



To: The Leader and Executive Councillor for Strategy and Transformation: Councillor Lewis Herbert

Report by: Simon Payne, Director of Environment

Relevant scrutiny committee: Strategy & Resources
19/01/2015
Scrutiny Committee

Wards affected: All

Key Decision

Environment Policy Statement

1. Executive summary

1.1 Effective action on environmental issues underpins the full range of strategies and policies for the City Council. The Environment Policy Statement is a single document that brings together all the commitments on effective action in one place for clarity and accountability. The report recommends approval of the Statement which sets out how the City Council will achieve its vision of a high quality and sustainable environment for the city.

2. Recommendations

The Leader and Executive Councillor for Strategy and Transformation is recommended to approve the Environment Policy Statement set out in the appendix to this report.

3. Background

3.1 Strong environmental objectives drive the strategy of the City Council and are expressed in the Vision of the Council and documents such as the Local Plan. The Council does not have a single statement that provides a concise expression of the authority's position on environmental issues. It is considered that there are benefits in the Council having such a policy when considering future priorities, developing enabling policies and when bidding for external funding.

- 3.2 In particular a policy will assist both senior members and officers to consider how environmental initiatives should be developed further, having a simple policy set down on paper and agreed will help to manage future priorities and the allocation of scarce resources.
- 3.3 This policy has been put together working on best practice from other councils and drawing on the Council's Annual Statement.

4. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no additional financial implications for the City Council in approving the appended Environment Policy Statement. The existing approved capital and revenue budgets, together with the budget proposals shortly to be considered for future years, all include provision for action on environmental issues.

(b) Staffing Implications

- 4.2 There are no staffing implications. Actions that are linked to the Environment Policy Statement will be delivered by staff already within the establishment of the City Council.

(c) Equality and Poverty Implications

- 4.3 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and is attached at Appendix B.

(d) Environmental Implications

- 4.4 The Environment Policy Statement will increase awareness of environmental issues both within and outside the City Council and will complement policies and implementation proposals on environmental issues. The Statement will therefore have a high positive climate change rating of +H.

(e) Procurement

- 4.5 There are no additional procurement implications beyond existing commitments to environmental sustainability.

(f) Consultation and communication

- 4.6 It is proposed that the approved Environment Policy Statement is widely communicated, initially through a press release, and

subsequently through internal communications and also linked to external communications for instance on the website, Cambridge Matters, through social media, in tender documents, and staff recruitment material.

(g) Community Safety

4.7 There are no community safety implications at this stage.

5. Background Papers

5.1 There are no background papers for this report.

6. Appendices

Appendix A Draft Environment Policy Statement

Appendix B Equality Impact Assessment

7. Inspection of papers

If you have a query on the report please contact:

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