

**STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**AGENDA  
ITEM NO**

**7 JUNE 2018**

**11**

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>THE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY</b>
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	Update the Committee on the review of the 2007 – 2027 Environment Strategy
<b>Decision(s)</b>	<b>The Committee RESOLVES</b> to agree the Priorities for the revised Environment Strategy prior to consultation
<b>Consultation and Feedback</b>	Four members of the Environment Committee have met on several occasions to discuss the reviewing of the Strategy. These meetings have resulted in the recommendation contained in this report.
<b>Financial Implications and Risk Assessment</b>	<p>As the decision is to agree priorities to the revised strategy prior to consultation, then there are no direct financial implications to this report. Future financial implications may arise after consultation.</p> <p>Adele Rudkin, Accountant Tel: 01453 754109 Email: <a href="mailto:adele.rudkin@stroud.gov.uk">adele.rudkin@stroud.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Risk Assessment There is a risk that lack of an appropriate Strategy and subsequent separate work programme might inhibit the Council's ability to demonstrate its commitment to continuing to support the protection and enhancement of the environment</p>
<b>Legal Implications</b>	<p>There is no legislative requirement for SDC to consult; however, SDC consulted extensively on the strategy in 2007 and as such there may be an implied duty to consult on any revised strategy. Any consultation undertaken must be adequate and fair. Legal advice on any updated or amended strategy resulting from the process will be provided as appropriate and required.</p> <p>Craig Hallett, Solicitor &amp; Deputy Monitoring Officer Tel: 01453 754364 Email: <a href="mailto:craig.hallett@stroud.gov.uk">craig.hallett@stroud.gov.uk</a> R9.05C21.05D21.05</p>
<b>Report Author</b>	Petula Davis, Principal Project Officer Tel: 01453 754289 Email: <a href="mailto:petula.davis@stroud.gov.uk">petula.davis@stroud.gov.uk</a>

<b>Options</b>	The Council can chose not to have an Environment Strategy and not to invest in any initiatives that are not part of its statutory function.
<b>Background Papers/ Appendices</b>	Environment Strategy 2007-2027 <a href="#">Link</a> Environment Strategy Outcomes September 2017 <a href="#">Link</a>

## 1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

The Council adopted the 20 year Environment Strategy in February 2007. The overarching focus of the Strategy was to help us live within environmental limits, the action plan was embedded within the 5 priority areas:

- Sustainable consumption and production – *‘More for Less’*
- Climate Change and Energy – *‘Confronting our greatest threat’*
- Protecting our Natural Resources and Enhancing the Environment - *‘Clean, Green and Safe’*
- Creating Sustainable Communities – *‘From local to global’*
- Keeping the Council and the Local Community Focused on Environmental Limits – *‘Let’s not forget how important the issue is’*

At the September 2017 Environment Committee, the outcomes set out in the Strategy were reported and the achievements were recognised. However, members agreed that the Strategy needed to be reviewed as the work programme had mostly been achieved.

A Task and Finish Group was set up to review the 2007 – 2027 Environment Strategy. The Group have met and recommend the following:

### 1. Keep the original vision:

*‘To lead a community that is willing and able to make the district a better place by:*

- *Tackling the consequences of already unavoidable climate change; and,*
- *Reducing the stress on resources and environmental systems – water, land and air – from the way we produce, consume and waste resources*

### 2. Refocus the priorities, resulting in reducing them from 5 to 4

- **A Circular Economy**, *Thriving now, thriving in the future*; Financial prosperity today is no good if we use the resources our children will require tomorrow. We must consider the whole life costs of our purchases and not waste them. When we have finished with them we must repair, reuse and recycle and use them again. A sustainable economy should leave no trace.
- **Climate Change**, *The biggest threat we face*; Man made climate change is the biggest threat humanity faces. We must adapt and increase our resilience to changes in weather patterns. We therefore must take steps to prevent levels of CO2 rising, by using less energy and what we do use must to greener, cleaner and smarter.
- **Protecting the Environment**, *Caring for our natural world*; we are all the custodians of Stroud District, we are looking after it for future generations. It is our mission to hand it on to them in a better state than it was handed to us.
- **Sustainable Communities**, *Planning today for a better tomorrow*. We must continue to insure that the communities we plan and build today will

still be vibrant places where people can and want to live long now and in the future.

3. While acknowledging the financial pressures currently facing the council, help develop a separate work programme with annual updates

**2. Next Steps**

Subject to agreement with the recommendations from the Task and Finish Group, it is proposed that the revised Strategy priorities should be consulted up on and the work programme compiled from the different environmental initiatives being proposed and currently being undertaken.