
ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

Committee: Regulatory Services Committee

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[T54]

1.0 ISSUE

- 1.1 To note and approve the Draft Environment Strategy.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Members are requested to approve the draft Environment Strategy and associated action plan.

3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

- 3.1 East Cambridgeshire is a great place to live, with clean water and air, beautiful countryside to enjoy and urban areas that are prosperous, vibrant and welcoming. The Council wants an environment that is good for our wellbeing and good for our economy.
- 3.2 The Environment Strategy sets out what the Council is doing to ensure it provides opportunities for residents, businesses and visitors to contribute to improving our environment and reducing the amount of waste we produce across the district
- 3.3 The strategy lays down how the Council will convert its aims and objectives into actions. Areas covered by the strategy are:
- A litter free environment
 - Waste minimisation
 - Reducing the use of single use plastics
 - Enforcement relating to fly-tipping, dog fouling and littering
- 3.4 The Council recognises that education, communication and enforcement are needed to achieve our aims and objectives, as well as working in partnership with key stakeholders such as East Cambridgeshire Street Scene, Parish Councils, residents and businesses.
- 3.5 The Council is proud of the achievements made over recent years that have had a positive impact on our environment. Since introducing the wheeled bin recycling collections the percentage of waste recycled has risen from 34% to 56%, at times this has exceeded 60%. This improved performance moved the council from 257th of 320 English councils to 26th

- 3.6 In April 2018 waste collection and Street Cleansing Services were transferred to East Cambridgeshire Street Scene. In the first few weeks of transfer a backlog of fly-tipping incidents were cleared. Procedures have been reviewed and implemented to ensure improved response and clean up times for fly-tipping on public land.
- 3.7 The Strategy also provides an opportunity for the Council to lead by example, with its commitment to reduce the use of single use plastic and encourage others in the district to do the same.
- 3.8 The commitments set out how the Council will implement and move the plan forward. Progress against the commitments will be reported back to committee on an annual basis.

4.0 **ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 The Environment Strategy sets out what the Council is doing to ensure it provides opportunities for residents businesses and visitors to contribute to improving the environment and reducing the amount of waste we produce across the district.
- 4.2 The Council recognises that education and communication are key to ensuring aims and objectives set within the strategy are achieved. It also accepts that in some cases enforcement will need to be used.
- 4.3 Successful implementation will be achieved by continuing to work in partnership with residents, businesses, Parish Councils and with East Cambridgeshire Street Scene.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1 It is not anticipated that the approval of this strategy will require additional funding. However if necessary, individual business cases will be presented to committee for approval.
- 5.2 Equality Impact Assessment (INRA) not required.

6.0 **APPENDIX**

- 6.1 Appendix 1 Draft Environment Strategy

<u>Background Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>
Litter Strategy for England	The Grange Nutholt Lane Ely	Liz Knox Environmental Services Manager (01353) 616313 E-mail: Liz.Knox@ eastcambs.gov.uk