

**BRECKLAND COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD – 17th DECEMBER 2007**

**CABINET – 8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2008**

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT**

**(Author: Steve Wilde, Interim Street Scene Manager)**

**AN ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY FOR BRECKLAND COUNCIL**

**Summary:** This report focuses on a draft Environmental Strategy for Breckland Council, and recommends that the Council undertakes a consultation process to engage with its key partners to support and develop the strategy moving forward.

**1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Council recognises that its services and operations have an impact on the environment. It is committed in working towards a more sustainable future to enhance and improve the quality of life for the people that live and work in the Breckland district.
- 1.3 The draft Environment Strategy (appendix A) sets out the key challenges facing the Council now and in the future, it identifies the key environmental aims linked to the Council's Priorities and Corporate Objectives.
- 1.4 Our environment is the responsibility of a wide range of organisations and businesses, as well as for each of us as individuals. Its future is therefore very much in the hands of us all. Engaging key partners in the preparation of the Strategy is just the first step towards the development and endorsement of a detailed action plan, contributing to County, Regional and National environmental policies.

**2. KEY DECISION**

- 2.1 This is not a key decision.

**3. COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

- 3.1 The matter raised in this report falls within the following Council priorities:

- A well planned place to live which encourages vibrant communities
- A safe and healthy environment
- A prosperous place to work and live

The strategy identifies a 'Green thread' that links the key environmental aims to those priorities identified above.

**4. MAIN BODY OF REPORT**

- 4.1 The Strategy document identifies 3 key priorities:

- Tackling climate change
- Protecting the natural environment and resources
- Improving the local environment

- 4.1.1 The key objectives (10) focus on the way in which the Council will work, ensuring that a joined up approach is developed and maintained with all our key partners.

4.2 The Environmental aims focus on the following areas:

- Environmental Management and Awareness
- Energy
- Waste, Water & Air Quality
- Transport
- Built & natural Environment
- Green Procurement

4.4 The Council acknowledges the increasing impact that climate change will have on our community in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and commits to tackling the causes and effects of a changing climate on our district. (Nottingham Declaration – Appendix 2 of the Environmental Strategy)

4.5 The document also identifies the importance of the Council's Community Leadership role, working together to providing clear and consistent information, guidance and support to all our stakeholders.

4.6 It is recommended that the next stage in the process would be to consult extensively with our key partners, including environmental bodies. It is intended to bring back the results of the consultation and revised strategy to Cabinet (April 2008).

## **5.0 OPTIONS AVAILABLE**

5.1 To approve the draft Environmental Strategy document and commence a consultation process

5.2 Do not approve the draft Environmental Strategy document

## **6.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 The reasons for recommendation are as follows:

- It meets the Corporate Objectives of the Council
- To develop an integrated environmental strategy, working together with our key partners to improve the quality of life for the people who live and work in the Breckland district both now and in the future.

## **7.0 RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 I recommend that Cabinet approves:

7.1.1 a) the draft Environmental Strategy

7.1.2 b) to proceed with a consultation process

7.1.3 c) to report back to Cabinet in April with revised Strategy and Action Plan

7.1.4 d) to sign up to the Nottingham Declaration

## Appendix A – An Environmental Strategy

*This report has taken account of the need for compliance with the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy and the requirements of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Human RIGHTS Act 1998. This report raises no matters to which attention specifically needs to be drawn under the legislation.*