

# REVIEW OF THE VOLUNTARY CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE USE OF POLYTUNNELS IN HEREFORDSHIRE

Report By: The Poly tunnel Review Working Group

## Wards Affected

County-wide.

## Purpose

1. To consider the findings of the Poly tunnel Review Working Group following the review of the Voluntary Code of Practice for the use of Poly tunnels in Herefordshire.

## Background

2. At their meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2003, Cabinet agreed to adopt a Voluntary Code of Practice to Control the use of Poly tunnels. The agreed policy provided for the operation of the Voluntary Code to be reviewed after 12 months.
3. Environment Scrutiny Committee on 23rd January, 2004 established a Poly tunnel Review Working Group to look at the Voluntary Code of Practice and considered the terms of reference for the review. The Scrutiny Committee were also aware that some members of the public had expressed concerns regarding the operation of the Code and that a complaint on this issue was being investigated by the Local Government Ombudsman. The Scoping Statement detailing the terms of reference; desired outcomes; key questions and timetable is included at **Appendix 1** to the attached report.
4. For ease of reference the current Voluntary Code of Practice is included at **Appendix 2** to the attached report.
5. The Review Group conducted a review of the Code with the objective of giving guidance to the Cabinet Member (Environment) on the best framework to put in place to regulate the use of poly tunnels in Herefordshire and whether the Development Plan required amendment.
6. Arising from the review the recommended revised code (indicating the suggested changes) is attached to the report at **Appendix 4**.
7. The Review Group's report setting out the Groups approach to its task, its findings, and conclusions is attached.

## RECOMMENDATION

**THAT the Committee accept the Report of the Poly tunnel Review Working Group and determines whether it wishes to agree the report and its findings for submission to the Cabinet Member (Environment).**

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.