

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 12 December 2018

Title: Sustainability Policy

Report of: Ian Fitzpatrick, Director of Planning and Regeneration

Cabinet member: Councillor Jonathan Dow, Cabinet member for place services

Ward(s): All

Purpose of report: To introduce the Sustainability Policy for Eastbourne Borough Council

Decision type: Key

Officer recommendation(s): To approve the Sustainability Policy for adoption

Reasons for recommendations: Provide a policy frame work for Eastbourne Borough Council

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 Eastbourne Borough Council has undertaken a range of work relating to sustainability goals over the years, for example the installation of PV panels; bee-friendly and fruit tree planting; and supporting community beach cleans.
- 1.2 On 12 September 2018, Cabinet authorised the Strategy & Partnership Lead, Quality Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet member for place services, to prepare a Sustainability Policy to provide a framework for council activities for consideration and approval at Cabinet later in the year. The need for such a framework has been strengthened by the recent publication of the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming stating that to limit climate change to 1.5°C would require “rapid and far-reaching” transitions in land management, energy and industry, buildings, transport and cities.
- 1.3 Future council activities include how we manage air quality in the town through, for example, ‘no idling’ zones; higher standards for energy and sustainability in

our housing; and further work to support 'Plastic Free' Eastbourne.

- 1.4 The sustainability policy aims to comprise a number of core values guided by the generally accepted definition of sustainable development:

"Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" Brundtland Report, 1987

The core values will echo commitments already made to residents in the Corporate Plan and will direct them as to how we operate our own business.

- 1.5 The Sustainability Policy was reviewed at Scrutiny Committee on 3 December 2018.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 That this policy is recommended for adoption at Cabinet.

3 Outcome expected and performance management

- 3.1 The adoption of a set of guiding principles in the form of an overarching Sustainability Policy will bring Eastbourne Borough Council into line with many other councils nationally. The policy will support planning policy and guidance, guide procurement decisions, potentially reduce costs with regards to energy and waste (through staff education and project initiatives) and generally work to ensure the council has 'its own house in order' before guiding others.

- 3.2 The policy is intended to provide a high level framework to inform the work of the council through future projects activities and plans.

4 Consultation

- 4.1 A draft of the policy was reviewed at Scrutiny, 3 December 2018.

5 Corporate plan and council policies

- 5.1 Corporate Plan: a clean and attractive low carbon town, producing less waste than before, with a high quality built environment, excellent parks and open spaces and served by a number of good transport options.

- 5.2 This policy builds on a number of initiatives in Eastbourne including the installation of 410 PV panels; a commitment to developing the EV charge point network; and a reduction of single use plastics in council offices.

6 Business case and alternative option(s) considered

- 6.1 Future projects and activity arising from the adoption of this policy will be subject to viability analysis.

7 Financial appraisal

- 7.1 No financial implications arising from this report. Future projects and activity arising from adoption of this policy will be subject to viability analysis and due diligence

8 Legal implications

- 8.1 Under the Localism Act 2011 section 1, the general power of competence, the Council has the power to do anything that an individual can do that is not specifically prohibited or to which a more particular power or duty does not apply. The actions proposed in this Report fall within this power. Report considered by Legal on 31 August 2018 (IKEN-007643-EBC-OD).

9 Risk management implications

- 9.1 The risk of not developing a sustainability policy is that the organisation will lack a coherent framework by which it considers environmental impacts in its approach to plans projects and activities.

10 Equality analysis

- 10.1 EaFA 'no relevance' report included as a background paper.

11 Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Eastbourne Borough Council sustainability policy

12 Background papers

The background papers used in compiling this report were as follows:

- [Decisions taken by the Cabinet on 12 September 2018](#) – Environmental initiatives
- [IPCC Special Report on Global Warming National Planning Policy Framework 2012](#)
- Equality and Fairness Analysis