

## **WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

This policy develops and expands on the pledges made in Warwick District Council's Corporate Strategy for 1995/99 *and has been reviewed and revised to reflect the Council's Key Issues Strategy (1999)*.

- A1 Warwick District Council is committed to playing its full part in improving the local and global environment.
- A2 Warwick District Council aims to continually improve its environmental performance. It will meet the environmental standards set down by law, and exceed them where possible by striving for recognised standards of best practice.
- A3 The Council will use its influence and resources to achieve a local environment which it will be proud to pass on to future generations. Where the actions of the Council are restricted by legislation, the Council will lobby for change. Where responsibility is held by another organisation, the Council will try to raise the awareness of that organisation.

### **WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL:**

#### **Aims to minimise the unnecessary use of resources**

- B1 Minimise waste production through reduction, re-use and recycling, and encourage this elsewhere.
- B2 Purchase environmentally friendly goods and services.
- B3 Make resources available for investment in energy and water saving projects and encourage this elsewhere.
- B4 Encourage the development of renewable energy.
- B5 *Manage Council buildings and land holdings in a way which minimises negative impacts on the environment and promotes environmental benefits*

#### **Aims to protect and enhance the natural and built environment**

- B6 Raise awareness of the value of our wildlife habitats, and where feasible establish links between them.
- B7 Protect the open countryside and resist unnecessary road building.
- B8 Resist over-development of the District by adopting planning policies that ensure long term environmental protection, whilst providing for legitimate development needs and employment opportunities.
- B9 Promote high standards of design and materials in new developments and

modifications to existing developments.

B10 Strive towards a safe and pleasant environment for all.

B11 Avoid activities which threaten the global environment and, where we cannot, identify and remedy adverse effects.

### **Aims to improve public health and well-being**

B12 Encourage investment in, and use of, public and community transport and facilities for cyclists and pedestrians.

B13 Monitor and improve air, soil and water quality. Control noise and other forms of pollution.

B14 Take action against littering, vandalism and the inappropriate use and disposal of hazardous materials.

B15 Promote healthy eating and healthy lifestyles.

B16 Encourage the provision of good quality affordable/social housing.

*B17 Protect urban open spaces from development and encourage their use by all members of the community*

### **Aims to support the local economy**

B18 Encourage local businesses to adopt good environmental practices.

B19 Satisfy our needs using a greater proportion of local produce, materials and expertise.

B20 Promote environmentally sustainable tourism in our historic towns and villages.

### **IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THIS THE COUNCIL WILL:**

C1 Assign responsibility for implementing this policy to a Director of the Council.

C2 Introduce an environmental management system throughout the Council, allowing it to address its most significant environmental effects and measure progress. Seek third party validation against the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme for Local Government (EMAS).

C3 Assess new and existing policies and activities for their effects on the environment.

C4 Set publicly available targets each year and report on performance.

C5 Work in partnership with other bodies towards shared environmental goals. Share and seek examples of environmental best practice.

- C6 Educate staff and elected Members to foster a sense of environmental responsibility at all levels *and encourage staff and members to play their part to the full*. Provide additional training for staff who have specific responsibility for implementing the aims of this policy.
- C7 Encourage contractors/suppliers to the Council to adopt environmental standards, and reflect recognised environmental best practice in the specification of contracts and tenders.
- C8 Consult the community on environmental issues, seek public input into future projects and pilot new approaches to involving the community in its activities.
- C9 Raise awareness of environmental issues across Warwick District and actively promote the principles of Local Agenda 21.
- C10 Regularly review this environmental policy.