

Subject: Environmental Strategy Update

Status: For Publication

Report to: Performance Scrutiny Committee

Date: 18th March 2008

Report of: Head of Street Scene and Neighbourhood

Portfolio Holder: Portfolio Holder for Clean and Green

Key Decision: Yes

Forward Plan

General Exception

Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report presents an updated Environmental Strategy together with detailed actions that are intended to be included in Service Plans to be delivered during 2008/9. Together they will implement the Council's Environmental Policy.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities and associated corporate objective.

- Delivering Quality Services to Customers (Customers, Improvement)
- Delivering Regeneration across the Borough (Economy, Housing)
- Keeping Our Borough Clean and Green (Environment)
- Promoting Rossendale as a cracking place to live and visit (Economy)
- Improving health and well being across the Borough (Health, Housing)
- Well Managed Council (Improvement, Community Network)

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- The Council has a duty to have regard to the Government's Energy Measures Report in relation to all its activities. This Strategy and Action Plan identifies the extent to which the issues raised in the Energy Measures Report have been addressed.
- As the actions shown in the document are being delivered through the Council's Service Planning system, performance achievement will be

monitored through the Performance Management System. In addition, achievement will be evidenced in relation to the Acorn Environmental Management System.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 4.1 Cabinet approved the draft Environmental Strategy in March 2007. Since then, further legislative developments have occurred and the Government's expectations, especially in relation to climate change, have increased, resulting in the publication, in September 2007, of the Energy Measures Report. The Council has a duty to have regard to this report and therefore development of actions was delayed pending that publication.
- 4.2 Discussions have been undertaken with representatives of all Council Departments in order to identify the contributions that could be made towards the implementation of the strategy. These have been included in the Action Plan appended to the Strategy.
- 4.3 Although the Action Plan identifies lead Departments or Sections, many of the Actions will be developed and delivered jointly between Departments or sections and with external partners, agencies, individuals and the community.
- 4.4 The intention is that 2008/9 will be a year for better understanding of the issues, development of baselines, competencies and capacity within the Council, development of partnerships and bids for future activity or funding will be developed. This will result in a sustainable process with future actions identified on the basis of evidence gathered and identified in future Business and Service plans.
- 4.5 This strategy will be revised on an annual basis and new Action Plans produced annually.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

5. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 5.1 The strategy does potentially have financial implications for the Council both within the management of its physical estate and in its provision and/or commissioning of services. A future example may be the Council's current electricity contract that ensures the use of "green" energy sources only, though currently this decision is cost neutral.

6. MONITORING OFFICER

- 6.1 This is an important report in the context of delivering the Council's priorities.

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

- 7.1 The purpose of the Strategy in the first year is to establish a benchmark that will lead to delivery of actions which will address environmental, and therefore

health, inequality issues. In addition, the Strategy will lead to a requirement for raising awareness of environmental issues amongst staff and Members.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The Strategy has been revised to bring it up to date and many actions have been identified that will improve, enhance and protect the whole of the environment in Rossendale. Delivery of the Strategy and Actions will evidence the Council's implementation of the Environmental Policy.

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 9.1 That Members note the revision of the Environmental Strategy and the related Action Plan for 2008/9.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 10.1 During the Summer of 2007, the Strategy was available for public consultation and was presented to the Local Strategic Partnership Environment Theme Group.
- 10.2 During the winter of 2007/8, detailed discussions were held with representatives of all Council Departments and Sections on the Actions to which they could commit.

11. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- Is an Equality Impact Assessment required No
- Is an Equality Impact Assessment attached No

12. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required No
- Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required No

Contact Officer	
Name	Philip Mepham
Position	Environmental Health Manager
Service / Team	Environmental Health
Telephone	01706 252566
Email address	philipmepham@rossendalebc.gov.uk

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Energy Measures Report	Stubbylee Hall