

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**AGENDA
ITEM NO**

16 FEBRUARY 2017

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Report Title	ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY
Purpose of Report	To recommend that the Committee adopts the revised Environmental Policy.
Decision(s)	Committee RESOLVES: the Environmental Policy as set out in Appendix 1 be adopted.
Consultation and Feedback	This was discussed with representatives of Planning Strategy to ensure compliance with the recently adopted Local Plan and supporting evidence.
Financial Implications and Risk Assessment	There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. David Stanley, Accountancy Manager Tel: 01453 754100 Email: david.stanley@stroud.gov.uk Risk Assessment The environmental standards could slip as there would be no systematic approach of holding services to account.
Legal Implications	No significant legal implications to report on the policy as drafted. Karen Trickey, Legal Services Manager Tel: 01453 754369 Email: karen.trickey@stroud.gov.uk
Report Author	Petula Davis Senior Policy Officer/ Project Lead Officer Tel: 01453 754289 Email: Petula.Davis@stroud.gov.uk
Chair of Committee	Councillor Simon Pickering Chair of Environment Committee Tel: 01453 824654 Email: cllr.simon.pickering@stroud.gov.uk
Background Papers/ Appendices	Environmental Policy 2013 Appendix A – Environmental Policy 2017

Introduction and Background

1. The Environmental Policy is a statement of the environmental commitments of the Council. It is not about setting specific targets or identifying capital projects for future achievements. It is about agreeing a strategic context that supports the work that Stroud District Council has decided to undertake.

2. The Policy is a framework or Golden Thread from which more detailed and specific policy documents and business plans can be made.. The Council adopted its first Environmental Policy in 1996 and this was formally reviewed in 2010 to reflect changes in Council policy and again in 2013.
3. In March 1999 the Council first achieved EMAS – (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme), an international environmental management standard. The Council has been accredited with EMAS every year since, an achievement that only a few other organisations have accomplished.
4. In 2007 Stroud District Council adopted a 20 year Environment Strategy. The Strategy's 5 priorities are:
 - I. Sustainable consumption and production
 - II. Climate Change and Energy
 - III. Protecting our natural resources and enhancing the environment
 - IV. Creating sustainable communities
 - V. Keeping the Council and local community focused on environmental limits
5. This Strategy is now subject of a review by the Environment Committee Task and Finish Group.
6. Each year the Council consults the resident and business communities. The results of the 2016 survey with the residents showed that nearly three quarters (74%) said they were satisfied that the Council "*is working to improve the environment*".

Update

7. The current version of the Policy is available on the [website](#). The revised draft Policy set out in Appendix 1 has been amended to reflect the Council's long term aspirations and areas of influence.
8. The purpose of this report is for the Environment Committee to resolve to adopt the revised Environmental Policy, which takes into account some of the changes that have occurred in this area over the last few years. This includes embracing the waste hierarchy, the challenges of adverse weather and the importance of considering whole life costs in procurement.
9. This revised Policy will demonstrate the Council's on-going commitment to reduce its environmental impact by continually improving its environmental performance as an integral and fundamental part of its own business operations and service delivery and in partnership with others.
10. This is an opportunity for a broader "environment" focus, to produce a policy which references the Council's role in protecting and shaping the quality of Stroud District's exceptional natural and built environment, ensuring tie-in with our Local Plan's commitments to sustainable development and better reflecting Priorities III and IV, above.