

Deal Town Council Environmental Policy

Deal Town Council recognises that we face an unprecedented climate and environmental emergency and have committed to becoming a net zero carbon emitter in our own operations by 2025. We will use our power and influence to protect and improve the environment and encourage and support others to do the same, in addition to fulfilling our statutory environmental responsibilities and complying with all legal and other requirements.

We are committed to transforming Deal into a cleaner, greener and a healthier and more active town - with a high quality built and natural environment. This Environmental Policy supports these goals. It covers all of our activities and estate. Through it we will use our power and influence to protect and improve the environment and make continual improvements in our own environmental performance, as set out below.

We will:

- Promote environmental awareness within the community and work with the local community in partnerships to achieve environmental change.
- Reduce the consumption of energy and water across all of our activities.
- Minimise the impact of our travel by developing sustainable travel solutions both in our own operations and for the benefit of the people of Deal, in collaboration with other stakeholders.
- Continue to improve our performance to prevent all types of pollution and reduce CO2 and other harmful emissions from our activities.
- Work to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Deal through the provision of information and the promotion of home energy efficiency measures, to keep people warm and well, in addition to reducing carbon emissions.
- Continue to develop safe walking and cycle and mobility scooter routes and to promote cycling, scooting and walking around the town, for health as well as the positive environmental benefits.
- Work closely with our suppliers and contractors to reduce the social and environmental impact of goods and services by considering such issues as carbon footprint, single use plastics, and fair trade goods.
- Use products and materials such as paper efficiently and specify goods that, wherever possible, have a minimal environmental impact in the extraction or sourcing of materials, manufacture, use and disposal.

- Minimise the production of waste from our own activities and adhere to the principles of the waste hierarchy - reducing, reusing, recycling, or composting wherever possible.
- Encourage and support installation and use of renewable energy, battery storage and low carbon technologies in the town.
- Protect, conserve, and enhance Deal's built environment and distinctive heritage by ensuring that any development is sustainable, with sufficient infrastructure to support it and that all development meets the highest environmental standards.
- Protect, conserve, and enhance Deal's natural environment and its biodiversity whilst improving our open spaces, public rights of ways and green corridors.

Scope of the Policy

We affect the environment through our services and policies, enforcement of laws and regulations, the choices we make when buying goods and services – as well as our role as a community leader. In recognising the climate and environmental emergency we acknowledge that environmental concerns have primacy over other matters and that radical action is needed to facilitate the change required to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

Environmental Management

We will set objectives and implement programmes of action to minimise the negative environmental effects and increase the positive effects of our activities. We will take steps to understand, control and mitigate any risks of harm to the environment resulting from our activities.

Involvement

We will enable the full involvement of Councillors and employees by providing information, training, and other support. We will work with our contractors and suppliers to help them improve their environmental performance and ensure that, when working for Deal Town Council, they adopt equivalent environmental standards.

We will encourage the local community and other partners and stakeholders to take action too, through the provision of information and support, as well as by advocacy.