

Title of Report	ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY	
Presented by	Councillor Michael Wyatt Community and Climate Change Portfolio Holder <div>PH Briefed <input type="checkbox"/> Yes</div>	
Background Papers	None	Public Report: Yes
		Key Decision: Yes
Financial Implications	There are no direct financial implications, but the policy commits to integrating environmental consideration into its financial planning and procurement processes.	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	All decisions arising must comply with the Council's established governance and decision making processes	
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	There are no staffing implications. The Council has already demonstrated its commitment to the environment which is reflected in the Council Delivery Plan 2023-2028 .	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	To present a draft environmental policy for comment. The intention is to confirm the Council's commitment to the wider environmental agenda, beyond reducing carbon emissions.	
Reason for Decision	To approve the draft Environmental Policy, as required under the constitution.	
Recommendations	THAT CABINET: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CONSIDERS THE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION MADE BY THE CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AT ITS MEETING ON 4 DECEMBER 2025 2. APPROVES THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY 3. DELEGATES AUTHORITY TO THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES TO MAKE ANY MINOR AMENDMENTS TO THE POLICY 	

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In 2024, the Council worked with [Unipart](#), based at Mercia Park in NW Leicestershire, to develop a gap analysis to assess the Council's current environmental management practices and identify opportunities and areas to develop. This assessment was aligned to the principles of ISO 14001, an international standard for establishing an effective Environmental Management System (EMS). Unipart is an exemplar in this field and offered to share their experience with the Council following a meeting with the Chief Executive.
- 1.2 The ISO 14001 framework provides organisations with a structured approach to managing environmental responsibilities. It covers a wide range of operational areas, from leadership and planning to performance evaluation and continual improvement.
- 1.3 The analysis undertaken considered the Council's current environmental practices, strategic goals and operational areas that impact environmental performance. It considered the Council's organisational structure, key environmental initiatives and leadership commitments, while also identifying strengths and challenges with current systems.
- 1.4 An observation was that whilst the Council has adopted sound environmental practices through the development of service-based guidance and policy, a co-ordinated corporate approach would further assist in embedding environmental best practice across the whole of the organisation.
- 1.5 Developing an environmental policy was one of the key recommendations to support a more consistent approach to environmental practices across the Council. The policy has been considered by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee on 4 December ahead of consideration of the policy by Cabinet.

2 ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

- 2.1 The recommendation was that a policy should be developed and endorsed by leaders across the Council, outlining the Council's long-term commitments to the environment and ensuring alignment to strategic objectives.
- 2.2 The approach has been to develop an overarching policy aligning to the Council Delivery Plan, specifically "clean green and Zero Carbon" and the Council's Procurement Strategy. A copy of the draft policy is attached at Appendix 1.
- 2.3 The policy identifies key areas of focus, aligned to the Council's Zero Carbon Roadmap, including the Council's operations and influencing the wider district, and references to a wider environmental agenda, beyond reducing carbon emissions.
- 2.4 The policy will apply to all activities, services and operations of the Council.
- 2.5 It builds environmental considerations into all decisions and operations so that the Council is proactive in reducing its environmental footprint.

2.6 The policy outlines the key aims:

- Reduce Carbon Footprint
- Sustainable Waste Management
- Energy Efficiency
- Water Conservation
- Sustainable Transportation
- Biodiversity and Green Spaces
- Awareness, Education and Engagement
- Changing Climate

2.7 Implementation of the policy will be supported by:

- Sustainable Procurement
- Staff and Member Awareness
- Collaboration
- Financial and other resources where appropriate.

2.8 The policy outlines the Council's commitment to improve its environmental performance and adopt best practices.

3.0 CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMENTS

3.1 Corporate Scrutiny Committee made a number of comments and one recommendation which are outlined in the Scrutiny Comments Table attached at Appendix 2.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	Clean, green and Zero Carbon
Policy Considerations:	Zero Carbon Roadmap
Safeguarding:	N/A
Equalities/Diversity:	An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed.
Customer Impact:	N/A
Economic and Social Impact:	N/A
Environment, Climate Change and Zero Carbon:	The policy reinforces the Council's commitment to the environment.
Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement:	Internal engagement.
Risks:	None.
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