**STURMINSTER NEWTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**ENVIRONMENT POLICY**

The purpose of this policy is to identify and reduce the environmental impact that the Town Council's activities and policies have on its community, and to make a positive contribution to the wider environmental issues surrounding climate change and resource depletion.

Sturminster Newton Town Council accepts its responsibilities towards the environment and will take environmental considerations into account in all decision making throughout the Council's activities. The Town Council is committed to minimising any adverse impact on the environment arising from its policies and working practices.

The overall objectives of Sturminster Newton Town Council towards the environment are:

- To conserve energy and other resources
- To protect air quality by minimising harmful emissions from buildings and transport for which the Town Council has responsibility or influence
- To reduce the amount of waste generated by the Town Council
- To follow methods of disposal that reduce the impact on the environment
- To provide guidance to employees, Town Councillors and others in minimising the need for unnecessary use of transport which has a detrimental effect on the environment

Specifically Sturminster Newton Town Council will –

- Reduce demand for energy, improve energy efficiency and utilise renewable energy technologies where appropriate
- Where possible, seek to monitor and reduce the use of water, recognising that water is a resource
- Work with contractors and suppliers to achieve standards, in both purchasing and disposal, which minimise environmental impact and when working with contractors, enquire as to whether the contractor has an environmental policy.
- Promote the waste hierarchy, re-use, recycling and the use of recycled materials and resources sources from sustainable, ethical and local sources
- Promote the conservation and enhancement of various landscapes to include biodiversity, buildings, water courses, trees etc., as well as cultural and historic interests, through the Town Council's own activities and through its work with others
- Encourage environmental best practice amongst its employees, contractors and members of the community
- Where appropriate encourage individuals to take responsibility for their own actions
- Reduce waste and make best use of resources by encouraging employees, members of the community and suppliers to reduce, reuse, recycle and compost

Approved on: 24 September 25

Review due: September 27