

Subject: ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY **Status:** For Publication

Report to: Policy Scrutiny Committee **Date:** 4th March 2008

Report of: Head of Street Scene and Neighbourhoods

Portfolio

Holder: Portfolio Holder for a Clean and Green Rossendale

Key Decision: Yes / No

Forward Plan / General Exception Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report contains the result of further consultation on the Council's Environmental Policy following its approval by Cabinet on 12th December 2007.

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 Environmental Policy is the driver for the whole of the Council's Environmental management System. When finalized, it would be a publicly available declaration of the Council's commitment to improving our environmental performance.
- 4.2 The Policy has been developed following examples of best practice elsewhere, including that of Kirklees MDC, a recognised leader in this area of activity.
- 4.3 This Policy was also developed as a response to the duty on the Council to have regard to the Energy Measures Report published in September 2007 by the Government.
- 4.4 The Policy would remain as a draft at this stage as its function is to help provide a focus for the further development of the Environmental Management System. It is envisaged that implementation of the Environmental Strategy and its associated Actions will lead to further refinement of the Policy in the near future. The Government's Climate Change Bill and the Lancashire Climate Change Strategy, both of which should be finalised during 2008, may also influence this Policy.
- 4.5 The only addition to the Policy since December has been the addition of a reference to the need to consider the impact of biodiversity in relation to any Council development.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

5. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 5.1 The Council has now begun to consider the financial impact of this strategy, particularly in the area of the Council's procurement.

6. MONITORING OFFICER

- 6.1 This Policy ensures that we have a Corporate approach to Climate change issues and environmental management .

7. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

- 7.1 No Human Resources implications.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The Council's commitment to supporting and promoting the protection and improvement of the environment in Rossendale is spelt out in this Policy.

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

9.1 That the Environmental Policy be adopted by Rossendale Borough Council

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

10.1 The Policy has been subject to consultation amongst Senior Management of Rossendale Council and with a group of representatives of all Departments within the Council.

11. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is an Equality Impact Assessment required Yes

Is an Equality Impact Assessment attached Yes

12. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required Yes

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment attached Yes

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Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Rossendale Borough Council – Environmental Strategy	Stubbylee Hall, Bacup
IEMA Acorn Scheme - Phase One, Stage Three	Stubbylee Hall, Bacup
Kirklees Metropolitan Council - Developing an Environmental Policy	Stubbylee Hall, Bacup