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# DurhamWorks Sustainable Development Policy

Version 1

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## **Introduction**

The DurhamWorks Sustainable Development Policy is aimed at core staff, Delivery Partners/ Subcontractors and their staff and DurhamWorks participants.

The aim of the policy is to reaffirm our commitment to sustainable development, detail our priorities and confirm how the policy and Sustainable Development Implementation Plan will be communicated, promoted and monitored across the wider project.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- Improve information for employees, partners and participants about their roles and responsibilities
- Improve cost control
- Conserve raw materials and energy
- Improve monitoring of environmental impacts
- Improve efficiency of processes
- Comply with all regulatory requirements

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

DCC as the lead partner for DurhamWorks along with the Sustainability Steering Group will be responsible for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Policy and Implementation Plan. The Policy and Plan will also be monitored by the DurhamWorks Operational Group bi monthly as a minimum alongside the Sustainability Steering Group.

## **DurhamWorks Commitment:**

Durham County Council (DCC) as Lead Partner for the DurhamWorks project publicly affirms its commitment to looking after the environment through promoting sustainable development. The project, led by the council, will carry out its activities in compliance with relevant environmental legislation and is committed to continuous, measurable improvement in environmental performance whilst delivering European Social Funded (ESF) activities.

Durham County Council, as the lead partner for the DurhamWorks project, will share best practice with all staff, internal and external Delivery partners and Subcontractors (named in appendix 1) and participants. This policy provides assurance that they will also support sustainable development in line with the DurhamWorks Sustainable Development Plan. All delivery partners and subcontractors will be required to have their own Sustainable Development Policy and Sustainable Development Implementation Plan which is either aligned to the Programme Level Policy and Plan or reflects it. Durhamworks will work closely with DCCs Sustainability and Climate Change Team to access information and best practice from them through external partnerships such as the Environmental and Climate Change Partnership, the LA7 Green Economy working group and the Regional Energy Officers working group

## **Principles:**

In line with DCC policies and procedures, the following principles will be implemented throughout DurhamWorks wherever feasible, within existing financial constraints across all internal and external partners and subcontractors where possible.

- **Energy Consumption and Climate Change**

In line with DCC's declaration of a 'Climate Emergency' in February 2019, DurhamWorks will actively work to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from its buildings and operations. It will seek to address energy use from heating and powering buildings and from transport and transport infrastructure. This will primarily be done through reducing demand and staff education.

- **Waste Minimisation**

The project will work to prevent waste from being generated by its operations. Any waste will be disposed of, using registered waste disposal collectors, in a safe, legal, and responsible way, prioritising re-use, repair and recycling, and where possible avoiding disposal in landfill. As the lead partner Durham County Council will check that all partners and subcontractors dispose of its waste using a registered waste collector and observe and comply with the Waste Electrical and Electronic (WEEE) regulations 2013 ([WEE regulations](#)) and ensure that WEEE is not mixed with general waste and is disposed of legally.

- **Minimise the use of Travel**

The DurhamWorks project will work to reduce the environmental impacts of staff delivery partner and participant travel and seek innovative solutions to travel around the County. It will promote the use of video conferencing where possible and car sharing when meeting is a necessity. It will actively seek ways in which to reduce air pollution from Council activities through the promotion of public and green transport where travel is unavoidable.

- **Awareness Raising, Monitoring and Review**

DCC as the lead partner will ensure that DurhamWorks staff, Delivery Partners subcontractors and participants are familiar with this policy and associated Implementation Plan. Individual and team responsibility towards the environment will be promoted through the Steering Group, 'Climate Change' Champions and the implementation plan. Indicators will be developed to measure environmental performance and reported to a Project Steering Group and through the quarterly project Progress Report to DWP. Sustainable Development has been written into all Delivery Partner Service Level Agreements (SLA's) and Subcontractor contracts and will also be incorporated into the monitoring and review process. Any new partners and or subcontractors will be required to promote sustainable development in line with legislation and to have a Sustainable Development Policy and Implementation Plan aligned to the programme level plan.

## **Appendix 1**

### **Delivery Partners**

This DurhamWorks Sustainable Development Policy covers all activity delivered through this DurhamWorks either directly or via Delivery partners and subcontractors.

#### **External Delivery Partners**

- SHAID
- Citizens Advice Bureau County Durham
- Groundwork North east and Cumbria
- The Cornforth partnership
- Delta North Consett
- Foundation of Light.

#### **Internal Delivery Partners**

- Progression and Learning.

#### **Subcontractors**

- Groundwork North East and Cumbria
- Optimum Skills
- Thirteen Group
- Fane
- Raw Digital
- First Point Training
- The Cornforth Partnership
- NEAS.