

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Report of the Director of Investment & Regeneration

1. SUMMARY

The Environmental Policy has been reviewed. The majority of the aims of the policy are still relevant to support our commitment to the third strategic aim on delivering Energy Efficient Homes and Services. The policy has been kept in line with Derby City Council's policy as the services we deliver contribute to the Council's aims.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Board approves the review of the policy.

3. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 The existing Environmental Policy is aligned with the Council's policy which was last reviewed in 2005. We will continue to work with the Council and if they carry out a more comprehensive review of their policy we will update the Board. Although the Council has not carried out a review we have updated some elements of our policy to bring it in line with recent developments in this area. These are:

- Built Environment – The Council and the Environment Agency have begun consultations on the future of the flood defences in the City which could affect social housing provision.
- Energy – The imminent introduction of the Green Deal provides further opportunities to carry out energy efficiency measures to our homes which will help to reduce the environmental impact of energy use.

3.2 We have had considerable achievements in this area over the life of the current policy. These include:

- Year on year increases in our energy rating of our homes, following the completion of our Decent Homes programme, by continuing to invest in energy efficient heating, insulation and window replacement.
- Investment in 900+ installations of solar panel systems, to reduce tenants' fuel bills, produce green energy and reduce our carbon footprint.
- Investment with E-ON using Community Energy Savings Programme (CESP) funds to target efficiency measures to properties, including cavity wall insulation and boiler replacements. This reduces energy consumption and the environmental impact of our homes.
- The provision of targeted advice to our tenants on energy efficiency. Including fuel advice to gain the best deal for our customers and advice on using the modern heating systems efficiently.
- Increasing the ability to recycle waste in our homes and offices, using

Estates Pride to install communal facilities at flats and using our own waste transfer station to manage office waste. This has included a commitment from the Council to work with us to ensure all flats have access to waste recycling by the end of 2013.

- Encouraging the use of more sustainable materials such as the introduction of recycled plastic fencing in Estates Pride work. These not only provide a long-term, reduced maintenance solution, but also use UK recycled waste only to reduce the impact of transporting materials.
- The introduction of Opti-time to plan repair journeys in our vehicles to minimise wasted miles driven by our staff combined with a move to carry more standard stock on our vans to minimise journeys to merchant suppliers.
- The introduction of mobile working to reduce the need for larger office space.

4. CONSULTATION IMPLICATIONS

The policy has been discussed at the Derby Environmental & Renewable Energy Meeting group (DHERE).

5. COUNCIL IMPLICATIONS

We will continue to work with the Council and if they carry out a more comprehensive review of their policy, we will update the Board.

6. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An assessment has not been carried out at present whilst waiting for the Council to decide on the future of their Environmental Policy

7. POLICY REVIEW IMPLICATIONS

This is a key policy of Derby Homes and is included in the Key Policy Review Schedule. In accordance with minute 10/51 this policy will be reviewed no later than 3 years from the date of this meeting.

The areas listed below have no implications directly arising from this report:

Financial and Business Plan
Legal and Confidentiality
Personnel
Environmental
Health & Safety
Risk

If Board members or others would like to discuss this report ahead of the meeting please contact the author, or Phil Davies, Chief Executive, phil.davies@derbyhomes.org – Phone: 01332 888528

Author: Andrew McNeil / Energy Efficiency Manager / 01332 888545 / Email
Andrew.mcneil@derbyhomes.org

Background Information: None.
Supporting Information: None.

Environmental Policy

Derby Homes

The protection of the environment is critical to us all. We all have a part to play in reducing our impact and enhancing our natural and built environment. Derby City Council adopted its Environmental Policy in 1998 to recognise the important role it can play in helping the environment as one of the largest employers and service providers in the city. The Council's revised Environmental Policy takes into account some of the major changes that have occurred in this area over the last ~~seven~~ fourteen years, including the emergence of climate change as the biggest issue we must address. It outlines how the Council will play its role through improving its own activities and by working in partnership with others. Derby Homes in this document agrees to adopt the Council's policy and to work to an action plan to achieve the policies aims.

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Bob Osler ~~Dennis Rees~~ Chair of Derby Homes
Chief Executive

Phil Davies

This is Derby Homes Environmental Policy.

Derby Homes recognises that its day-to-day activities have an important impact on the local and global environment, and that the health and well being of the environment and ourselves is closely linked. It also acknowledges that it has an important role to play in raising the awareness and understanding of environmental issues within the whole of the community. It is committed to working with others to protect and enhance the environment, especially with the Council and those organisations that are represented on the city's Local Strategic Partnership, Derby City Partnership. One of the aims of Derby City Partnership is to develop the city's Community Strategy that sets out, through the development of specific action plans, how the long-term vision for the city can be delivered. The action plans developed by Environment City help the Council work with others in the city to improve and protect the environment. A list of key local strategies that will help to deliver the various aims contained in this revised Environmental Policy can be found on the back page. An electronic version of the Policy, providing more up-to-date information about the environmental work of Derby Homes, can be found at **www.derbyhomes.org**

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This policy:

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- defines what Derby Homes means by sustainable development and how it plans to help bring this about locally

- commits Derby Homes to improving our environment through its environmental aims
- outlines how it intends to put these aims into practice
- provides a framework within which to develop more detailed objectives and action plans.

This Environmental Policy cannot be seen as a stand-alone document where environmental issues are tackled in isolation, but needs to be seen within the bigger picture of sustainable development. The following explanation of this concept is based on the Government's definition, but has been modified slightly to better reflect the aspirations of Derby Homes. 'Sustainable development' is about providing a good quality of life for everyone now and for generations to come. Although the idea is simple, the task is substantial. It means meeting four interrelated objectives equally and at the same time, in the UK and the world as a whole . . .

• **Social progress that recognises the needs of everyone.** This includes a healthy, safe, clean and diverse environment. Everyone should be able to share in the benefits that accompany a good quality of life.

• **Protection of the environment.** We must act to limit global environmental threats such as climate change along with more local pollution problems. We also need to protect and enhance those things that people need or value or that have importance in their own right, such as wildlife, landscapes, pleasing townscapes and historic buildings.

• **Prudent use of natural resources.** This means using non-renewable resources like oil and gas wisely and making sure that we encourage and facilitate the development of alternatives to replace them as a matter of urgency.

• **Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.** This is so everyone can share in good living standards and job opportunities. We must also remember the needs of people in less developed countries. Together with the Council, Derby Homes' Environmental Policy will play a key role in working towards sustainable development, because the health and well-being of our environment is crucial for providing us all with a good quality of life, both today and for the years to come.

'Our overall goal is to protect and enhance the environment while sustaining it for future generations. We will do this by working in partnership with others to continually improve our environmental performance.'

1. Climate change

Derby Homes will continue to raise awareness of the existence and causes of global warming and promote ways of mitigating and adapting to its effects. We

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will consider the implications of climate change on our strategies, plans and activities and encourage strategies that support the reduction of greenhouse gases.

2. Natural resources

Derby Homes will promote the importance of conserving fossil fuels and peat and the sustainable use of resources such as water and timber. It will also adopt water and energy waste reduction measures and take into account natural resource considerations when procuring goods and services.

3. Transport

Derby Homes will promote the reduction of motor vehicle journeys within the city and encourage more sustainable modes of transport, such as walking, cycling, rail and bus travel. ~~It will also strive to improve access to jobs and services, particularly for those in most need, by improving public transport and safety and reducing problems of congestion and pollution.~~

4. Natural environment

Derby Homes will protect and enhance our natural environment and protect our geological heritage. It will improve the extent, quality and variety of wildlife and will seek to reflect these aims in strategies adopted by, or relevant to, the city. It will also endeavour to improve existing green open space and create new, quality, accessible areas.

5. Built environment

Derby Homes will protect and enhance the built environment of the city, including its architectural, historic and archaeological identity. It will strive to improve the quality and design of the built environment, including making sure it is diverse, pleasant, safe and accessible. We will work with the Council and the Environment Agency on the implementation of its report 'Our City Our River' to ensure that if any social housing is demolished it is first replaced with similar accommodation.~~We~~

6. Pollution

Derby Homes will identify, monitor and seek to reduce air and land pollutants and improve air quality. It will also seek to address the problems of noise pollution. This will be done by controlling our own activities and by using our statutory powers to influence activities in the city.

7. Waste

Derby Homes will minimise waste by encouraging the reduction, repair and reuse of items and provide more opportunities and facilities for recycling and composting in Derby.

8. Purchasing and contracts

Derby Homes will encourage the purchase of goods and services that cause the least harm to the environment. It will also work with contractors and suppliers to help them improve their own environmental performance and to make sure that, when working for the Council, they adopt equivalent environmental standards.

9. Energy

Derby Homes will promote the benefits of energy conservation and reduction in the community and adopt energy-saving measures in administrative buildings. It will consider the 'embodied energy of what it specifies in its purchases and use

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the repair and maintenance of its existing building stock as another route to reducing energy use. It will also promote the benefits of renewable energy sources, whenever possible, and continue to source renewable power when this option is appropriate. It will explore and where possible cooperate with the Government's Green Deal opportunities when they are finalised

10. Health

Derby Homes will protect and improve the environment for the benefit of the mental and physical health of the people of Derby. It will provide opportunities and encourage people to enjoy an active outdoor lifestyle.

11. Environmental education

Derby Homes will work in partnership with others to encourage local people, organisations, community panels and its own Board members and employees to appreciate, protect and improve the environment. It's no good having an Environmental Policy if you can't put the various commitments into practice. In order to do this, Derby Homes will:

- work through an Environment and Renewable Energy Group, consisting of Board members, staff, tenants and specialist advisers. The Group will agree an action plan and monitor performance of the actions. It will report progress to the Board each year, and will be monitored through the Performance Management CommitteeBoard
- try to put its own environmental house in order and to set the environmental standards for others to follow, including those organisations that are represented on the city's Local Strategic Partnership – Derby City Partnership.
- give full consideration to environmental implications, as it does to the economic and social implications of all its activities
- aim to meet or exceed all its statutory environmental responsibilities and encourage other organisations to do the same
- avoid or minimise the risk of damage to our environment by employing safe technologies and operating procedures
- encourage the adoption of the international environmental management systems standard, ISO14001, to help provide a systematic approach to improve the environmental performance of the Council

- work through the Derby Homes procurement strategy to make sure that contractors and suppliers are aware of the environmental commitments outlined in this document and encourage them to adopt equivalent standards
- work corporately across Derby Homes to make sure that this Policy is clearly understood by its Board members and employees and is put into practice in everything it does
- provide a range of environmental awareness-raising initiatives for all its employees.

It will arrange specific training programmes and initiatives for key officers and councillorsBoard members to keep them informed of important developments

- work in partnership to identify and address key environmental issues at local, regional,

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national and international levels

- encourage and assist the people of Derby to take responsibility for their own activities

and enhance our local environment by providing appropriate environmental advice and

information. More specifically, the following measures will be employed to make sure that [Derby Homes](#) continues to make significant progress in this area:

- it will produce a publicly available annual review, which will describe the progress that has been made against each of the 11 aims outlined in this Policy
- it will review this document in three years from the date of its adoption, or together with the Council when it next reviews its policy, in order to keep abreast of the changing nature of environmental issues.

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The following definitions are based on those given by the sources found at the end of each paragraph:

Climate change: climate refers to the average weather experienced in a region over a long period, typically decades or longer. This includes temperature, wind and rainfall patterns. The climate of the Earth is not static and has changed many times in the past in response to a variety of natural causes. The term 'climate change' usually refers to recent changes in climate that have been observed since the early 1900s. Changes in climate that might accompany the warming of the atmosphere include changes in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather and sea level rise.

Source: UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP), www.ukcip.org.uk/default.asp

Embodied energy: all of the energy invested in bringing a material to its final product, including transportation.

Source: Sunlight Homes, www.littlesunlighthomes.com

Geological heritage: refers to sites chosen for their past, current and future contributions to the science of geology. They include extensive coastal sites and vast upland areas, man-made sites, such as quarries and cuttings, and landforms that are still evolving today.

Source: English Nature, www.english-nature.org.uk/special/geological/protect.htm

Global warming: the greenhouse effect is a natural phenomenon without which life on Earth, as we know it, would not be possible, as the Earth would be 30°C cooler. However, our modern lifestyles have resulted in the release of large amounts of greenhouse gases—like carbon dioxide and methane—into the atmosphere, increasing the greenhouse effect and, so, pushing up temperatures globally.

Source: UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP), www.ukcip.org.uk/default.asp

Renewable energy: includes solar power, wind, wave, tide and hydroelectricity. Solid renewable energy sources consist of energy crops, other biomass, wood, straw and waste, whereas gaseous renewables consist of landfill and sewage waste.

~~Source: Department of Trade and Industry (now the responsibility of DEFRA),
<http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/whitepaper/ourenergyfuture.pdf>~~

~~10~~

~~Key strategies that will take forward the aims of the Policy:~~

~~**Built Environment**~~

~~City of Derby Local Plan~~

~~**Energy**~~

~~Derby Homes' Asset Management Strategy~~

~~**Health**~~

~~A Public Health Strategy for Derby 2004—2010~~

~~**Natural Environment**~~

~~Derby Nature Conservation Strategy~~

~~Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Action Plan~~

~~**Pollution**~~

~~Derby's Air Quality Action Plans~~

~~Contaminated Land Strategy~~

~~**Purchasing and Contracts**~~

~~Derby Homes Procurement Code~~

~~**Transport**~~

~~Derby Joint Local Transport Plan~~

~~**Waste**~~

~~Derbyshire Waste Management Strategy~~

~~Some of these documents can be seen on the Council's website: www.derby.gov.uk,
and on the Derby Homes website www.derbyhomes.org~~

~~If you are unable to view any of the documents and would like to see a hard
copy, please contact Shaun Bennett Director of Investment and Regeneration tel:
01332 888524 744064, or the **City Council Environmental Co-ordination
Team on 01332 255569/256276/256287 update** and they will advise you.~~

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~~pollution~~
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