

Subject: Rossendale Environmental Strategy

Status: For Publication

Report to: The Cabinet

Date: 21 March 2007

Report of: Head of Street Scene and Liveability

Portfolio

Holder: Street Scene and Liveability

Key Decision:

Yes

Forward Plan

General Exception

Special Urgency

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.
 - *Keeping the Borough Clean and Green* – the proposal will link to all aspects of the local environment and involve a wide range of organisations and individuals.

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.
- 4.4 The responses and amended strategy were considered by the Council's Policy Scrutiny Committee on 22nd February 2007. The Committee accepted the proposed alterations to the policy and made reference to the importance of mitigating the expected increase in flood risk and noted activity currently underway in respect of the investigation of potentially contaminated land.

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 There are no immediate legal implications arising from the report.

7. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

7.1 There are no immediate human resource implications.

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. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That the Environmental Strategy be adopted and implemented.

9.2 That progress be monitored and reported on an annual basis.

9.3 That Officers be requested to produce a delivery plan in line with programme management techniques.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

10.1 The consultation process is described in paragraph 4.2 above.

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| Background Papers | |
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| Document | Place of Inspection |
| Rossendale Borough Council Corporate Improvement Plan 2006-2009 A Sustainable Environment for Lancashire 2005-2010 Ambition Lancashire 2005-2025 Strategic vision for the future of Lancashire | Stubbylee Hall www.defra.gov.uk www.climatechallenge.gov.uk |