



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CABINET
15 MARCH 2005

Report of the Director of Development and Cultural Services

Revision of the Council's Environmental Policy

RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 Cabinet is asked to approve the revised Environmental Policy as set out in Appendix 3.
- 1.2 Cabinet is asked to recommend that Council formally adopt the new document.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Council's first Environmental Policy was adopted in 1998. A revision of this document has been considered necessary for a number of reasons, including the changing nature of environmental issues. In 1998 for example, no reference was made in the Policy to the issue of Climate Change because at that time it was still seen as a distant problem.
- 2.2 The aim of the Policy is to outline the Council's aims and intentions with regard to the local and global environment. It also provides a framework for the Council to develop more detailed objectives and action plans.
- 2.3 In order to revise the draft document the following consultation exercise was undertaken.

Pre-consultation

- 2.4 Before the draft document was put together for formal consultation, a series of pre-consultation events were held to help shape the parameters of the document. A number of presentations were given to the following groups at this early stage of the process:
 - Environment City Executive of Derby City Partnership
 - Council's Green Team.
 - Minority Ethnic Communities Advisory Committee
 - Disabled People's Advisory Committee
 - The Women's Advisory Committee
 - Derby Senior Forum
 - Derby Youth Forum (consulted through a questionnaire only).
- 2.5 A special workshop session was also held for members of the Planning and Environment Scrutiny Commission on Thursday 16th September.

Consultation on the draft revised Policy

- 2.6 The issues and ideas generated at these pre-consultation events lead to the development of the first draft of the document in October 2004. The document was then sent out to a wide network of both internal and external stakeholders including those groups that took part in the pre-consultation phase.
- 2.7 The deadline date for all comments coming back from this exercise was just before the Christmas holiday. The exercise proved to be very effective with 58 respondents sending in their views and aspirations. To help with this process each copy of the draft document, both hard and electronic, was accompanied by a standard feedback proforma that was designed to help respondents structure their comments.

Analysis of feedback

- 2.8 Appendix 2 contains a table that analyses all the individual comments that were received during the consultation process. The table has been divided into four sections to categorise the responses:
1. General expressions of support
 2. Specific comments relating to the draft Policy
 3. Observations and queries that were not focused on making specific changes to the Policy
 4. Comments concerning the design and graphics in the Policy.
- 2.9 General grammatical comments have not been included in the table and will be dealt with before the final document goes to print in a Plain English version.
- 2.10 In total approximately 230 comments are considered within the table. Those responses that are indicated in bold have been taken through as formal changes to the draft document. The table will be made available to all those who have taken the time to send in their comments and views about the document, via the Council's web site. For those people who may have difficulty with this approach, a paper copy of the table will be made available on request.
- 2.11 The most significant changes to the draft document are outlined below:
- Inclusion of a foreword to introduce the document, a list of the key policies and strategies that will help to implement the Policy, and a glossary of key terms. It also includes reference to a more detailed electronic version of the Policy on the Council's website.
 - Recognition is also made in the foreword and the first sentence of the document, that this is a revised version of the Environmental Policy. The definition we use of sustainable development on the second page is based on the Government's definition of the concept. A commentary is provided to reflect the environmental aspirations of the Council.
 - A number of the aims have been made more specific and focused which adds to the robustness of the document – for example, the aims regarding Climate Change, Pollution and Energy.

- The Natural and Built environment aim has been split into two separate aims.
 - A new statement has been included to encourage the uptake of ISO14001 throughout the Council.
- 2.12 To further refine the revised draft document, it was circulated internally to the following:
- Key officers with a specific environmental remit
 - Chief Officers
 - Members of the Planning and Environment Scrutiny Commission.
- 2.13 This exercise identified a number of minor modifications that have been incorporated in the final draft document that is contained in Appendix 3.
- 2.14 It is considered that the robustness of the consultation exercise described in this report has greatly improved the final product – a revised document that has clarity, accuracy and ambition. The process has also been beneficial in exposing a large number of individuals and local organisations to the Council’s environmental agenda. It has also provided an opportunity for a degree of personal reflection on their own environmental performance for all the consultees that have taken part.
- 2.15 This year’s EnviroLearn course has been designed to bring the Council’s Revised Environmental Policy to life by focusing on each of the 11 topic issues from Climate Change to Environmental Education. Each issue forms the focus of a three-hour module. Modules will be spread across the whole year to make the course more attractive to local people who would like know more about the environment and what they can do to help.

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Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 - Implications Appendix 2 - Table of comments Appendix 3 - The final draft revised Environmental Policy

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 The cost of producing a limited number of publicly available, hard copies of the Revised Policy will be met through the Environmental Co-ordination Team's annual revenue budget. Preference will be given to send out the document electronically to most external stakeholders.

Legal

- 2.1 The Council's Legal Team has scrutinized the revised Environmental Policy and is happy with the document.

Personnel

- 3.1 There are no personnel implications directly arising from this report.

Equalities impact

- 4.1 The Council's Advisory Committees have been actively involved in the consultation process at all stages.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 5.1 The proposal comes under the Council's Objective of a healthy environment.
- 5.2 The proposal furthers the priority of **continuing to expand doorstep recycling and other recycling activity.**