

EXETER CITY COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – COMMUNITY

5 JUNE 2007

EXECUTIVE

19 JUNE 2007

REVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report presents the Council's Environmental Strategy and seeks Executive approval for the revised Strategy. The report also summarises the results of the public consultation exercise and highlights the changes that have been made to the strategy as a result.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Environmental Strategy, which covers the period until 2012, 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 draft strategy was approved by Scrutiny Committee - Community on 16 January 2007 (minute 9 refers). Following this, consultation took place with partner agencies and stakeholders across the city between February and April 2007.

3 OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 3.1 Responses received through the consultation process were generally supportive of the draft strategy and action plans. A summary of the issues raised and the actions taken/modifications made to the strategy as a result are provided in Appendix I. A copy of the revised strategy is available on the intranet and in the Members' Room.
- 3.2 The main changes to the Strategy are summarised below:
- Modification of Chapter 2 to reflect the Council's new Strategic Objectives.
 - Modification of Chapter 4 to reflect the Council's plans to prepare a Climate Change Strategy.
 - Greater emphasis on the role of planning policy to reduce flood risk in Chapters 4, 6 and 10 and the Council's commitment to promote sustainable urban drainage systems.
 - Modification of the text in Chapter 13 (Biodiversity) and the inclusion of a new indicator to measure the quality of habitats in the city.
 - General updating of the strategy, particularly the action plans, as a result of the time elapsed between preparing the draft document and the present time.

4 PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE REVIEW OF THE STRATEGY

- 4.1 The Environmental Strategy sets out action plans for future work covering the next five years. It is therefore considered that a commitment should be made to undertake a fundamental review of the Strategy in 2011/12.
- 4.2 Progress towards meeting the aims of the Strategy will be monitored annually and will continue to form the subject of an annual report to Scrutiny Committee - Community.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The revisions to the Environmental Strategy have no additional financial implications for the Council beyond those already budgeted for.

6 RECOMMENDED

- (1) that Scrutiny Committee - Community supports and Executive approves the Environmental Strategy.
- (2) that general progress towards meeting the aims of the Strategy be monitored on an annual basis and reported to Scrutiny Committee - Community.
- (3) that a commitment be made to undertaking a full review of the Strategy in five year's time (2011/12).

HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

S:LP/Committee/607SCC6

14 May 2006

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)
Background papers used in compiling this report: