Marazion Town Council Sustainability and Environmental Policy

Date approved	13th August 2024
Minute	4078
Review Date	August 2026

1**. Introduction**

1.1   This policy outlines our approach to protecting the land, our coastal environment, local habitats and reducing our carbon footprint, all with the aim to protect the natural beauty of Marazion and Mounts Bay for current and future generations.

2. Vision

2.1   Our vision is to create a thriving, resilient community that balances social, economic, and environmental wellbeing. We strive to be a leader in sustainability, ensuring that our town remains a healthy, vibrant place to live, work, and visit.

3. Objectives

3.1   **Reduce Environmental Impact**: Minimise the town's ecological footprint by promoting efficient use of resources, reducing waste, and lowering greenhouse gas emissions.

3.2   **Enhance Biodiversity**: Protect and enhance local ecosystems, green spaces, beaches, sea, coastline, and wildlife habitats within the town.

3.3   **Promote Sustainable Development**: Support sustainable land use, infrastructure, and building practices that meet the needs of our community without compromising future generations.

3.4   **Encourage Community Involvement**: Engage residents, businesses, local organisations, and partners in sustainability initiatives, fostering a culture of environmental responsibility.

4. Policy Statements

4.1. Resource Efficiency and Waste Reduction

a)   **Energy Use**: Implement energy-saving measures across the council including the adoption of renewable energy sources where feasible.

b)   **Water Conservation**: Promote water-saving initiatives to reduce consumption and protect local water resources.

c)   **Waste Management**: Encourage waste reduction, reuse, and recycling within the community and council operations. Aim to repurpose landfill waste through education and consider where possible the introduction of recycling in areas of public open space.

d)   **Procurement**: Prioritise the purchase of environmentally friendly and sustainable products and services, considering life cycle impacts in procurement decisions.

4.2. Climate Action

a)   **Carbon Reduction**: Develop and implement strategies to reduce the town's carbon footprint. The town council has little influence of the reduction of the 'towns carbon footprint which makes it impossible to set a specific target year for 'net zero' carbon neutrality. However, that said, the town council commits to working towards reducing its own carbon footprint and pledges to support where the town council can do so, partner organisations with theirs.

b)   **Adaptation and Resilience**: Assess and address climate risks to enhance the town's resilience to the impacts of climate change, including extreme weather events. For example, the town councils Emergency Plan refers to the town's resilience and management of any extreme weather events.

c)   **Sustainable Transport:** Promote and support low-carbon transport options such as cycling, walking, and public transport.

4.3. Biodiversity and Green Spaces

a)   **Habitat Protection**: protect and enhance natural habitats and biodiversity through conservation efforts, tree planting, and any other initiative that is deemed appropriate to protect the habitats in Marazion. For example, encouragement to remove invasive and non-native plants where reasonable and practicable to do so.

b)   **Green Infrastructure**: Working with partner organisations, seek to improve air quality and support actions to protect local biodiversity.

c)   **Pollution Prevention**: Working with partner organisations, support, if practical to do so, measures to reduce air, water, and soil pollution, including campaigning for the enforcement of environmental regulations. For example, sewage spills into Mounts Bay, contaminated flood waters.

d)   **Beach, Sea, and Coastline**: Working with local partner organisations, actively encourage and promote beach cleaning, campaigning, and lobbying regional and national government about the protection of the bathing waters and cessation of sewage being pumped into Mounts Bay and working with local, regional, and national partner organisations, to monitor the Cornwall Council Shoreline Management Plan which includes coastal erosion.

Actively encourage and promote education programmes that teaches residents and visitors about the beach and coastal environment and the impact that chemicals, forever plastics, litter, sewage pollution and other contaminants have on the marine environment and ecosystems.

4.4. Sustainable Development and Land Use

a)   **Urban Planning**: Collaborate with local, regional, and national organisations to advance shared sustainability goals.

b) **Land Management**: In partnership with local, regional, and national organisations promote sustainable land use practices that protect natural resources, agricultural lands, and open spaces.

c) **Infrastructure**: In partnership with local, regional, and national organisations support sustainable infrastructures that encourages renewable energy, water conservation, and reduced environmental impact.

4.5. Community Engagement and Education

a) **Awareness Campaigns**: Raise awareness of environmental issues and promote sustainable living within the community using social media, the town newsletter, posters, Plastic Free Marazion, Keep Britain Tidy and any other local regional and national organisation.

b) **Community Involvement**: Foster active participation from residents, businesses, and community groups in environmental initiatives, such as clean-up events, tree planting, and any other green initiative which will bring benefit to the community.

c) **Partnerships**: Collaborate with local, regional, and national organisations to advance shared sustainability goals.

5. Implementation and Monitoring

Action Plan: Consider the development of a detailed sustainability action plan with specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) goals.

Continuous Improvement: Review and update this policy and associated action plans regularly to reflect new challenges, opportunities, and advancements in sustainability practices.

6. Governance

Responsibility: Marazion Town Council is responsible for the implementation of this policy.

Reporting: An annual sustainability report will be presented to the council and made available to the public, outlining progress and areas for improvement.

7. Review

This policy will be reviewed no less than every two years to ensure its effectiveness and relevance in achieving our sustainability objectives.