

LEISURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

17TH MARCH 2020

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES STRATEGY

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To provide members with an overview of the Environmental Services Strategy and the background to its development.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 As part of the ongoing restructure which has resulted in the merger of several frontline services a new strategy has been developed in order to highlight and implement the councils objectives in frontline service delivery. In particular it links to 3 objectives:

- Objective 1: Improve the cleanliness and appearance of the local environment
- Objective 6: Protect, promote and enhance the district's natural environment
- Objective 11: Generate more income, improve value for money and increase residents satisfaction with the Council

2.3 The new Environmental Services Business Unit brings a number of the council's interests under one business manager

- Recycling and Waste
- Street Cleaning
- Grounds Maintenance
- Parks
- Transport

2.4 In addition to the councils corporate objectives set out above, this strategy also supports the authority's current stance on climate change.

3.0 Timescales

3.1 The timescale for this strategy is relatively short because it has been developed against a background of uncertainty. The governments Resources and Waste Strategy 2018 and the Environment Bill have both outlined significant changes that could have major impacts on several of the services which form part of this strategy. Initial indications are that the timescales set out in the Resources and Waste Strategy will come to fruition in 2023. That is why this document has been created to align with that timescale as it is likely that a significant review will be required near this time.

3.2 This strategy aims to realign our services so that the council is well placed to respond to the planned changes whilst ensuring we continue to push for higher standards across the district.

4.0 Objectives

4.1 There are 7 key objectives outlined in this strategy and the full document lists a number of actions which are aimed to deliver on each one. These objectives are:

1. To improve the district's recycling rate with the aim of increasing our recycling percentage. The aim is to maximise in a challenging context as we await national and local clarity.
2. Work with communities and partners to 'Green' Newark and Sherwood delivering district wide programmes focusing on tree planting and protecting and enhancing the district's natural environment.
3. Making Newark and Sherwood 'Clean' with a focus on areas in need by conducting targeted activity in identified communities and tackling key issues.
4. Work with our communities to create social capital in the 'Green' and 'Clean' agendas and encourage engagement with Environmental Services.
5. Engage with communities to deliver behaviour change through education and enforcement including campaigns.
6. Work with key colleagues within the Council to reduce Newark and Sherwood District Council's carbon footprint to offset the impact of Climate Change.
7. Maximise resources within the unit through efficiencies and commercialisation with the aim any additional resource being reinvested into greening initiatives and service improvements.

5.0 Equalities Implications

5.1 None at this stage but during the implementation of this strategy impacts will be considered on a project by project basis.

6.0 Impact on Budget/Policy Framework

6.1 None at this stage but individual actions may require additional budget commitments. Each applicable action will be assessed at the time and additional reports provided.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

That members note the information contained in the strategy and provide their approval and support.

Reason for Recommendation(s)

To provide the Environmental Services Team with clear direction and focus for the next three years and to allow the strategy to deliver the environmental aims and ambitions of the council.

For further information please contact Matthew Finch on Ext 5716