

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 30 NOVEMBER 2000

ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request the Committee to adopt a revised Environmental Strategy in principle, and grant authority to consult on the proposals.

2. DISCUSSION

- 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. Since that time there have been a number of internal and external initiatives which have resulted in the Strategy becoming dated. In many respects the original Strategy does not take account of such initiatives as Local Agenda 21, matters arising from the Kyoto Summit, and other initiatives such as community planning. The Environmental Strategy is intrinsically linked to the section in the Community Plan on a safe, sustainable and stimulating environment.
- 2.3 Copies of the draft strategy are available in the Members' Information Point. Additional copies are available from the Administration service.
- 2.4 When the first Environmental Strategy was created in 1996, eleven objectives which addressed a range of environmental issues were identified. These objectives are still central to current environmental concerns.
- 2.5 In the revised document, 'Building a Local Agenda 21 for East Ayrshire', these 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. Each challenge is accompanied by a series of objectives. These objectives represent the methods that are required to be adopted in order for the challenge to be addressed. These aim to provide a structure by which sustainability can be delivered.
- 2.6 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 limitation of available resources.

3. FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Nil.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The key feature of the revised Environmental Strategy can be summarised as follows:-

- Introduce the ideology behind sustainable development and explain how Local Agenda 21 acts as an essential tool in achieving it;
- Discuss what the Council has done so far in addressing Local Agenda 21;
- Identify the main challenges needed to be addressed; and
- Determine how the Council is going to respond to the challenges.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (i) adopt in principle the draft Environmental Strategy;
- (ii) remit to the Director of Community Services to consult widely on the proposals and report back to a future meeting of this Committee; and
- (iii) otherwise note the content of this report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

WS/MB/JS

14 November 2000

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

Implementation Officer – william.stafford@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

AGENDA