

EXETER CITY COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE COMMUNITY 2 SEPTEMBER 2008

PROGRESS UPDATE - ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGIES

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report outlines the progress that has been made by the Council in terms of implementing the action plans of both the Environmental and Climate Change Strategies.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Environmental Strategy (2007-2012) was adopted by the Council in June 2007 at Scrutiny Committee Community. The Strategy sets out how the Council intends to tackle the key environmental challenges facing Exeter and explores how to reduce the city's impact on the global environment. The Strategy also draws together and evaluates the effects of the Council's own policies and practices on the environment, with the aim of reducing environmental damage.
- 2.2 The Climate Change Strategy was adopted by the Council in January 2008. The Strategy sets out key proposals for how the Council, working with others, can take the lead in reducing greenhouse gas emissions within Exeter by 30% by 2020 (from 1990 levels). The Strategy covers five policy areas ('themes') for action: energy, transport, waste, community leadership and adapting to the effects of climate change.

3. PROGRESS MADE

- 3.1 Examples of progress that have been made by the Council in relation to both strategies during 2007/08 are outlined in Appendix I to this report.

4. INDICATORS

- 4.1 Since 1996, the Council has monitored a set of sustainability indicators to measure progress made in terms of meeting the Council's Local Agenda 21 objectives. Upon the adoption of the Environmental Strategy for Exeter this list of indicators was expanded to include further environmental indicators. A number of Corporate Environmental Performance Indicators are also monitored on an annual basis to assess the Council's environmental management performance. A summary of the progress made in this respect is the subject of a separate report to this committee.
- 4.2 A summary of the results for the environmental and sustainability indicators is provided in Appendix II. As can be seen, improvements have been made in a number of areas, including the recycling of domestic waste, energy efficiency of housing, standard of street cleanliness and the number of complaints received for dog fouling. The indicators also enable us to identify where further work may be needed in the future, such as addressing the increase in nitrogen dioxide levels observed in some parts of the city.

5 RECOMMENDED

- (1) that the examples of progress made to date be noted;
- (2) that the Council reaffirms its commitment to manage and continually improve its own sustainability performance;
- (3) that the Council continues to work in partnership with other organisations within the city and with the community to tackle climate change and improve quality of life in the city;
- (4) that progress continues to reported to this committee on an annual basis.

HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:

Environmental Strategy
Climate Change Strategy

S:LP/Committee/908SCC9
19.8.08