
| | | |
|----------------------------|--|------------------------|
| REPORT TO: | ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE | AGENDA ITEM: 7 |
| DATE OF MEETING: | 12 th July 2007 | CATEGORY: DELEGATED |
| REPORT FROM: | DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES | OPEN |
| MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT: | PETER MCEVOY | DOC: |
| SUBJECT: | ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (EMAS) | REF: SMO |
| WARD(S) AFFECTED: | ALL | TERMS OF REFERENCE: |

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That Members renew their commitment to implement the EMAS scheme of Environmental Management.
- 1.2 That the proposed programme for implementation of EMAS outlined in Appendix 1 be adopted.
- 1.3 That Members adopt the proposed Environmental Policy 2007 contained in Appendix 2 as South Derbyshire District Councils Environmental Policy, replacing the Draft Environmental Policy previously agreed.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) is a voluntary Environmental Management System (EMS) of self-management and regulation aimed at continuous improvement in environmental performance. Performance against set targets and objectives is reported annually to the public and external verifiers. The scheme is calibrated against an internationally determined standard and is externally audited and accredited. More details of the content of the scheme can be viewed on the European Commission web site, an extract of which is contained in Appendix 3.
- 2.2 The benefits of active engagement in such a scheme include; protecting the environment from ongoing damage and polluting accidents, saving revenue costs *e.g. through lower fuel and water bills*, securing legal compliance with all environmental legislation, meeting social obligations to future generations by saving natural resources and addressing climate change. A more extensive list of benefits is found in Appendix 3.

South Derbyshire District Council has documented its ambition of achieving an environmental management system over some time. Progress was initially slow, due to the absence of dedicated resources, however in the Winter of 2006, Simon Mortimer was appointed to the post of Contaminated Land/EMAS Officer and at least part of one officers time is now dedicated to this project. In the nomenclature of the

EMAS Standard this post will act as the EMAS Manager. With this appointment progress has been given a noticeable impetus with the initial reviews now completed, an Environmental Policy ready for adoption and a substantial list of targets and objectives being compiled.

- 2.3 Full Council on 20 January 2005 passed a resolution that the Council commit to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change. This involves commitment to quantifying and reducing the contribution to climate change gasses from the Council and its partners. This project is represents a substantial work commitment that will be coordinated by Environmental Services and will be one of the streams of work that the EMAS system manages and monitors. The prioritisation of actions and improvements within EMAS will be sensitive to the importance of Climate Change to the Environment and in the Councils priorities.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Firm, documented commitment is required as a prerequisite to accreditation and in approving the recommendations members will be giving a strong steer to the organisation as well as meeting this requirement. The development of an Environmental Policy, proposed for acceptance here, is a clear and detailed statement of intent, which will be drawn to the attention of all staff and be publicly available via the Internet etc. It also sets the tone and scope of what South Derbyshire District Council are committing to do in the future.
- 3.2 Internal auditing of the system is required as part of the accreditation process and ongoing management. This system acts as a way to identify problems and improvements needing to be rectified prior to the external audit. Currently there are no internal auditors able to undertake this activity. It is proposed that funds be made available to train two internal auditors to undertake this activity on six monthly basis. The training course identified will cost approximately £1000 in total. The EMAS manager will also undergo additional training to update skills and maintain knowledge to keep up to date with current practises and processes costing approximately £900. The contents of the proposed courses can be found in Appendix 4. It has also been proposed that a lead auditor swap will take place between Hinckley and Bosworth District Council and South Derbyshire District Council to reduce the cost of buying in external expertise. The swap will be between Hinckley and Bosworth District Council EMAS manager and South Derbyshire District Councils EMAS managers as it is widely accepted that auditing your own system is generally bad practise. This initiative will save approximately £1,000 per annum.
- 3.3 In addition it is proposed that South Derbyshire District Councils CIEH trainers are trained on Environmental Awareness costing approximately £500 to enable them to the support of the EMAS Manager to hold a series of seminars on general environmental awareness. With this basic grounding across South Derbyshire District Council the aim is promote the status the environment within the workplace and activities undertaken. Specialist training is also planned for the operatives of vehicles and maintenance workshops.
- 3.4 To date the majority of the set-up and baseline information work has been undertaken enabling a focused and strategic plan of improvements via departmental and corporate targets and objectives to be developed. This phase begins the implementation stage of the program. All departmental managers, heads of service and directors are required to agree what can be achieved and set deadlines for the achievement of the objective. A responsible person is also defined for each objective.

Targets must be realistic and achievable, over a reasonable timescale. The most environmentally sensitive parameters need to be tackled with most urgency and most resources assigned. Ultimate responsibility for the management and supervision of the delivery of these targets and objectives lies with the EMAS manager.

- 3.5 The targets, objectives, performance and initiatives are annually reportable with a full statement published every three years and are subject to external auditors and public scrutiny. This places substantial significance on environmental performance of the council as a whole as well as the departments and the person(s) accountable for the targets and objectives identified.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The costs and benefits associated with the implementation of EMAS is being monitored and recorded by Simon Mortimer as EMAS manager responsible for the delivery and upkeep of the system.

- 4.2 The costs for formal accreditation through external verification utilising the services SGS for this project are as follows:

| | |
|--------|---|
| 2006/7 | £6,075 plus expenses (pre-audit and verification) |
| 2007/8 | £3,375 plus expenses (audits and certification retention) |
| 2008/9 | £3,375 plus expenses (audits and certification retention) |

- 4.3 A budget of £10,000 has been provided to facilitate the delivery of some improvements. Further funds to maintain continuous improvements will be needed in the future and will be subject future successful bids as part of the annual budget assignment processes.

- 4.4 The currently agreed capital allocation was agreed on the understanding that 100% of savings made through EMAS are used to replenish the EMAS budget allowing further improvements to be implemented.

5.0 Community Implications

- 5.1 Managing the councils environmental inputs, outputs, legal compliance, and performance is vital to the corporate image of the council and the district as a whole. EMAS will reach all aspects of service delivery and help provide, promote, and deliver environmental improvements. The public and other stakeholders will notice improvements through EMAS, evident in normal service delivery. As the system develops further South Derbyshire District Councils environmental credentials and achievements will be enhanced.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 Through the baseline study carried out as part of the EMAS by the EMAS Manager the basis for developing practical improvements has been set. It is thought that within twelve to eighteen months the council will have a verified Environmental Management System in accordance with EMAS for the first time.

- 6.2 The system delivers reportable, quantifiable and externally verified environmental improvements throughout South Derbyshire District Councils services and activities. The system is being managed and delivered internally through the EMAS Manager. To ensure implementation costs are as low as possible and to ensure the systems validity is maintained, internal lead auditors will be swapped between South Derbyshire District Council and Hinckley and Bosworth District Council.
- 6.3 The project involves a modest amount of defined cost and a certain amount of, as yet, undefined cost, in future financial years, as indicated in section 4. Significant management resources will be required from each service. In approving the recommendations of this report; the implementation of the EMAS and approval of South Derbyshire District Councils formal Environmental Policy members are aware of the resources to required to gain this flagship accreditation. The process will present challenges, but with firm commitment, team work, appropriate system management and the financial backing required the implementation of EMAS will make significant improvements to practises, working environments, utility bills, the councils carbon footprint and the district as whole.