

Subject: Environmental Policy

Status: For Publication

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 12th December 2007

Report of: Head of Street Scene and Neighbourhood Services

Portfolio

Holder: A Clean and Green Rossendale

Key Decision: Yes

Forward Plan

General Exception

Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is intended to set out the Council's Environmental Policy, which is a publicly available declaration of its intentions and commitments in improving our environmental performance.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities and associated corporate objective.
- Keeping Our Borough Clean and Green (Environment)
 - The environmental policy provides the guidelines for how the Authority will work towards delivery of the aims and objectives of the Environmental Strategy.
 - Promoting Rossendale as a cracking place to live and visit (Economy)
 - By demonstrating a commitment to improving and protecting the environment.
 - Improving health and well being across the Borough (Health, Housing)
 - Protecting and improving the environment has a direct beneficial effect on the health and well-being of residents, businesses and visitors.

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 The Council approved an Environmental Strategy in March 2007. This identified the overall Vision, aims and objectives to be achieved. The Vision is that “by 2020 Rossendale will be a place which has attractive rural settings, a fantastic street scene and is easily accessible by all”. The strategy sets out ways in which the Council, working with partners, can contribute to the achievement of the Vision.
- 4.2 The Aims contained in the Strategy identify aspects of the environment and set out a framework within which action and progress can be identified and monitored. Progress and achievement will be managed within the Acorn Environmental Management System.
- 4.3 The Council now has a duty to have regard to the current Energy Measures Report published by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. This Policy will demonstrate the Council’s commitment to comply with this duty.
- 4.4 Early feedback from the East Lancs Feedb@ck Panel survey in May 2007 indicated that a minority of respondents in Rossendale felt that the Council is doing enough in relation to tree planting, encouraging “green” buildings, help with home energy efficiency and encouraging “green” transport. By adopting this policy, the Council will be demonstrating a commitment to improving and protecting the environment in all these, and more, aspects.
- 4.5 The Policy will indicate the approach that should be taken in the design and delivery of services which are intended to achieve the aims and objectives of the strategy.

5. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

- 5.1 The Council has now begun to consider, within the use of its financial resources, the impact on the environment, particularly in the area of procurement.

6. COMMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF REGULATORY SERVICES

- 6.1 The Council’s Environmental Policy is an important contribution towards keeping the Borough Clean and Green.

7. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

- 7.1 There are no Human Resource implications in this report.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The Council has indicated its commitment in various ways to support and promote the protection and improvement of the environment in Rossendale. The adoption of a single policy, while being an essential requirement of working towards achievement of an Environmental Management System within the

process outlined in the British Standard BS 8555, will provide an all embracing framework within which services can be planned and delivered to implement the Environmental Strategy.

- 8.2 The policy is described as a draft as, although it should not materially change during development of the Environmental Strategy, it can (and probably will) be altered as our system evolves, but will need to be finalized by the time we achieve Phase 3 of the Acorn System (by mid 2008).

9. RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 That Cabinet approves the draft policy for the purpose of encouraging consultation during development of the first phases of the Acorn scheme.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 10.1 The policy represents good practice and will be communicated with staff and partners and form an element of the general awareness raising activity to be undertaken during the coming 3 months. As a consequence of this communication process, amendments to the policy may become apparent.

11. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is an Equality Impact Assessment required Yes

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Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Rossendale Borough Council – Environmental Strategy	Stubbylee Hall, Bacup
IEMA Acorn Scheme	Stubbylee Hall, Bacup
BS 8555:2003 Environmental Management System. Guide to the phased implementation of an environmental management system including the use of environmental performance evaluation.	Stubbylee Hall, Bacup