
REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM:10
DATE OF MEETING:	21st January 2021	CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	ALLISON THOMAS, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR – SERVICE DELIVERY	Open
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SUBJECT:	ENVIRONMENT POLICY	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All	TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS01

1. Recommendations

1.1 That the Committee approves a revised Environment Policy (**Appendix 1**).

2. Purpose of Report

2.1 To advise Committee of the proposed changes to the Corporate Environment Policy.

3. Background

3.1 South Derbyshire District Council has been certified to the ISO14001 Environmental Management Standard since 2010.

3.2 In 2016 the Council became one of the first public bodies in the world to achieve certification to the new ISO14001:2015 version which gave more focus on the improvement of environmental performance rather than the improvement of the management system itself. This version also aimed at making environmental management more comprehensive and relevant to the supply chain. One of the main updates required the Council to consider environmental impact during the entire life cycle. Additionally, the commitments of top management and the methods of evaluating compliance have also been strengthened.

3.3 In order to maintain certification, the Council is subject to an annual external audit. The next external audit is expected in spring 2021.

3.4 A central requirement of the ISO14001 standard is that the Council has an Environment Policy. The purpose of the Policy is to provide a framework for the setting the organisations primary environmental objectives. The standard also requires that the Policy is “*appropriate to the purpose and context of the organisation*”.

3.5 The Council’s adoption of a new Corporate Plan 2020-2024 is considered within the context of the ISO14001 standard to be a significant change and therefore the Environment Policy needs to reflect the purpose and context of this change. If it fails to

do so, then it is very likely that the external auditor will identify this as a 'non-conformity' at the time of the next audit.

- 3.6 The Policy has been updated to accommodate the corporate priorities as they relate to the environment within the Corporate Plan. The revised Policy shows how the Council's environmental aspirations are guided by the principles of continued improvement and how these have been successfully embedded into the Corporate Plan. The Policy also contains direct reference to the environmental priorities which have been highlighted in the Corporate Plan 2020-24.
- 3.7 The January 2021 version of the Environment Policy is contained as Appendix 1 to this report.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications to changing the Environmental Policy. However, suppliers and contractors will need to have regard to the content of the Policy when doing business with the Council and there may be some indirect costs as a consequence.
- 4.2 The presence of a robust Environment Policy puts the Council in a good position to deliver fee earning services to other organisations who require their suppliers to have high environmental standards.

5. Corporate Implications

Employment Implications

- 5.1 None.

Legal Implications

- 5.2 None.

Corporate Plan Implications

- 5.3 The proposals align with the "Our Environment" priority of the Corporate Plan.

Risk Impact

- 5.4 None.

6. Community Implications

Consultation

- 6.1 The content of the Environment Policy has been reviewed by a third party consultant.

Equality and Diversity Impact

- 6.2 None.

Social Value Impact

- 6.3 Beneficial.

Environmental Sustainability

6.4 Beneficial.

7. Conclusion

7.1 That the Committee approves the updated Environment Policy.

8. Background Papers

None

