

Subject: ROSSENDALE ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY

**Status: For
Publication**

Report to: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY POLICY GROUP

Date: 22 February 2007

Report of: HEAD OF SERVICE, STREET SCENE AND LIVEABILITY

Portfolio

Holder: CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND LIVEABILITY

Key Decision:

YES (Please highlight)

Forward Plan

General Exception

Special Urgency

"X" In Relevant Box

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report the result of the recent public consultation exercise in relation to the Council's draft Environmental Strategy.
- 1.2 To seek approval for adoption of the revised Strategy.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 2.1 The matters discussed in this report are linked to and support the following corporate priorities:

- *Promoting Rossendale* – the proposal will demonstrate leadership and commitment to deliver benefits to residents and business by enhancing their ability to alter their energy consumption in ways that are beneficial to the climate, offer the potential for enhancing the economy by presenting business opportunities and help businesses to deliver their corporate social responsibilities. This is aimed at contributing to the achievement of the strategic objective related to the Environment. The proposal would be delivered by encouraging action through partnership activity.

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 4.1 On 2nd November 2006, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report describing the proposal to produce an Environmental Strategy for the Council and publish it for public consultation. The report was considered and approved for consultation by Council at its meeting in December 2006.
- 4.2 Consultation on the draft copy of the Rossendale Environmental Strategy ran from Monday 11th December 2006 to Friday 26th January 2007. It was assumed that any group or persons who have not been in contact by 26/01/07 did not wish to make any amendments to Draft. Consultees were reminded that their comments would be public information unless they specifically requested confidentiality. No-one requested that confidentiality.

The Council consider this to be an important issue, and have therefore sent consultation letters or emails to;

- All the Departmental managers of Rossendale BC.
- Neighbouring Borough Councils.
- Local stakeholders such as businesses, amenities/services, schools, community groups and organisations.
- Experts in the field and people with working experience.
- A copy of drafted Environmental Strategy has been made available to the public via the Council website.
- A copy has also been made available to the general public, via local libraries and the Council webpage.

The consultation exercise was aimed at gaining a full understanding of the current levels of activity, the contributions groups and individuals can and do make and to gather ideas and encourage participation in the implementation of the strategy in order to help achieve its aims and objectives.

- 4.3 The consultation attracted 6 responses. Although the number was few, the quality of responses has helped to improve the strategy. The attached document lists the comments made and the proposed responses, which have been included in the current version of the Strategy.

5. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications of this report. However, action resulting from the implementation of the Environmental Strategy, including Climate Change could both result in expenditure and cost savings.

6. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

- 6.1 None

7. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

7.1 None

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 The draft Environmental Strategy has been much improved through the incorporation of comments following public consultation and is now ready to be taken forward for implementation.

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

9.1 That the Environment Strategy be adopted and implemented.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

10.1 the consultation process is described in paragraph 4.2 above.

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Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
	Stubbylee Hall www.defra.gov.uk www.climatechallenge.gov.uk