

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 5 APRIL 2001**

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY**

##### **Report by Director of Community Services**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To request the Committee to adopt an Environmental Strategy which has been revised in consultation with the wider community.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 In April 1996, the Council approved and adopted an Environmental Strategy as one of their first policy documents, thereby reinforcing a strong commitment to protection and conservation of the environment. The revised strategy builds on this foundation and fulfils the continuing needs to promote and demonstrate a commitment to the environment.
- 2.2 In the revised document, 'Building a Local Agenda 21 for East Ayrshire', the original objectives have been reviewed and updated with twelve key challenges. These have been named 'challenges' because they represent on-going issues which are faced in daily life and require a multi-disciplinary approach. This document was approved as a consultation document by the Policy and Resources Committee at the meeting of 30 November 2000. Copies of the revised document are available at the Members Information Point.
- 2.3 It is also intended to initiate further basic environmental auditing to determine if we are fulfilling the aims and objectives of the Strategy and also to identify best practice within the Council subject to the limits of available resources.

### **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 A wide range of local and national organisations with an interest in environmental matters were contacted and asked to consider the contents of the revised Environmental Strategy.
- 3.2 A variety of organisations replied to the request for comments with each respondent supporting the revisions contained within the revised document.
- 3.3 There were no negative comments received regarding the document and there were no requests to remove or amend any part of the document.
- 3.4 Several issues were raised which were felt to require special attention in the Action Plan which will follow the Environmental Strategy in due course. These are not new issues for the document, but are requests for specific actions to be prioritised.
- 3.5 Special emphasis was requested to be placed on alternative fuels and renewable energy sources, educational initiatives to raise awareness of waste management, the promotion of the use of alternative forms of transport and the appropriate preservation of wildlife and habitats in regard of developments.

- 3.6 It was requested that a distinction be made between the problem of littering (cumulative and due to thoughtlessness) and illegal dumping (large scale and deliberate).
- 3.7 A recommendation was made that East Ayrshire Council consult widely to consider its own success in meeting the challenges which were set .
- 3.8 Many respondents listed ways in which they could take an active role in supporting specific actions contained within the revised document.
- 3.9 All comments received as part of the consultation processes have been considered and incorporated into the revised document and are detailed in Appendix 1 of the Strategy.

#### **4. FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Nil.

#### **5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The adoption of the revised policy will amend Council policy on environmental matters in a number of key areas.

#### **6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 As a result of consultation with the wider community, the revised Environmental Strategy: Building a Local Agenda 21 for East Ayrshire, has received general approval from organisations with a remit for environmental issues.
- 6.2 Requests for specific issues to be prioritised for action have been considered and will be included in the subsequent Action Plan.

#### **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-
- (i) recommend to Council the adoption of the revised Environmental Strategy; and
  - (ii) otherwise note the content of this report.

William Stafford  
Director of Community Services  
WS/MB  
26 March 2001

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS - Nil.**

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**AGENDA**