. This will also form part of the tender specification for capital works.
- hold quarterly meetings of the Environmental Working Group to discuss environmental issues relating to GTC operations, reporting back to Council.
- adoption of an Action Plan, containing SMART objectives to reduce our current impacts (for example in CO₂ emissions, energy consumption, consumption of materials) and progress towards these will be monitored and reported to Council.
- gather quarterly energy and water consumption data for all GTC sites
- carry out regular audits of all site building management systems (BMS)
- identifying, adopting and promoting technologies and practices to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases, including CO₂, from our estate, operations, vehicles and employee travel.
- comply fully with relevant environmental legislation, Council policies and other commitments, and striving to deliver best practice.
- ensure all council buildings are as energy efficient as possible through installation of LED lighting and other efficiency measures.
- eliminate risks to the environment, where possible, through selection and design of materials, buildings, facilities, equipment and processes
- identify and manage environmental risks and hazards, ensuring that emergency procedures are in place at all locations for dealing with environmental issues
- improve the environmental efficiency of transport and travel on council business by encouraging the use of more sustainable modes of transport for all journeys where possible.
- involve customers, partners, clients, suppliers and subcontractors in the implementation of our objectives
- minimise waste and increase recycling within the framework of our waste management procedures across all GTC sites where possible.
- only engage contractors who are able to demonstrate due regard to environmental matters

- ensure that GTC's purchasing power is used to reduce negative environmental impacts and to improve the environmental standards and social value of products and services GTC purchases.
- minimising, and where possible, eliminating the release of any pollutant which may cause damage to health and the environment.
- provide adequate resources to control environmental risks arising from our work activities
- raising awareness, educating and providing suitable training to employees and those working on our behalf to ensure that all staff have the knowledge, skills and understanding to implement the Environment Policy with their specific areas of environmental control.
- reduce the use of water, energy and any other natural resources and/or source materials from sustainable suppliers, where possible
- consider the impact of noise and light pollution

This Environmental Policy will be reviewed at least annually and revised as necessary to reflect changes to the business activities and any changes to legislation. Any changes to the Policy will be brought to the attention of all stakeholders.

Policy adopted on 26.8.2020