

Climate and Sustainability Policy

October 2022



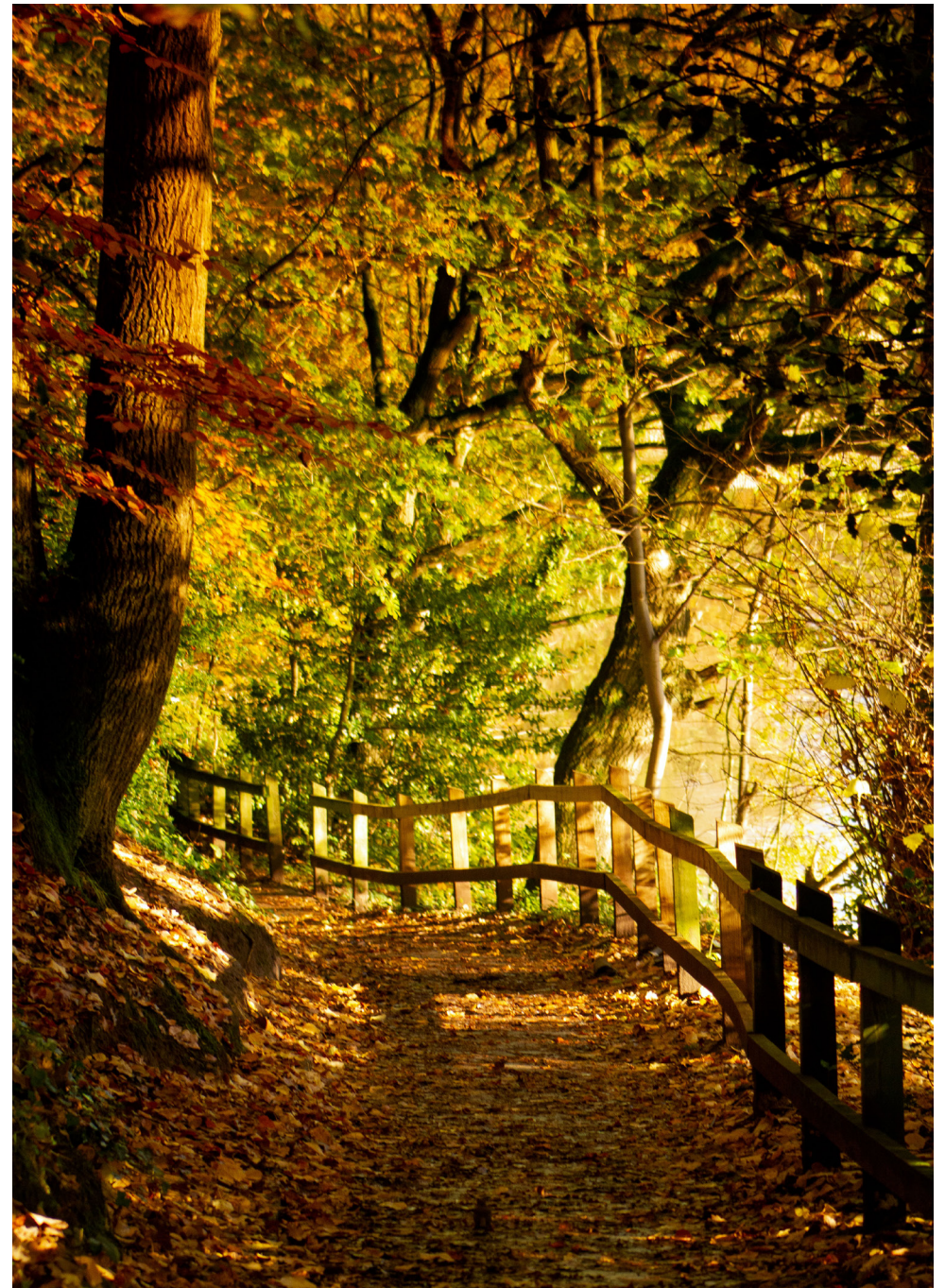
“Warrington Borough Council recognises it has a role to play to help to tackle the climate and ecological emergencies and promote environmental sustainability.

“We equally recognise that we can exert this positive influence by how we organise our operations and services, the policies we set, the regulations we oversee, the goods and services we commission and manage, the investments we make and the example we set to others.

“We know that by taking action to address the global climate and ecological emergencies we can help improve local quality of life, help improve the health and well-being of the communities we serve, help support a thriving and sustainable local economy, and improve resilience to the impacts we face, and help bring nature into recovery.”



Cllr Janet Henshaw
Cabinet member for climate change and sustainability



Our commitment to act

Warrington Borough Council is committed to act in the face of the climate and ecological emergencies. We aim to:

- Show leadership by working to be 'net zero' for carbon emissions across our operations by 2030
- Promote action to help the wider Borough reach 'near zero' emissions by 2041 in line with an independent assessment of what the UN's Paris Agreement means for our area
- Help identify risks and vulnerabilities from a changing climate and take steps to help build resilience and adapt to these changes so that the impacts are less severe than they would otherwise be
- Minimise our environmental impact
- Operate as a resource, energy and water efficient organisation minimising waste energy use and water use, and shifting to cleaner sources of heat and power
- Operate as a travel efficient organisation, minimising unnecessary transport, and encouraging a shift to more sustainable means of transport and to fossil fuel free vehicles
- Help bring nature into recovery

How we'll achieve our aims

Warrington Borough Council seeks to realise its aims by ensuring that climate, biodiversity and environmental sustainability issues are an integral part of its decision-making, service delivery and resource allocation processes, by learning from and working with others in partnership, and by seeking to show leadership and by encouraging wider action.

We will:

- Seek to embed climate, ecological and environmental sustainability considerations in decision making and ways of working across all areas of council activity
- Adopt a climate emergency action plan and seek to limit greenhouse gas emissions through a carbon budget
- Work to be a 'Carbon Literate' organisation helping councillors and staff access certified carbon literacy courses and other relevant training
- Monitor progress and seek to achieve continual improvement
- Communicate progress regularly and publicly
- Support the activities of the Warrington Climate Emergency Commission and play our part to help progress the Warrington Climate Emergency Strategy
- Encourage learning and innovation within and between organisations and work with others to promote carbon literacy more widely and to support the development of skills and expertise needed for the transition to a more environmentally sustainable, net zero, climate ready world.

Responsibilities and resources

All elected members of the council and employees have a role in helping to put this policy into practice. The Council's Chief Executive, directors, and managers have responsibility to incorporate climate, ecological and environmental sustainability issues into business planning and day-to-day procedures and practices. Councillors have responsibility for shaping policy, taking decisions, and scrutinising progress and communicating and encouraging activity in the wider community. The portfolio holder for Climate and Sustainability has the role to champion this agenda at Cabinet.

We seek to make the best use of the resources we have available, to make the case for additional resources where needed, and to work with others where necessary to overcome current barriers to action and so deliver cost effective solutions to the problems we face.

Further information:

Visit warrington.gov.uk/climate-emergency

