

**Ashington Town Council Working from Home Policy Motion**

**Ashington Town Council notes:**

- Ashington Town Council emits 10.5 tonnes (10,400kg) of CO<sub>2</sub> per year due to staff travelling. It would take 65 mature trees to sequester this amount of carbon per year.
- Ashington Town Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and has committed to reducing its carbon footprint and showing climate leadership.
- Reducing unnecessary car journeys is an important tool in the fight against climate change.
- Since Covid 19 most employees have been working from home, and statistics have shown that as a result employees are more efficient, less likely to leave and have higher job satisfaction.

**The Climate Change Group is asked to support a recommendation that Ashington Town Council commits to:**

1. Creating and providing modern and efficient ways of working for employees. This includes reducing travel CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and tailoring working hours to better support the needs of the council, its employees, and residents.
2. Developing a range of flexible working practices to enable more effective working in a variety of ways from a variety of work settings.
3. Providing a policy framework for working from home where it is both feasible and desirable. Any arrangement for working from home should be voluntary on the part of the employee and at the discretion of the clerk. Any arrangement should not impact detrimentally on the quality and continuity of service provision in all of the functions and activities of the Council.