

Report to: **Scrutiny Committee**

Date: **13 September 2018**

Title: **Sustainability Policy**

Report of: **Ian Fitzpatrick, Director of Planning and Regeneration**

Ward(s): All

Officer recommendation(s): **(1) To consider the proposed Sustainability Policy**
(2) To refer observations or recommendations to Cabinet

Reasons for recommendations: To support the development of the Sustainability Policy for Lewes District Council

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1 Introduction

1.1 On 2 July 2018, Cabinet authorised the Strategy & Partnership Lead, Quality Environment, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Impact, to prepare a Sustainability Policy to provide a framework for council activities for consideration and approval at Cabinet later in the year.

1.2 The sustainability policy aims to consist of 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.

2 Proposal

2.1 That this policy is considered at Scrutiny Committee.

2.2 Following due consideration, 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 would bring Lewes District Council into line with many other councils nationally. The policy would 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 Observations from Scrutiny deliberations will be referred to Cabinet for consideration.

5 Corporate plan and council policies

- 5.1 Corporate Plan: We expect the district to remain a clean and beautiful place to live, work and visit, as a result of continued effort to protect the quality of the local environment

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. Await comments from PA*

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-LDC-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 *Tbd*

11 Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Draft Sustainability Policy

12 Background papers

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

- Decisions taken by the Cabinet on 2 July 2018