



Sustainability Policy

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1. Introduction

The nature and the scale of our business at Kirklees College means we have a responsibility as well as a unique opportunity to play a leading role in the climate change agenda for the benefit of all.

Climate change poses a new challenge to our organisations, big and small.

We're one of the largest employers in the region with an annual budget of over £40m and we come into contact with many thousands of people during the course of an academic year.

It is up to us to challenge ourselves, tackle the demands of sustainable development and take this opportunity to state our commitment and take positive steps to meet our goals.

Setting out our ambitions means we can begin to put the actions in place to make Kirklees College a leading sustainable development organisation.

We know what we are capable of when we work together to achieve a goal, we've made enormous progress over recent years, changing the lives of thousands of people, but this could be one of our biggest and most important challenges yet. I am confident we can rise to this challenge and I look forward to every leader, member of staff and student playing their part in another achievement the College can be proud of.

2. Background

External legislative requirements and the expectations of our students, stakeholders and local partners dictates that we must have a credible and operating sustainability policy. This will help the College to enhance existing and develop new relationships both locally and nationally and will help to promote the College in a positive and progressive light.

Within the College we need to embed sustainable development in all our activities to improve the College's operational performance and to ensure compliance with all regulatory demands. The Sustainability Policy will provide the basis for the development of the procedures and practices we need to introduce and operate effectively with regards to all of our environmental obligations and aspirations and is an essential element of the EcoCampus requirements.

3. Where are we now?

The College currently does not have an agreed Sustainability Policy and this is the first step in establishing the policy and enabling the required actions.

A Sustainability Group was established earlier this year and this is the first of many initiative which will be brought forward to develop the Colleges' sustainability credential.

4. The strategy and policy

This policy statement sets out Kirklees College's aims for aiding sustainable development. The College is committed to implementing actions to deliver the aims set out below. These actions will promote and embed sustainable development in all aspects of the College's activities.

Kirklees College intends to contribute to the Further Education sector's sustainable development in both its operations and curriculum.

Kirklees College is committed to the principles of sustainability and minimising the adverse impact of its activities on the environment. This sustainability policy has been produced to endorse this commitment, guide College staff and students of required environmental practice and promote this commitment to sustainability to all stakeholders.

The policy encompasses the guidance from the Learning and Skills Council document 'From Here to Sustainability' and the Sustainable Development Commission. Kirklees College recognises that its operations have an effect on the local, regional and global environment and that it can contribute towards the conservation and protection of the environment. As a consequence, the College is committed to continuous improvements in environmental performance and the minimisation of waste and pollution.

Environmental regulations, laws and codes of practice will be regarded as setting the minimum standards of environmental performance.

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Key Aims

Leadership

- Promote and support sustainable development principles in all aspects of the individual leaders' roles and across the organisation and continually seek to improve its environmental performance:
 - Estates and resources
 - Curriculum
 - Learning delivery
 - Continuing professional development (CPD)
 - Strategic planning
 - Incorporate sustainable development as a key theme of CPD for all staff
- Establish a procurement policy to minimise the social, economic and environmental impact of our procurement choices and maximise the use of college's resources.
- Through environmental management systems, quantify and reduce its environmental impacts, bearing in mind the whole life cycles of energy and material supplies;
- Embed sustainability into the strategic planning process and closely monitor progress
- Improve staff environmental awareness and understanding

Buildings and Estate

- Ensure that College business is conducted in a manner that improves energy efficiency and seeks to eliminate waste
- Embed the principles of sustainability in the design of new buildings and building systems. integrate environmental concerns into all planning and design decisions, maintenance and management of its estate including sustainable development principles where possible
- Continue to comply with all relevant legislation and codes of practice
- Ensure completed developments achieve Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) Excellent
- Ensure that the management of existing buildings minimizes the environmental impact of the energy consumed
- Promote the use of more sustainable modes of transport by encouraging staff and students to use public transport, car share and cycle to get to College

Curriculum

- Promote sustainable citizenship and ecological awareness through sustainable development education within the College curriculum to ensure that all curriculum and academic programmes help students to develop their environmental awareness and understanding
- Develop workforce skills to help create a low carbon economy

Community

- Maintain and develop appropriate local and regional partnerships to maximise benefits to the community
- Support local markets, ethical and fair trade, and socially responsible initiatives within the community
- Consider sharing facilities with local community agencies and groups to make the best use of resources
- Be aware of, support and connect to, the economic strategies drawn up and developed by the local authorities and RDAs
- Encourage learners and providers to undertake volunteering activity as part of a community commitment to sustainable development.

This policy statement will be reviewed annually by the College's Environmental Policy Steering Group. The College will ultimately aim for accreditation to a nationally or internationally recognised environmental standard as a benchmark of environmental good practice.

5. Supporting procedures

Supporting procedures are currently under development as part of the EcoCampus work and will be added to the Sustainability section of Sharepoint.

6. Benefits to students and employers

Students and Employers will be able to clearly see that the College is actively engaging with Sustainable Development and is managing its legislative requirements. It will additionally demonstrate that the College is putting the environment and sustainability at the heart of the College's strategies and is actively developing and embedding this with our students, stakeholders and local partner activities.

7. Turning strategy into reality

We are currently in the first phase (Bronze) of the EcoCampus scheme, which looks at planning and obtaining the required commitment and authorities to allow the following Implementation and Operating phases to be successfully undertaken.

As part of this first phase an initial baseline environmental review will be undertaken to investigate the College's current activities and associated environmental impacts. In addition to this we shall also identify the College's key training needs to implement an Environmental Management System (EMS) and the resources required to successfully support it. Training programmes will be prepared and records of training will be maintained.

Once the first phase has been completed we will progress to the following phases and activities, see below:

Silver	Identifying legal and other requirements Environmental aspects Developing objectives and targets Finalised environmental policy
Gold	Resources, roles and responsibility Competence and training Communication Documentation Control of documents Operational control Emergency preparedness and response
Platinum	Monitoring and measuring Evaluation of compliance Non-conformity, corrective and preventive action Control of records Internal audit Management review

8. Impact assessment

An impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the completion of the first phase, which will inform our action plan for the following phase. The major impact relates to staff time for training and implementation of the policy and procedures.

9. Risk assessment

No formal risk assessment has been conducted to date, we will conclude this following the collation of all the data being gathered as part of this phase.

10. Communication process for staff and stakeholders

A communication plan will be developed as part of the first phase, we anticipate the launch being ready for the start of the new college year.

11. Recommendations

Approve the proposed policy and strategy.

12. Document details

AUTHOR: Ian Webster

APPROVED BY: Senior Leadership Team (Approving Body)

REVIEW DATE: 7 July 2014

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