

REVIEW:	Environment Scrutiny Committee	
Committee:	Polytunnel review working group	Chair: Councillor TW Hunt
Lead support officer:	J Barrett	

1.1. SCOPING

Terms of Reference

- To review the voluntary Code of practice for regulating the extensive use of polytunnels in Herefordshire
- To consider the appropriateness of the Code and associated processes in the light of relevant current planning policy, case law and guidance
- To consider how best to strike a balance between sustaining a key sector of the agriculture industry whilst protecting the landscape of Herefordshire and the interests of the wider community.
- Following the review to advise the Cabinet Member (Environment) on the best framework to put in place to regulate extensive polytunnel use in Herefordshire and whether the Development Plan requires amendment

Desired outcomes

- For the current voluntary Code to have been fully examined in public in an open and transparent way.
- For Members of the working group to consider a range of options on the future form of any voluntary Code.
- For there to be cooperation with the growers on the continuation of or revision to the Voluntary Code.

Key questions

- Consider what means of measurement can be used to judge the success or otherwise of the Voluntary Code.
- By examination of complaints identify the elements of concern raised by objectors.
- To consider what options are available to the Council to control the use of Polytunnels in the County.
- To enquire from growers their views on the working of the Voluntary Code and for its future.
- To consider the views of the public and interested parties on the working of the Voluntary Code and for its future.

Timetable	
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Agree scope	February 2004
Assess currently available information	March 2004
Undertake publicity of the review, set option	March 2004
Invite representative witnesses	March 2004
Undertake representative site visit	March 2004
Interim report	2 nd April 2004