

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

9 September 2014

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**CORPORATE ENVIRONMENT POLICY
(Strategic Policy and Budget)**

1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval for the adoption of the revised Corporate Environment Policy.

2. Information and Analysis

In November 2004, Cabinet adopted the original Corporate Environment Policy. Changes to legislation and national environmental standards have resulted in the review and revision of the Policy which has been led by the corporate Environmental Sustainability Group, chaired by the Strategic Director of Economy, Transport and Environment. The revised Policy is attached at Appendix A for consideration.

In revising the Corporate Environment Policy, the Council is publicly setting out its commitment to putting the principles of sustainable development into action and the aims and promises detailed within the revised document outline the Council's environmental pledge. Promoting a better quality of life for Derbyshire communities, encouraging sustainable economic regeneration and protecting and enhancing the environment are key elements of the Council Plan, and the revised Policy details these environmental commitments.

The recommended changes to the Policy are in compliance with the International Standard BS EN ISO14001 Environmental Management Systems, which is an essential requirement of the certified environmental management system operated by the Economy, Transport and Environment Department.

3. Financial Considerations

Any financial implications will be met from existing budgets.

4. Environmental Considerations

The revised Corporate Environment Policy details the Council's commitments to minimising any adverse environmental impact, continued environmental performance improvements, the prevention of pollution and complying with relevant environmental legislation, council policies and other voluntary commitments.

5. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors have been considered; the prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, health, legal and human rights, personnel, property and transport considerations.

6. Key Decision

No

7. Background Papers

Council Plan 2014-2017

Report of the Chief Executive, November 2004: The Revised Corporate Environmental Policy

Derbyshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2014.

8. Officer's Recommendation

That approval is given to adopt the revised Corporate Environment Policy and to make it publicly available.

**Ian Stephenson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Environment Policy

Our Aims, Our Promises

Derbyshire County Council Environment Policy

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL is committed to putting the principles of sustainable development into action in everything we do. Promoting a better quality of life for Derbyshire communities, encouraging sustainable economic regeneration and protecting and enhancing the environment are the cornerstones of sustainable development. This is reflected in the most important document the council produces - the Council Plan, which incorporates environmental protection, conservation and enhancement.

We are a democratic organisation with a vital role in representing the interests of the people of Derbyshire. As a decision-maker, major employer, provider of services and agent for sustainable regeneration, we recognise the significant impact we have on the natural and built environments.

In working towards a more sustainable future we are not only committed to do what is required by law but to minimising any adverse environmental impact, while enhancing positive environmental effects to improve the quality of life for Derbyshire people.

We are keenly aware of our environmental responsibilities and have produced this revised environment policy to strengthen our existing commitments. We will encourage and enable all of our employees to do what they can to translate these aims into practice. We will also work with our contractors and suppliers to improve our environmental standards. This policy will therefore be communicated to all employees and contractors working for or on behalf of the County Council.

As part of monitoring our environmental performance we have set organisational objectives and targets to reduce carbon emissions. The authority has a sustainability scorecard to manage and report on the progress of each department.

In developing the environment policy, the county council is publicly setting out its commitment to continual environmental improvement and the prevention of pollution, in the shape of the aims and promises, which you will find on page 2 of this document.



Anne Western
Leader, Derbyshire County Council



Ian Stephenson
Chief Executive, Derbyshire County Council

Environment Policy

In everything we do, Derbyshire County Council is committed to...

Energy and Water

Using energy and water efficiently in council operations.

Pollution

Identifying, adopting and promoting technologies to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases, within council properties and the wider community.

Minimising and, where possible, eliminating the release of any pollutant which may cause damage to health and the environment.

Transport

Reducing the social and environmental impacts of road vehicles on council business.

Encouraging the use of more sustainable modes of transport for all journeys.

Waste

Minimising wastes by the best practicable environmental option by eliminating, reducing, reusing, composting and recycling them.

Managing unavoidable wastes in accordance with the council's Duty of Care obligations.

Natural and Built Environment

Protecting, conserving and enhancing the environment including landscape character, habitats and heritage.

Promoting bio-diversity and local distinctiveness and the conservation of both renewable and non-renewable resources.

Environmental Education

Raising awareness, educating and training employees, and contractors. Providing information to the public on environmental policies, practices and issues.

Purchasing and Contracts

Ensuring that the council's purchasing power is used to reduce negative environmental impacts and to improve the environmental standards of products and services the council purchases.

Environmental Assessment

Minimising the risk of damage and maximising opportunities for improving the environment by assessing the council's policies and practices for their environmental effects and adopting technologies and working practices which have the greatest benefit for sustainable development.

We will do this by...

Partnership Working

Working closely with other organisations, groups and individuals, where appropriate, to further the aims of this policy.

Objective Setting

Continually improving our environmental performance by setting realistic but challenging objectives and targets and regularly reviewing our progress.

Legal Compliance

Complying with relevant environmental legislation, council policies and other voluntary commitments through incorporation of the best economically achievable environmental practice in service delivery.

Environmental Management Systems

Operating and extending environmental management systems to control, monitor and enhance our environmental performance and communicating this policy to all employees and contractors.

Purchasing and Contracts

Including relevant environmental requirements when decisions are taken on contracts and service level agreements and working with contracted organisations and partners where appropriate to pursue improved environmental standards.

Freedom of Information

Promoting freedom of information to the public about the council's environmental performance against published targets.

Environmental Education

Fostering awareness and responsibility and encouraging enjoyment and appreciation of the environment amongst elected members, employees, the general public and particularly children and young people through information, awareness-raising and environmental education.

Policy Review

Reviewing this environment policy at least every 3 years in view of changes to the council's activities and priorities in light of new local, national and international developments.