

## Portsmouth City Council's sustainability principles

### 1: Natural resources

**Principal:** Ensure sustainable use of natural resources (such as energy and water) and increase use of renewable energy sources

#### Background

Our over-use of natural resources can have negative impacts on the environment and human health, with intensive use of fossil fuels releasing pollutants that impact on air quality and contribute to global climate change. By reducing our own consumption of natural resources, and by influencing others through the example we set, Portsmouth City Council can make a significant contribution to sustainability in the City. The UK sustainable development strategy sets out a key principle around “living within environmental limits and ensuring that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations”.

In the context of “natural resources” we mean resources that occur naturally on the earth, which the organisation in the conduct of its own operations either consumes directly or impacts upon:

- Energy
- Clean water
- Clean air
- Land and soil
- Materials including plant and animal products (such as wood and food) and minerals

Portsmouth City Council's Carbon Management Plan has been published which identifies how we are going to reduce our carbon emissions.



### **What are we already doing?**

- Portsmouth City Council's Air Quality Action Plan is being produced and delivered – includes Air Quality Management Area Action plans to resolve air quality
- Completed the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme
- Published and delivering Portsmouth City Council's Carbon Management Plan (Portsmouth City Council is committed to reducing its carbon emissions by 30% from operational buildings, transport and waste by 2016/17)
- Housing greener homes strategy

### **What are we going to do?**

- Research options for renewable energy (including district heating schemes) for Portsmouth City Council buildings and land – to have identified all the options with recommendations
- Produce a water footprint of the Council

### **Monitoring performance**

- Quarterly energy use figures for Portsmouth City Council buildings
- Quarterly water use figures for Portsmouth City Council buildings
- Carbon Management Plan – progress against 30% target
- Annual Local authority housing SAP rating figures

## 2: Transport

**Principal:** Enable a sustainable transport system in Portsmouth and promote sustainable travel choices across Portsmouth City Council

### Background

Transport is an essential part of our lives, connecting communities, employment, goods, services and amenities. Our ability to travel impacts on social well-being in terms of access to education, health, and community activities and is therefore vital in securing an inclusive society. However, our increasing demand for convenient and low cost travel comes at a cost. Our transport choices have an enormous impact on the environment around us, with consumption of fossil fuels for transport contributing to depletion of natural resources and producing harmful emissions which impact on local air quality and contribute to global climate change.



According to National Indicator 185 data for 2008/2009 Portsmouth City Council's estimated total transport carbon emissions were 2,347 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> - this equates to 289.1 journeys around the world in an average car. Actions to improve sustainability can have a positive impact on health such as policies to reduce car use and increase walking and cycling and directly contribute to the city's Healthy Weight Strategy.

### What are we already doing?

- Promote sustainable travel options for staff – including discounted travel schemes
- Promote, support and run sustainable transport events – such as the Big Green Commuter Challenge
- Signed up to Commonwheels car club to improve the sustainability of business travel options
- Improved facilities within Portsmouth City Council buildings for cyclists and extended current cycle parking facilities
- A fleet review has been completed and Portsmouth City Council are reducing the number of business vehicles by 7 and have pledged to reduce this by another 8
- Working towards a vehicle replacement policy that considers need, specification and reducing environmental impact
- A Walking Strategy is being developed

## **What are we going to do?**

- Online mileage claim form
- Provide one stop site for sustainable travel options for staff on website
- Driver training for staff regularly using fleet vehicles
- Promote and support flexible working opportunities for staff

## **Monitoring performance**

- Number of staff using sustainable methods of transport to get to work (from travel to work survey data)
- Number of staff using sustainable transport methods for business travel (from online mileage claim form - when this is established)
- Number of fleet vehicles using alternative fuels
- Number of hours Commonwheels cars are used
- % of workforce working flexibly (1 day a week from home)

### 3: Procurement

**Principal:** Promote sustainable purchasing policies that respect economic, social and environmental limits

#### Background

Everything we purchase, whether as individual consumers or as organisations, has economic, social and environmental impacts. These impacts can occur at all stages of a product's life from extraction of materials, through design and manufacture of the product to its use and ultimate disposal. They range from negative impacts, such as pollution and biodiversity loss, to positive benefits such as the potential employment and economic benefits of purchasing locally manufactured goods.

The UK's 410 local authorities spend over £113 billion on day to day services - over a quarter of all public expenditure. They employ over 2.1 million people and deliver 700 different services. Local government procurement is therefore a key area for delivering sustainability.

Sustainable procurement is a process whereby organisations meet their needs for goods, services, works and utilities in a way that achieves value for money on a whole life basis in terms of generating benefits not only to the organisation, but also to society and the economy, whilst minimising damage to the environment.

#### What are we already doing?

- Portsmouth City Council has achieved Level 3 of the National Sustainable Procurement Taskforce and is working towards Level 5
- Portsmouth City Council works in partnership with the Central Buying Consortium, strategic partners and other local authorities to create markets for sustainable goods and services



### **What are we going to do?**

- Review and improve Portsmouth City Council's Sustainable Procurement Policy
- Include sustainability and sustainable procurement in Portsmouth City Council's Efficiency Board 360 reviews
- Include sustainability in Portsmouth City Council's Procurement gateway process
- Supply chain mapping to ensure sustainable options are considered

### **Monitoring performance**

- Quarterly reports on Multi-functional device (MFD) paper usage
- Number of sustainable products purchased versus non sustainable options
- Number of suppliers with sustainable ISO qualifications or equivalent
- Number of Licensed Procurement Practitioners who have completed sustainability training

## 4: Waste

**Principal:** Promote a sustainable waste strategy focused on reducing waste and increasing re-use and recycling

### Background

Waste is one of the undesirable by-products of our consumption as a society. A continual increase in waste generation impacts upon quality of life in terms of social, economic and environmental well-being. For example, waste presents a potential threat to the environment and human health through land, water and air contamination; it puts pressure on finite resources in terms of the material and energy that go into making products; and it can impact on the quality of an area as a place to live in terms of where and how waste is disposed of.



### What are we already doing?

- Waste Reduction in Portsmouth Schools (WRIPS) has been established. The Board includes a representative from the Head teacher Forum
- Portsmouth City Council facilitated the distribution of 20,000 compost bins to residents
- Portsmouth City Council is a member of Project Integra - a partnership of local authorities and a private waste contractor working together to provide an integrated solution to Hampshire's waste.
- Portsmouth City Council corporate waste contract offers recycling facilities for all council sites.

### What are we going to do?

- Produce and implement a Sustainable Waste Strategy for the council
- Research best practice in sustainable events and other successful initiatives in comparable cities
- Work towards 100% of Portsmouth City Council sites being signed up to the corporate waste contract
- Any future waste contracts will consider maximising the use of vehicles – in order to decrease fuel use and help reduce the council's carbon footprint

## **Monitoring performance**

- Number of Portsmouth City Council sites on the corporate waste contract
- Decrease in % of Portsmouth City Council's total waste
- Increase in % of Portsmouth City Council's recycled waste
- Number of Portsmouth City Council events offering sustainable facilities

## 5: Built environment

### Principal

Ensure that the City's built environment is developed and managed sustainably, through sustainable use of land and sustainable design and construction practices, particularly for council projects.

### Background

The development and enhancement of the urban environment can have many positive social, economic and environmental benefits for individuals, communities and organisations. It can stimulate economic growth; it can build communities people want to live in and that provide for their social needs; and it can enhance the overall look and function of the environment. But it is also responsible for some of the most serious impacts on society and the environment in terms of the resources it uses, the demands for goods and services it creates and its associated infrastructure requirements.

### What are we already doing?

- Require new development to meet levels of the Code for Sustainable Homes and BREEAM that are over and above national standards
- Deliver sustainable construction and increase use of sustainable materials in all local authority housing developments in line with Portsmouth Plan by 2016
- Assess sustainability of all new residential development plans to ensure that the buildings are zero carbon through Portsmouth Plan
- Retro-fitting local authority buildings
- Housing retro-fit project



## **What are we going to do?**

- Renewable energy to be included in new developments in the City
- Include sustainability in Portsmouth City Council Project Management processes
- Stop replacing like for like fittings (e.g. light bulbs) and consider the energy efficient options upon each replacement

## **Monitoring performance**

- Percentage of Portsmouth City Council fittings replaced with energy efficient options
- Number of Portsmouth City Council projects which include renewable energy options
- Number of projects which go to Corporate Project Board that already consider sustainability options
- Number of Portsmouth City Council projects that deliver the Portsmouth Plan sustainable development policy

## 6: Natural environment

**Principal:** Protect Portsmouth's natural environment including enhancing local biodiversity and open spaces, improving local bathing water quality and tackling climate change.

### Background

The quality of the natural environment is crucial to our social, environmental and economic well-being. The diversity and richness of the natural environment provides the natural resources and habitats that support life; the attractiveness of our natural environment influences how attractive a place is to live in, work in, and visit; and the cleanliness of the local environment impacts on our health. Yet, as reliant as we are on the environment around us, our way of life can often have negative consequences for the environment. For example, pollution affects the air we breathe and the water we bathe in, and can have detrimental effects on natural habitats and ecosystems. (Water, for the purpose of this strategy, refers to bathing water rather than drinking water or ground water which comes under the Environment Agency and Portsmouth and Southern Water. Lakes and ponds are incorporated in to biodiversity and open spaces. Water quality based on EU directive and comes under Environment and Public Protection business plan and also Seafront Strategy. Resort services can work towards the blue flag status for the seafront and also monitor harbour water quality.)



### What are we already doing?

- Portsmouth's Biodiversity Action Plan is currently being produced
- Safeguarding of international protected sites in Portsmouth (Langstone and Portsmouth Harbours') through local wildlife surveys
- Maintain and improving the condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designated for biodiversity
- Develop an understanding of biodiversity issues amongst Portsmouth City Council staff and Councillors (particularly via the Green Champion programme) - Surveying 'local wildlife sites' - such as Eastney Beach and Hilsea Lines

### What are we going to do?

- Council to adopt Portsmouth Biodiversity action plan
- For real development in biodiversity a full time Ecologist would be needed – investigate options of recruiting an Ecologist
- Portsmouth & Southsea In Bloom to incorporate and promote sustainability issues

### **Monitoring performance**

- Number of entrants to 'wildlife garden' category of Portsmouth and Southsea In Bloom
- Number of green spaces in Portsmouth
- Number of different species/habitats in Portsmouth
- Percentage of the City covered by national/international designations

## 7: Economic and social

**Principal:** Promote economic and social sustainability by supporting local markets, local businesses and local employment along with providing excellent education and encouraging community cohesion and engagement.

### Background

Portsmouth's economy has been historically shaped by its coastal location, with strong marine, defence and retail business sectors. The location of the City and the make-up of its workforce will be key to the sustainability of the city's future economic well-being. Portsmouth is a very densely populated urban area and this has a significant impact on the sustainability of the city. In order to bring about sustainability in the Council our organisation's culture needs to change and become more receptive to the sustainable needs of the world we live in. Every organisation in Portsmouth has a responsibility for the impact of its activities on the environment, consumers, employees, communities, stakeholders and all other members of the public (Corporate Social Responsibility or CSR). CSR-focused organisations tend to encourage community growth and development, and voluntarily eliminate practices that harm the public or environment, regardless of whether they are legally allowed to do them.



### What are we already doing?

- Supporting local employment through the Future Jobs Fund
- Developing successful, creative and innovative businesses in partnership with the Sustainable Business Partnership
- Encouraging markets for local and regional produce through the regular Farmers Markets
- Ensuring local residents have the skills for local jobs and focus on educational attainment
- Encourage and enabling community engagement - such as through the Greening Campaign
- Encouraging schools and residents to engage in recycling and carbon reduction activities
- Involving Portsmouth City Council staff through the Green Champions programme

## **What are we going to do?**

- Encouraging businesses to enter the Sustainable Business Partnership's business awards
- Work with businesses to encourage them to become even greener and to act more responsible - with a greater awareness of sustainable procurement, sustainable technologies and waste opportunities
- Work more closely with schools to ensure their waste, transport and food production are sustainably managed
- Enable job opportunities for local people
- Enable skills training in growth green technologies to encourage a local green economy
- Define Portsmouth City Council's Corporate Social Responsibility and what it means for our staff
- Develop a regeneration strategy for the city in partnership with local organisations, to ensure the sustainable development of the local economy

## **Monitoring performance**

- Percentage of Portsmouth schools using recycling facilities
- Percentage of Portsmouth schools providing sustainable sourced school dinners
- Number of local people employed by Portsmouth City Council
- Number of Future Job Fund employees working at Portsmouth City Council
- Outputs of Portsmouth City Council's Green Champions (social sustainable volunteering)
- Number of green technologies in use in Portsmouth City Council