



*A SUMMARY OF THE*  
**HERTFORD TOWN COUNCIL**

# **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY**

2025 - 2028





## Hertford Town Council declared a climate emergency back in July 2023.

To help tackle this emergency, the Council has put together this environmental sustainability strategy, declaring both its commitment and its aim to be carbon neutral by 2030 and to do all in its power to protect our environment and make Hertford as sustainable as possible.

As a Council, we have begun work on making our own buildings and operations more sustainable in order to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2030. This strategy outlines how we will continue to improve our own buildings and operations whilst also tackling the climate and ecological emergency across the town. To do this we will:

- Work in partnership with residents, businesses, charities and other organisations to influence positive behavioural change to improve the environment and sustainability of Hertford.
- Use our role as the most local tier of local government to influence policy that affects Hertford –working with both District and County Councils on issues such as public transport and roads, waste and recycling, and planning.
- Aim to transform the way we operate as a Council and to further improve those areas of the town over which we have direct control, such as our own buildings, operations, and green spaces.



**We will achieve these goals through implementing work within the following themes:**



### **GREENER COMMUNITIES**

Helping Hertford to be more sustainable

### **WALKING, WHEELING AND CYCLING**

Enabling more sustainable forms of transport



### **NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY**

Protecting and enhancing biodiversity

### **A GREENER COUNCIL**

Transforming our own estate and operations





# GREENER COMMUNITIES



- **Use our Influence** to push for more sustainable development and infrastructure decisions at both a County and District level. This includes commenting on planning applications according to our planning aspirations for the town and passing these comments to the District Council.
- **Provide advice on grants** for projects that help deliver this strategy, such as energy efficiency improvements to homes and businesses' that could potentially save money for our residents and businesses. This includes supporting green projects and initiatives that align with this strategy, through the allocation of the Hertford Town Council Community Fund.
- **Engage with the community** about this strategy and provide advice to residents and businesses on how they can reduce their impact on the environment and be more sustainable.
- **Enable members of the community** to be greener by supporting initiatives and partnerships that help deliver this strategy.
- **Support the development of the Castle Plus Neighbourhood Plan** to improve the sustainability of any new development in the town and to protect and enhance green space and biodiversity.



Image credit: Scott Garrod





## WALKING, WHEELING AND CYCLING

- **Encourage and support initiatives to promote active travel** – for environmental benefit as well as improved health and wellbeing. We will also improve wayfinding in the town, so that pedestrian and cycle routes are clearly signposted. This will be in line with Hertford Town Council's Sustainable Tourism Strategy.
- **Support projects to improve air quality** by reducing traffic and congestion. This includes working with partners to seek the installation of Car Park Variable Message Signs (VMS).
- **Encourage and support initiatives to make public spaces safe, accessible and inclusive**, this could include working with the highways authority to widen pavements, implement more dropped kerbs and improve surfaces.



# NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY



- **Protect and enhance our green spaces**, this includes continuing to sensitively maintain the greenspaces we own and manage and identifying nature corridors to allow the movement of wild species as set out in the Hertfordshire County Council Nature Recovery Strategy.
- **Enhance biodiversity** in the town with nature-friendly green space and new wildlife habitats, this includes creating places for new wildlife habitats such as mini rewilding areas, planting wildflower meadows and micro forests through Miyawaki planting methods.
- **Take action where we can to improve the quality of our water bodies** and increase water efficiency. This includes helping residents, businesses and schools to reduce their water use by working with the local water supplier to develop educational resources on water efficiency.

We will also play a key role in the **Hertford Castle Greenspace Renewal** project and its activities that promote nature enhancement and community involvement, in the heart of the town.



*Image credit: Scott Garrod*





## A GREENER COUNCIL

- **Make our buildings and operations more energy efficient** and sustainable, showcasing best practice - this includes completing our Eco Audit actions, working towards a sustainable accreditation scheme and switching to low-carbon heating systems where possible.
- **Develop a Sustainable Procurement policy**; implementing high sustainability standards for anything we procure and giving priority to recycled, Fairtrade and locally sourced products. We will ensure that our suppliers are aligned with our Sustainable Procurement Policy and that their approach to sustainable and responsible procurement is detailed in contracts.
- **Be mindful of offering environmentally friendly choices through our events** by, for example, offering plant-based food and drink options at Castle events. We will champion and support local food and drink providers that adopt innovative sustainable practices, including the Refill scheme.



## We have...

- Reduced paper usage from 660,000 to 43,000 A4 sheets per annum - saving 77 trees per year for a decade!
- Launched the Refill Scheme to reduce plastic pollution - with 35 Refill stations across Hertford.
- Signed River Action's 'Charter for Rivers'.
- Adopted a biodiversity policy.
- Banned use of pesticides/herbicides on Council land/allotments.
- Hosted our first BioBlitz in collaboration with the Hertford Castle Greenspace Renewal Project.
- Planned an Eco Fest event and shared community activities around sustainability and nature.



## We will...

- Develop a Sustainable Procurement Policy that ensures any products or services we purchase are sustainably and responsibly sourced.
- Increase the number of nature-friendly plant species in green spaces, hanging baskets and planters.
- Support active travel and contribute to East Herts District Council's development of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).

Read the full Strategy at:  
<https://www.hertford.gov.uk/strategies-and-business-plan/>

Please share your thoughts and any ideas for initiatives via [comms@hertford.gov.uk](mailto:comms@hertford.gov.uk)