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# **DurhamWorks 3 Sustainable Development Policy**

## **2022 - 2023**

Version 1

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Created by: Programme Support Officer

Management endorsement by: External Programme Manager

Strategic Partnership endorsement by: Strategic Group

## **Introduction**

The DurhamWorks 3 Sustainable Development Policy is aimed at core staff, Delivery Partners/subcontractors and their staff and participants. The aim of the Policy is to confirm 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 in relation to sustainable development and climate change.
- Improve cost control.
- Conserve raw materials and energy.
- Improve monitoring and reduce environmental impacts.
- Improve efficiency of processes.
- Respond to the global and local climate change emergency.
- Comply with all regulatory requirements and contribute to tackling the challenges as defined by the UN sustainable development goals.

## **Responsibility**

Durham County Council (DCC) as the lead partner for DurhamWorks 3, along with the Cross Cutting Themes Steering Group, will be responsible for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Policy and Implementation Plan. The Policy and Plan will be monitored by the DurhamWorks 3 Operational Management Group monthly as a minimum alongside a Cross Cutting Themes Steering Group made up of DurhamWorks staff and Delivery Partners. Subcontractors will be invited onto the group where appropriate.

## **DurhamWorks 3 Commitment:**

Durham County Council (DCC) as Lead Partner for the DurhamWorks 3 project, publicly affirms its commitment to looking after the environment through promoting sustainable development. The nationally recognised Investors in the Environment (IiE) management system has been developed by DCC to record, monitor and improve all environmental aspects of organisational operations leading to an auditable, externally verified accreditation. This project, led by the council, will carry out its activities in compliance with DCC and 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 3 project, will share best practice with all staff, internal and external Delivery Partners (named in

Appendix 1) and participants. This policy provides assurance that they will also support sustainable development in line with the DurhamWorks 3 Sustainable Development Plan. All Delivery Partners 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 3 will work closely with DCC's Sustainability and Climate Change Team to access information and best practice through the Climate Emergency Response Plan and partnerships including the Environmental and Climate Change Partnership, NECA and NELEP.

The above will also apply to any subcontractors who may join the DurhamWorks 3 project.

### **Principles:**

In line with DCC policies and procedures, the following principles will be implemented throughout DurhamWorks 3 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 3 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, smarter working and through 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, DCC will check that all partners and subcontractors dispose of their 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 3 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 meetings are 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 3 staff, Delivery Partners, any subsequent subcontractors and participants are familiar with this policy and associated Implementation Plan. Individual and team responsibility towards the environment will be promoted through the Cross-Cutting Themes Steering Group, 'Climate Champions' and the Implementation Plan. Indicators will be developed to measure environmental and sustainable development performance and will be reported to the Operational Management Group and through the quarterly Progress Report to DWP. Sustainable Development will be written into all Delivery Partner Service Level Agreements (SLAs) and into subcontractors' contracts. Sustainability will also be incorporated into the monitoring and review process. Any new partners 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 3 Sustainable Development Policy covers all activity delivered through DurhamWorks 3 either directly by Durham County Council or via Delivery Partners and subcontractors.

<b>External Delivery Partners:</b>
Groundwork NE and Yorkshire
Springboard