Reference Number: *P50*

# SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

| Policy Review | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Author/Owner** | **Position** | **Approved by:** | **Approval Date** | **Review Cycle Review Date** | **Published on Website Y/N** |
| Craig Cullen | Head of Infrastructure | Signed:<br>Vice Principal Infrastructure and Projects | 24.09.26 | Annually | Y |

| Document Control – Revision History (Policies only) | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Author/Owner** | **Summary of Changes** | **Date** | **Date last reviewed by SED** | **Version** | **Recommend to SED Y/N** |
| Emma Cox | Minor amendments to reflect additional reporting. | 27.02.18 | 15.06.16 | | N |
| Emma Cox | Minor amendments ie capitalisation, duplicated paras | 11.02.21 | | | N |
| Emma Cox | Updated to Head of Infrastructure and related policies and procedures | 19/5/23 | | V1 | |
| Emma Cox | Minor updates to referenced documents | 30/01/025 | | V1.1 | |
| Katie Lister/James Pill Waring | Annual review update of 3.3 monitoring now P'Ship and removed key aims due to duplication with principals | | | V1.2 | N |

**Initial Equality Impact Screening**

**Has anyone else been consulted on this policy and/or procedure?** Yes – Head of **HE and Adult Education**

**What evidence has been used for this impact screening (e.g. related policies, publications)?**

**Declaration (please tick one statement and indicate any negative impacts)**

[X] I am satisfied that an initial screening has been carried out on this Policy and/or Procedure and a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required. There are no specific negative impacts on any of the Protected Characteristics groups.

[ ] I recommend that an Equality Impact Assessment is required by the Equality and Diversity group, as possible negative impacts have been identified for one or more of the Protected Characteristics groups as follows:

- ☐ Age
- ☐ Disability
- ☐ Gender Reassignment
- ☐ Race
- ☐ Religion or belief
- ☐ Sex
- ☐ Sexual orientation
- ☐ Marriage & civil partnership
- ☐ Pregnancy & maternity

| **Completed by:** | Emma Cox | **Position:** | VP Infrastructure and Projects | **Date:** | Jan 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Reviewed by Equality & Diversity Group: YES If Yes: Date: 30/9/21

I confirm that any recommended amendments have been made

**Summary of Comments including Recommendations from Equality & Diversity Group Review:**

| **Amended by Author:** | | **Position:** | | **Date:** | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Contents

1. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY ..... 3
2. SCOPE ..... 3
3. RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY ..... 3
4. PRINCIPLES ..... 3
5. DEVELOPMENT AND PROCUREMENT ..... 5
6. RELATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES, DOCUMENTS, DEFINITIONS ..... 6

## 1. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

1.1 Yeovil College is committed to sustainability and recognises that it can contribute towards conservation and protection of the environment – evolving our operation and curriculum to meet the climate emergency is recognised as a strategic aim in the College's 2023-2028 strategic plan. Sustainability is about meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs.

1.2 This policy provides a management framework for continual environmental improvement allowing for the adoption of new ideas and innovation.

1.3 It sets responsibilities and accountabilities with respect to the environment and empowers members of the College community to manage environmental issues.

## 2. SCOPE

2.1 The policy applies to everyone in the Yeovil College Community.

## 3. RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY

3.1 College Strategic Aims and Operating Plans target improvement, including sustainability.

3.2 The Head of Infrastructure will determine key projects, and target impacts annually through consultation with stakeholders and interested parties. Projects and action plans will be monitored by Principalship and will be reported through to the Governing Body.

3.3 The College will maintain a Sustainability Policy and report on sustainability-related activity, progress and priorities. This supports the College's strategic objectives and aligns with DfE sustainability expectations, public sector accountability requirements and good governance practice.

## 4. PRINCIPLES

4.1 <u>Promotion</u>

4.1.1 By raising the awareness for both students and staff through the curriculum and tutorial schemes of work and College wide activities and by the use of focused

themed weeks to highlight the responsibility of everyone e.g. World Environment Day and Green Careers Week.

4.1.2 Improve physical and mental well-being.

4.1.3 Reduce health inequalities by supporting: healthy, balanced lifestyles; healthy homes and workplaces; clean, safe and green environments; and supportive and inclusive community.

4.2 Reduce our carbon footprint

4.2.1 Be resource wise.

4.2.2 Cut consumption of resources and adopt high energy, water and resource efficiency at home and at work; maximise the use of local, renewable energy; minimise waste and prevent pollution.

4.2.3 Reduce high carbon travel.

4.3 Sustainable local transport

4.3.1 Encourage the use of public or sustainable transport for all staff and students e.g. walking and cycling, cycle to work scheme for staff, cycle racks and shower/locker facilities, limit parking facilities, encourage car sharing.

4.3.2 Encourage sustainable transport links to rural areas where student numbers support the provision of dedicated bus services.

4.4 Enhance the local environment

4.4.1 Use locally and ethically sourced goods and services – and strengthen local/regional supply chains – to boost our local economies.

4.4.2 Enhance and celebrate local distinctiveness and diversity.

4.4.3 Protect and enhance our natural resources and biodiversity, culture and heritage.

4.4.4 Consult with appropriate local authority representatives when in the planning stage of a new building or development e.g. planning officer, landscaping officer, tree officer.

4.4.5 Implement a locally appropriate biodiversity programme for all new builds e.g. tree planting, bird boxes.

## 5. DEVELOPMENT AND PROCUREMENT

5.1 The College will minimise the life cycle environmental impact of new buildings and other developments by:

- Applying circular economy principles in design, construction, and refurbishment.
- Aim for all new builds to meet BREEAM 'Very Good' as a minimum, and 'Excellent' where cost-effective.

5.2 The College will promote sustainability in maintenance practices for construction and refurbishment projects that:

- Prioritise low-carbon materials and technologies.
- Incorporate biodiversity and consider enhancements such as green roofs, tree planting, and wildlife habitats.

5.3 The College will embed sustainability into all procurement decisions by:

- Assessing the full lifecycle impact of products and services, including production, use, and disposal.
- Prioritising suppliers with demonstrable environmental credentials (e.g. ISO 14001, Net Zero plans).
- Preferring products that are reusable, recyclable, or made from recycled materials, where performance is unaffected by doing so.
- Avoiding single-use plastics and promoting modular, repairable equipment.

5.4 The College will support ethical and socially responsible procurement by:

- Ensuring suppliers adhere to fair labour practices and ethical sourcing standards.
- Supporting local and SME suppliers to strengthen regional economies and reduce transport emissions.

5.5 Procurement staff will receive training on sustainable procurement principles and tools, and sustainability will be a key criterion in supplier selection and contract management.

## 6. RELATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES, DOCUMENTS, DEFINITIONS

a. Health Wellbeing and Fitness to Study Policy
b. Drugs, Alcohol and Substance Misuse Policy
c. Equality Diversity and Inclusion Policy & Procedure
d. Financial Regulations
e. Health & Safety Policy
f. Subcontracting Fees and Charges Policy
g. Climate Change Act 2008 and the UK Government's statutory commitment to achieve Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
h. UN Sustainable Development Goal 13: Climate Action
i. Environment Act 2021
j. Environmental Protection Act 1990
k. Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations
l. Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
m. Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty
n. Modern Slavery Act 2015
o. Public procurement legislation and statutory guidance applicable to the College
p. DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy for Education and Children's Services
q. FE-sector funding, accountability and assurance expectations
r. Ofsted Education Inspection Framework