

Report to Neighbourhoods Select Committee



Date of meeting: 15th November 2016

Subject: Environmental Charter and Objectives

Officer contact for further information: Liz Ainslie, 01992 564235

Committee Secretary: Adrian Hendry (01992 564246)

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Select Committee notes the progress on Environmental Charter and associated commitments and actions.

Report:

1. At its meeting on 17 November 2015 the Neighbourhoods and Communities Select Committee agreed that a draft environmental charter and action plan should be developed to replace the existing Climate Change Policy 2009. It was further agreed that this should be brought back to the Select Committee for 'comments and agreement'.
2. The development of an Environmental Charter and associated action plan was added Green Working Party's (GWP) work programme. Over a period of months the GWP developed the Charter (attached at the Appendix) and associated 'commitments and actions' and these were agreed by the Neighbourhoods Select Committee at its meeting on 28 June. The Select Committee recommended the Charter to the Cabinet and asked to receive an annual report on the progress of the Charter against its action plan.
3. The Cabinet considered the documents at its meeting on 1 September and endorsed the Charter and associated 'Commitments and Actions'. In accordance with the Cabinet's agreement, the Charter has been signed by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive on behalf of the Council.
4. At its meeting on 7 September 2016 the Corporate Green Working Party agreed that items in its existing Work Plan should be incorporated into the new 'Commitments and Actions' format. This will be further developed at the Working Party's next meeting on 9 December 2016.
5. Further progress reports will be made to the Select Committee in accordance with its work programme.

Reason for decision:

To provide an update on the Environmental Charter and commitments/actions plan in accordance with the decision of the Neighbourhoods and Communities Select Committee on 17 November 2015.

Options considered and rejected: None as the Charter and associated documents have been developed in accordance with the express wish of the Neighbourhoods and Communities Select Committee on 11 November 2015.

Resource implications: None

Legal and Governance Implications: None

Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications: The Environmental Charter and associated commitments action document state the Council's high level aspirations with regard to climate change, tackling greenhouse gas emissions and sustainability and therefore has implications under the 'safer, cleaner, greener' agenda.

Consultation Undertaken: Consultation has taken place with the Council's Leadership Team on 11 November 2015, The Neighbourhoods and Communities Select Committee on 17 November 2015 and the Green Working Party on 8 March and 6 June 2016. Comments have been taken into account in the development of the documents where appropriate.

Background Papers: Climate Local methodology (www.local.gov.uk/climate-local).

Impact Assessments:

Risk Management: No risks identified

Equality: The actions and commitments in the Environmental Charter will provide benefits fairly to everyone in our community regardless of protected characteristics.