

Report to Neighbourhoods Select Committee

Date of meeting: 26 June 2018

Subject: Environmental Charter Updates

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Committee Secretary: Vivienne Messenger (01992 564265)



Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Select Committee receive an update on progress of the Environmental Charter every six months.

Report:

1. The Corporate Green Working Party (CGWP) was asked to develop an environmental charter and action plan to replace the Council's Climate Change Policy from 2009. The CGWP agreed that this should be modelled on the Climate Local methodology. This is a Local Government Association and Environment Agency initiative to support local authorities to look at climate change and take action.

2. The CGWP took the Climate Local Environmental Charter template and adapted it to EFDC's needs. The group also created a commitments and actions spreadsheet, modelled on the Climate Local system. The commitments and actions are broken down into three main areas (climate change, greenhouse gases and sustainability) with some overarching goals. This was to replace the group's Work Plan, which was very ad hoc.

3. The Environmental Charter, with commitment and action plan, was put forward to the Management Board in June, 2016, for comments and basic agreement to continue. Management Board made a few changes and it then was sent to the Neighbourhoods Select Committee for scrutiny in June, 2016. Again, a few comments were taken into consideration and incorporated into the document. Finally, the Charter was endorsed by the Cabinet in September, 2016.

4. The Charter was signed by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive in October. A copy has been placed on our website, and a press release sent out.

5. The commitments and action plan is to be reviewed at the CGWP meeting every six months. In reality the upcoming actions are checked at each quarterly CGWP meeting, with an overall review of actions twice annually.

6. Following the group's loss of our portfolio holder, Councillor G Waller, the group was pleased to welcome Councillor S Kane in September 2017. The Commitments/Actions list was quite lengthy, so Councillor Kane suggested we have Priority Actions to focus on now. Therefore, the report is now divided into Priority Actions that members of the group are working on, Holding Actions (for future), and Ongoing Actions (e.g. Greenhouse Gas Reporting to be done annually).

7. Since the 2017 report, the CGWP have undertaken the following:

- Discussions have taken place with many groups to ensure that the CGWP actions are in line with Corporate and other plans.

- EFDC have participated in 'energy switch' auctions, and have lobbied for a 'green tariff' option in future.
- A 'no idle' policy has been implemented by Environmental Health.
- Electric Vehicle charge points have been investigated for both the Civic staff car park and the public car parks.
- The offices and car parks have LED lighting installed wherever possible.
- The group is looking at our purchases to see if there are 'green' alternatives which could be used.

8. Further information on the commitments and actions plan is included in the CGWP updates. A copy of the updated plan is attached.

Reason for decision: Not applicable.

Options considered and rejected: Not applicable.

Consultation undertaken: Not applicable.

Resource implications: None as currently part of Environmental Coordinator job specification.

Budget provision: None.

Personnel: Internally resourced.

Land: N/A

Community Plan/BVPP reference: N/A

Relevant statutory powers: N/A

Background papers: Previous Neighbourhoods Select Committee reports, June 2016.

Environmental/Human Rights Act/Crime and Disorder Act Implications: N/A

Key Decision reference: (if required) N/A