

## **Revision Of the Council's Environmental Policy**

The Council's Environmental Policy is now six years old. We are currently working on revising the policy. As part of this process we are approaching a number of local groups and organisations to ask what they think of the Policy and the Council's commitment to improving the environment, both locally and globally. Following this consultation process we intend to produce a draft document in the Autumn which will be placed on the Council's Forward Plan.

The existing Policy provides the Council with its overall environmental direction. It outlines the overall aims and working practices the organisation has adopted in this area, and provides a framework to develop more detailed projects and action plans. It also acts as a guide for all other Council-wide strategies to consider and takes account of the environmental implications they may have.

The revised Policy, like the existing one, will cover a broad range of environmental issues and will outline what the Council can do to address them. It will not be able to deal directly with the detail stemming from all of the issues that arise from the groups that are consulted, but will address the common issues that are raised in order to improve the environment for everyone.

We would like to engage the Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Commission in a 90-minute workshop to explore how the revised policy can be made more effective within the Council's policy and decision-making framework. This would comprise of a brief presentation to help set the scene to the exercise, followed by members splitting up into smaller groups to address a number of specific questions.