
REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	AGENDA ITEM: 11
DATE OF MEETING:	20th NOVEMBER 2008	CATEGORY: DELEGATED/ RECOMMENDED OPEN
REPORT FROM:	DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES	
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	PETER MCEVOY	DOC:
SUBJECT:	Environmental Statement Approval and Adoption	REF: PM/08/01
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All Wards	TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS01

1.0 Reason for Exempt

1.1 Not applicable

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Members approve and adopt the Environmental Statement 2006-2008 attached at Appendix 1, which will form a key element in communicating the Council's Environmental Performance to the public and is needful as a pre-requisite of accreditation to EMAS.
- 2.2 That Members note the Council's progress in environmental improvements that is reported in the Environmental Statement.

3.0 Purpose of Report

3.1 As a pre-requisite to South Derbyshire District Council's implementation of and accreditation to the Eco Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) in early 2009, it is necessary to adopt an annual Environmental Statement. This statement details the Council's intention to become EMAS accredited and a summary of the organisation; it also includes the Council's Environmental Policy, environmental aspects and impacts, targets, objectives and a summary of key environmental data.

4.0 Detail

4.1 This Committee has previously stated its commitment to achieving the Environmental Management Standard, EMAS, and officers have been developing the system and making practical improvements in recent months. Progress has been positive and a date has been set for an Accreditation Assessment in Feb 2009. In order to document this progress for members and the public and as a pre-requisite of the accreditation it is necessary to publish this Environmental Statement

- 4.2 The EMAS standard document details the minimum information to be contained in an Environmental statement and this has been followed to create the statement.
- 4.3 The Standard also requires the maintenance of publicly available information and specifically requires that “ The organisation shall update the information and shall have any changes validated by an environmental verifier, on a yearly basis.”
- 4.4 The statement is therefore a credible way in which the public can hold the Council accountable for its environmental performance.
- 4.5 As a key part of the accreditation process the information contained within the statement is completely traceable at source and is as accurate as our current records allow. All figures and statistics can be justified and are fully auditable. The Environmental Statement must also be publicly available and is planned to be available on request and accessible via the EMAS internet page on the Council’s website.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications of this statement beyond existing commitment.

6.0 Corporate Implications

- 6.1 The approval and adoption of the statement will affirm the Council’s drive to achieve and maintain the highest environmental standards whilst delivering vital services to the public.

7.0 Community Implications

- 7.1 The main community implications of this report relate to improved communication and awareness of Council related environmental issues with the community. The new national indicators for environmental performance provide a focus for change and a further need to communicate and influence every household towards reducing CO₂ emissions. Adoption of the statement and subsequent accreditation and verification of EMAS will help us deliver and demonstrate sustained environmental improvement within the Council’s activities, thus strengthening the Council’s position when asking for change from others.

8.0 Conclusions

- 8.1 The adoption of the Environmental Statement is a key instrument in the development and accreditation of our EMAS system. The information within the document relates to our major environmental impacts and delivers concise, clear and verifiable data. It is a requirement that this document is publicly available and this will be achieved via the internet with hard copies issued on request.

9.0 Background Papers

- 9.1 None.