

Decision under Delegated Powers

Officer Requesting Decision

Maria French, Sustainability Officer

Officer Making the Decision

Richard Bennett, Head of Planning and Regeneration

Recommendation

1. That the amendments to the 2015 Environmental Policy, attached to this report, be approved.

Reason

1. To refresh the Environmental Policy to reflect the overall strategic direction of the Council in relation to the protection of the environment.

Authority for Decision

Under the provisions of section 8.2 of the Constitution the Head of Planning and Regeneration has delegated authority to make amendments to the Environmental Policy in response to legislative changes or changes at local or regional level in consultation with the relevant Lead Member.

Decision and Date



12 February 2021

Background

The Environmental Policy was approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 22nd October 2015 (minute 61 refers). The Policy sets out how the Council manages the environmental impact of its own activities.

The Environmental Policy contributes to the Council's 2020-2024 Corporate Strategy commitment to 'look after the environment for future generations'.

The Policy should be signed by the Leader, Lead Cabinet Member and the Chief Executive to demonstrate commitment to operating the Council in an Environmentally responsible way at the highest level of the Council. In signing the policy, the leadership endorses the intentions and direction of the policy in providing a framework for the Environmental Management System in relation to environmental performance.

Update

The Environmental Policy has been refreshed in consultation with the relevant service areas to:

-) reflect the new Corporate Strategy 2020/24 and commitment to having carbon neutral operations by 2030;
-) demonstrate continued commitment by the Leader, Lead Member and the Chief Executive Officer to operate the council in an environmentally responsible way;
-) ensure that it is reflective of the Council's priorities and fits within the scope of the Environmental Management System; and
-) to include an explicit commitment to protection of the environment including the prevention of pollution in the context of the Council's activities, as suggested by auditors.

Comments from HR

The report has no HR implications

Financial Implications

The policy will be delivered within existing resources.

Risk Management

The risks associated with the delivery of the Policy and proposed actions to mitigate those risks are set out in the table below.

Risk Identified	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Management Actions Planned
Council service areas and operational managers not sufficiently engaged to deliver the environmental policy resulting in failure to achieve targets	Unlikely	Significant	Ensure there is corporate ownership and engagement with key stakeholders is coordinated across the Council.
Failure to comply with environmental legislation leads to damage to built and natural assets, reputation, and civil or criminal action being taken against the Council	Unlikely	Significant	Maintain access to the Newground Legislation Service. Continue with Staff Inductions, Environmental audits, and the sharing of best practice through officer working groups

Key Decision:

No

Background Papers:

Environmental Policy