

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

5 DECEMBER 2019

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Report Title	ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY 2019
Purpose of Report	To seek approval of the Environment Strategy 2019.
Decision(s)	The Committee RESOLVES to adopt the Environment Strategy 2019.
Consultation and Feedback	Consultation on the Strategy's priorities ran from July – September 2018 results published in December 2018 .
Financial Implications and Risk Assessment	There are no direct implications arising from this report as the decision is to adopt an Environment Strategy. Adele Rudkin, Accountant Tel: 01453 754109 Email: adele.rudkin@stroud.gov.uk There is a risk that lack of an appropriate Strategy and subsequent separate action plan might inhibit the Council's ability to demonstrate its environmental commitment.
Legal Implications	There are no legal implications arising from this report. Patrick Arran, Interim Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer Tel: 01453 754369 Email: patrick.arran@stroud.gov.uk
Report Author	Petula Davis, Principal Projects Officer Tel: 01453 754289 Email: Petula.Davis@stroud.gov.uk
Options	Options are: 1. Approve the Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 2. Make further amendments to the Strategy
Performance Management Follow Up	The Strategy will next be reviewed 2021/22. The subsequent action plans will be reported to the Environment Cttee as part of the performance update.
Background Papers/ Appendices	Environment Strategy 2007- 2027 Link Environment Strategy Outcomes September 2017 Link Environment Strategy Update December 2018 Link Appendix 1 - Environment Strategy 2019

BACKGROUND

1. In February 2007 following an extensive programme of consultation the Council adopted a 20-year Environment Strategy. The Strategy focused on those things that would help us 'live within environmental limits'.
2. The 2007 Strategy encompassed both the priorities and the actions which had on the whole been met, as reported in September 2017. The investment and work undertaken within that strategy continues to pay dividends to both the Council and the wider community. Areas of note include the Council's continued commitment to energy conservation in homes through the Warm and Well Partnership and its ever evolving approach to reducing waste.
3. However, we are now more than 12 years on and we must acknowledge that we are now in a different place both globally and locally. The 2007-2027 Strategy with actions included is

too restrictive and we recognised the need to consider a more flexible approach to respond to both opportunities and threats.

4. The Environment Committee agreed that it was important to separate the Strategy from the actions to enable better monitoring and reporting of projects and initiatives that were outside of business as usual. A subsequent Task and Finish Group was set up.
5. The role of the Task and Finish Group was to review the vision and the 5 priorities to ascertain if they were still relevant and appropriate. The Task and Finish Group proposed to keep the vision from the 2007-2027 Strategy but to refine the priorities. This resulted in the 5 priorities being reduced to 4. The new priorities were then subject to public consultation which ran from July to September 2018.
6. The public gave overwhelming support for the new priorities, as reported to and agreed by Environment Committee in [December 2018](#). The Committee also stressed the importance of working together with our partners, communities and local environmental groups to achieve them.
7. The 4 new priorities are:
 - **Priority 1 - 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.
 - **Priority 2 - 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 be greener, cleaner and smarter.
 - **Priority 3 - 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.
 - **Priority 4 - Sustainable Communities** - *Planning today for a better tomorrow*. We must continue to ensure 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.

Annual Budget and Satisfaction survey

8. The Annual Budget and Satisfaction telephone survey asks both SDC residents and businesses for their opinions on the Council's priorities and progress on improving the environment.
9. The 2018 survey has reaffirmed the past 5 years of outstanding results - 86% residents and 90% of businesses agreeing our priority to 'Help the community to minimise its carbon footprint adapt to climate change and recycle more', with 78% of both residents and businesses agreeing that SDC is working to improve the environment.

Links with Other Documents

10. This Strategy is an overarching document that draws on and links with many other strategies and reports, both internally and externally including that of our partners, central government and international environmental bodies.

11. Within the Council's Corporate Delivery Plan, Environment is a priority in its own right. However, environmental issues are cross cutting and hence this Strategy will also support outcomes in the 4 other areas: Economy, Affordable Housing, Health & Well-Being and Delivery. This will be reflected in the supporting cross cutting Action Plan which will be monitored and maintained through the performance monitoring system – Excelsis.

Next Steps

12. For the Committee to adopt the Strategy as set out in Appendix one. To receive quarterly updates of the Action Plan from the Performance Monitoring member(s) and/or by report.