

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting15th March 2007

1. Title of Item/Report

Stockton Borough Council Environment Policy

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet considered a report regarding the Council's Environment Policy. This policy sets out the key areas of the environment that the activities of the authority would impact upon and considered how those impacts could be reduced and improved.

A copy of the draft policy was provided to Members. The policy recognised the fact that there were other strategies, plans and policies that governed the Council's influence on key areas such as transport and planning and did not intend to replicate or replace them. It did however seek to address the impacts on the environment that it had through day-to-day activities in delivering a range of services.

This policy therefore focused on areas of influence where the Council could make a difference and in several cases would relate to basic management and use of resources.

The environment policy could form the starting point should a decision be taken to pursue an environmental management system in the future.

It was explained that the Council required potential suppliers and contractors to provide a copy of their environmental policy as part of the procurement process. By adopting this policy the Council would be setting an example and the standard that it would reasonably expect potential suppliers to strive to achieve.

Stakeholders and partners would be supported in developing environmental policies that can mirror our aims and targets. Tristar homes had already taken this opportunity and drafted an environment policy with support from council staff in line with this draft.

The commitments and targets had been developed by a cross-service group of officers in a range of specialist areas and with appropriate expertise.

To deliver the targets in the policy would require actions to be developed and fed into the service planning process.

Progress towards targets and the delivery of actions would be through an annual report, together with actions taken and planned. The policy would be reviewed and updated annually.

RESOLVED that the draft Environmental Policy be approved as a basis for further consultation and delegated final approval of the policy be given to the Corporate Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment.

3. Reasons for the Decision

Concerns over environmental issues, climate change and the impacts we were having on the environment were high on the local, national and global agenda. This policy considered our main impacts on the environment through our activities as an organisation and sought to reduce the negative impacts and enhance the positive effects.

This policy sent out a clear message to the community, our partners and stakeholders that we were serious about these issues and that we would encourage them to take a similar approach.

This would enable actions to be developed and incorporated into service plans to deliver the aims and targets set out within the policy document.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Cunningham declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in this item as he was employed as an energy consultant.

6. Details of any Dispensations

None

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight, Friday 23rd March 2007

Proper Officer
19 March 2007