

REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENTAL & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 13
DATE OF MEETING:	16th AUGUST 2018	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (SERVICE DELIVERY)	OPEN
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SUBJECT:	ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY GROUP	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS01

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Committee endorses the establishment of a Corporate Environmental Sustainability Group to co-ordinate and improve the Council's environmental performance.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To seek endorsement for the creation of a Corporate Environmental Sustainability Group to co-ordinate the Council's work on improving its environmental credentials and performance.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Since 2008 South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) has implemented an Environmental Management System under the nationally accredited ISO:14001 framework. As part of this work it committed to ensure that environmental objectives were embedded and integrated into its Corporate and Service Plans to support and enhance its environmental performance.
- 3.2 In 2017/18 the Council committed to review its ISO:140001 accreditation with a view to assessing its effectiveness in driving environmental improvements. This assessment has concluded that there is a significant reputational benefit in retaining a nationally accredited system as it outwardly signals the Council's commitment to improving its environmental performance and impacts. However, in order to drive forward this work in earnest those benefits would only be fully realised if the Council adopts a collaborative corporate approach. It is, therefore, proposed that a Corporate Environmental Sustainability Group is established to champion this work. Its role would be to ensure the Council's ISO 140001 accreditation is retained going forward. It would also be responsible for developing and implementing measures that demonstrably improve the Council's environmental performance and support the delivery of the Council's strategic environmental objectives as set out in its Environment Policy which include:

- Reducing the Council's environmental impacts on issues such as climate change, resource depletion, ecological damage, as well as on locally disruptive factors such as noise, traffic and maintenance
- Preventing pollution, minimising waste it produces and the energy it uses in all parts of the organisation in an attempt to continually improve the environmental system and enhance environmental performance,
- Helping all employees to reduce, reuse or recycle office materials, manage energy and water efficiently, reduce council transport impacts and adopt practical environmental purchasing guidance and systems,
- Consistently communicating, documenting and monitoring the Council's performance and raising awareness within the Council itself and with communities and partners.

3.3 Terms of reference for this group have been developed and are attached at Appendix 1 to this report. The initial area of focus for the group would be on the continued retention of the Council's ISO:14001 accreditation. The next external assessment is scheduled for October 2018. A further report on the outcomes of this assessment and an update on the Group's work programme will be reported to this Committee at a later date.

4.0 Human Resources Implications

4.1 The work of this group would be led by the Strategic Director – Service Delivery with the support of the Environmental Protection Officer within the Environmental Health Team. No additional staffing resources would be directly required although ongoing support and commitment from across a number of Teams within the Council would be a pre-requisite to delivering performance improvements.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 The establishment of a Corporate Environmental Sustainability Group would contribute to the Corporate Plan's vision to 'make South Derbyshire a better place to live, work and visit'.

The key Corporate Plan aims linked to the Group include: O3. "Enhance environmental standards", PE5. "Reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill" and PL6. "Deliver services which keep the District clean and healthy

5.0 Community Implications

6.1 The work of the Group will support the key priority of the Sustainable Community Strategy to make South Derbyshire "A better place to live, work and visit at the heart of the National Forest" and in particular the underpinning themes of;

- Healthier communities:
- Safer and Stronger Communities:
- Sustainable Development.

6.0 Conclusions

7.1 The establishment of the proposed Corporate Environmental Sustainability Group will ensure our commitment to the principles of environmental management under ISO:14001 remain clear. More importantly it will also enable the Council to tap into

the energy and ideas within its own workforce to help translate the concepts within the ISO standard into tangible and meaningful improvements in sustainability in its own activities.

7.0 Background Papers

8.1 None