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Policy Name	Sustainability Policy
Policy Author	Director
Approved by Sub Committee	N/A
Approved by Management Committee	January 2026
Latest date of Next Review	January 2029

West Whitlawburn Housing Co-operative will provide this policy on request at no cost, in larger print, in Braille, in audio or other non-written format, and in a variety of languages. Please contact the office.

1. Introduction

West Whitlawburn Housing Co-operative (WWHC) recognises its roles both as a landlord and in relation to promoting and supporting the sustainability of the community it serves.

WWHC provides, manages and maintains good quality affordable housing and supports additional activities to ensure community sustainability.

2. Purpose

2.1 We aim to provide, maintain and manage high quality affordable housing to sustain our local community. We wish to promote a culture that focuses on the economic, social and environmental improvement of our homes

2.2 We recognise that our environment is fragile and we need to conserve resources to protect our future. As both a consumer of services and provider of homes, we can work to reduce the impact of our activities on the environment.

3. Policy Objectives

This policy sets out the key principles of our approach to:

- Sustainable properties
- Sustainable community
- Sustainable organisation

3.1 Sustainable Properties

WWHC aims to maintain and improve our properties by maximising our investment and resources through an evidence based decision making process. To achieve this, we have a robust Asset Management Strategy which is key to our Business Plan.

The sustainability focus of our activities will be on the following areas:

- Reduce tenant energy consumption: we will support tenants to reduce consumption of fuel whilst enabling them to remain safe and warm. This will inform improvement works and when providing various forms of advice and information. We will investigate potential funding for energy efficiency measures when available. WWHC will investigate and encourage options which will ultimately reduce or eliminate fuel poverty for our tenants. WWHC will update Energy Performance Certificates as

required by legislated timescales. WWHC will continue to work toward making properties as energy efficient as possible.

- Monitor and report 6 monthly to the Performance Assurance and Risk Sub Committee on biomass usage levels and carbon savings from the district heating network.
- Reduce low life cycle products where possible: we will seek to use products in our planned replacement programmes, that have long life-spans and deliver energy efficient solutions during their lifetime.
- Make the best use of green space: We will encourage a range of planting and growing to increase biodiversity across our area of operation. We will engage with residents in the use of their open spaces and where quality of open spaces is poor, we will work with residents to undertake improvements.
- Manage water efficiently: we will work to reduce water consumption and encourage residents to do the same. We will seek to use components in our planned replacement programme, that limit water usage such as low/dual flush WCs, aerating taps and flow-restricted showers.
- Minimising pollution by creating minimum dependence on polluting materials, management practices, energy and transport. Where practical, we will promote the use of clean transport, public transport and environmentally responsible operation of vehicles.
- Creating healthy environments enhancing living, leisure and work environments; not endangering the health of the staff, residents, contractors and the wider community through exposure to pollutants or toxic materials or harmful organisms.
- We will encourage the specification of environmentally friendly materials where appropriate. Consultants and Contractors will be encouraged to investigate the use of low embodied energy materials where possible (also taking into account that some may be high in embodied energy but over time will last longer and therefore overall have less impact and be more sustainable).
- Where appropriate, WWHC will encourage the use of materials from local suppliers, thus reducing transport costs and resources. Where possible, utilise the services of local contractors and source materials locally

3.2 Sustainable Community

WWHC recognises the need to be more than a housing provider due to the importance of addressing wider social and economic factors.

To ensure continual improvement in this area, WWHC will seek to address inequalities and exclusion in West Whitlawburn.

- Continue our role as a Community Anchor by providing services and supporting West Whitlawburn in being a strong, stable community
- Continue to promote social inclusion within the community through the Community Development Strategy. Safeguard our culture of innovation and customer service excellence, accessing funding to ensure we can continue to respond to community needs.
- Continue to work to facilitate and secure the provision of community facilities within the area used for tenancy support, advice services, activities including food and energy support along with community activities to minimise antisocial behaviour.
- Continue to work with all partners to ensure the provision of relevant services required for the area and to ensure adequate funding.
- Continue to promote opportunities for local training and employment within the community.
- Support the provision of local advice agencies such as money and welfare advice services, local credit unions and so on.
- Take action to promote and support tenancy sustainment activities accessing funding where possible.

3.3 Sustainable Organisation

The sustainability focus of our organisation and our operational activities will focus on the following areas:

- Reduce the carbon footprint of our operations: we will seek to ensure that our activities reduce waste, reduce energy consumption and minimise CO2 emissions where possible.

- Achieve best value for money through consideration of quality and whole life costs of goods and services purchased.
- Reduce waste: we will encourage and participate in recycling activities for both our residents and ourselves in order to recycle as much as possible. We will also ensure that goods are re-used as far as possible by supporting and participating in schemes that promote this. We will store materials for future use where possible; sell used components where possible; encourage Contractors and Service Providers to develop a waste management policy.
- Investigate opportunities for minimising energy consumption and waste production and maximising the use of re-cyclable materials.
- Promote the principles of sustainability and encourage participation and adherence to these from all residents, members, staff and committee members.
- Make best use of communications technology systems as alternatives to paper where possible and in line with tenant preferences.
- Work with the local community to strive to meet the specified needs and requirements for today and the future.

4. Policy Implementation

When striving to meet the sustainability aims set out in this policy, WWHC will not lose sight of the need to provide best value for money in housing for low-income households and respect the independence of the individual and their own lifestyle.

WWHC also recognises that there may be various policies, funding constraints and legal and political requirements that conflict with the ability to fully participate in the sustainability agenda. However, best efforts will be made where appropriate.

5. Equalities

WWHC's key aim is to ensure that its' policies and procedures do not create an unfair disadvantage for anyone, directly or indirectly.

We are committed to ensuring equal opportunities and fair treatment for all people in our work. In implementing this Policy, we will provide a fair and equal service to all people, irrespective of factors such as gender, race, disability, age, sexual orientation,

language or social origin, or other personal attributes.

6. Review and Update

WWHC will review this policy on a 3 yearly basis or earlier if required.

Equalities Impact Assessment

Policy/Project/Service Information			
Lead Officer	Director		
Policy / Project / Service	Sustainability Policy	New Policy / Project / Service or revision of existing?	Revision of Existing
Is this a reassessment following amendments being required at a previous assessment?	No		
Briefly describe the aims, objectives and purpose of the policy / project / service.	This policy sets out the key principles of WWHC's approach to sustainability for properties, community and organisation		
Who is intended to benefit from the policy / project / service? (E.g. applicants, tenants, staff, contractors)	Management Committee, staff, tenants and residents, contractors		
What outcomes are wanted from this policy / project / service? (E.g. the measurable changes or benefits to members/ tenants / staff)	WWHC aims to provide, maintain and manage high quality affordable housing to sustain our local community and to promote a culture that focuses on the economic, social and environmental improvement of our homes.		

Consultation
Who have you engaged and consulted with as part of your assessment?
N/A

Equalities Impact Assessment			
Which protected characteristics could be affected by the policy, practice, or service?		Identify any positive impact/s that could result for each of the protected characteristic groups.	Identify any negative impact/s that could result for each of the protected characteristic groups.
Age			
Disability			
Gender Reassignment			
Marriage & Civil Partnership			
Race			
Religion/Belief			
Pregnancy/Maternity			
Sex			
Sexual Orientation			

Action Plan To Mitigate Negative Impact		
What action/s are required to address the impacts arising from this assessment?		
Protected characteristics	Action	Implementation Date
Age		
Disability		
Gender Reassignment		
Marriage & Civil Partnership		
Race		
Religion/Belief		

Pregnancy/Maternity		
Sex		
Sexual Orientation		
Human Rights		

Final Decision	Tick relevant box	Include explanation where appropriate
Approved for implementation without change		
Amend or change the Policy/Project/Service		
Continue the Policy/Project/Service without change (despite impact)		
Stop the Policy/Project/Service		
Lead Officer Signature	G Clayton	
Date	20/01/2026	
Date approved by Management Committee/ Sub Committee		