

CORPORATE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY & REVISED POLICY

Report By: **DIRECTOR OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

Purpose

1. To comment on the consultation draft of the Corporate Environment Strategy, summarising the policy aims, objectives and action plans that the Council has adopted and;

To comment on the proposed revision of the Council's current Environmental policy, passed in June 2002 before certification to ISO 14001.

Financial Implications

2. No additional implications.

Considerations

3. The Corporate Environment Strategy provides partners and managers across the Council with an overview of major environmental commitments that have already been made by the authority. Some are mandatory while others are led by the need to control costs. All are linked through the agreed ambitions of the Herefordshire Plan and the Corporate Plan (2005/08), which states that one of the Council's top eight priorities for the period of the Plan is "to protect the environment, including recycling much more waste and significantly reducing carbon emissions."
4. Internally the Council is committed to tackling its own environmental impacts, such as waste, energy and transport, right across Council services through its certification to ISO 14001 the international environmental management standard. Externally the authority makes a major contribution to Herefordshire's environment through working in partnership with other organisations and the wider community.
5. The strategy is backed by an integrated action plan that aligns the aims and objectives described in the strategy with the timed targets adopted for each action.
6. The proposed revision of the policy takes account of:-
 - ◆ The certification to ISO 14001 of numerous Council services and functions since the policy was passed,
 - ◆ The change from the initial focus on the Council's direct environmental impacts out to include public facing services such as Waste Management and Transportation,
 - ◆ Revisions to the ISO 14001 standard in 2004.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the strategy and policy are noted, subject to any comments the Committee may wish to refer to the Cabinet Member (Environment) before its approval.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None