

**COUNCIL SEMINAR
26th March, 2013**

Present:- Councillor Wyatt (in the Chair); The Mayor (Councillor Pickering), Councillors Roche, Godfrey, Wallis, Clark, Atkin, Barron, Beaumont, Ellis, Sims and Wootton.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dalton, Doyle, Hoddinott and Lelliott.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY.

Councillor K. Wyatt, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, welcomed Elected Members to the Seminar that had been put together to inform them on the update and revision to the Local Authority's Environment and Climate Change Strategy. Elected Members would be informed about each section and stakeholder's contribution to the Strategy and then invited to feed in their comments and ask questions on the content, prior to it being re-launched in May, 2013.

Councillor Wyatt stated that it was a statutory requirement for local authorities to develop an Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and that in Rotherham good practice was already taking place and embedded in Directorates.

A number of Officers were in attendance to reflect that the Strategy was a cross-cutting document across all Directorates. The areas represented within the Strategy were: -

Area	Lead Officer
Rotherham Environment and Climate Change Strategy Review	David Rhodes, Environmental Manager
Streetpride	David Burton, Director of Streetpride, Environment and Development Services
Housing and Neighbourhood Services	Paul Benson, Housing Officer
Planning and Regeneration	Bruce Carter, Principal Building Control Officer

Kathy Wakefield, Nurse Consultant, Protecting Health, Public Health, Neighbourhood and Adult Services, and Zafar Saleem, Community Engagement and Cohesion Manager, Commissioning, Policy and Performance, Resources Directorate, were also in attendance to represent their Services.

Rotherham Environment and Climate Change Strategy: -

David Rhodes informed Elected Members about the previous Strategy that had existed.

- There were 10 Climate Change Performance Indicators within the revised Strategy;
- The revised Strategy would be linked to the Council's Corporate Plan;
- Key objectives included the reduction of CO2 emissions and biodiversity.

Streetpride: -

David Burton provided an overview of the contribution within Streetpride towards the Environment and Climate Change Plan:

- Local Access Framework;
- Street Cleansing Review;
- Rotherham Rivers Project – conservation of biodiversity and restoration;
- South Yorkshire LNP: green infrastructure mapping and development and maintenance of an environmental database. Action plan – targeting resources to areas of greatest need;
- Sustainable development, building developments and economic development across the Sheffield City Region;
- Transport – alternative fuel vehicles. Working with the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation to develop collective buying power for alternative fuel vehicles. Electric Vehicle trials and demonstrator vehicles. Next generation dustcarts, including electric adaptations. Use of vehicle telematics to plot location and identify performance improvements, including the winter maintenance fleet, intelligent route planning to be as efficient as possible. Sustainable transport – successful as a sub-region for grant funding for sustainable transport – cycle and bus lanes, widening roads for better quality bus routes, substantial programme of works – reported to delegated powers meeting;
- Waste and recycling – review on-going, waste PFI project to be up and running in 2015 whereby in excess of 50% of municipal waste would be recycled;
- Flood management – Surface water management plans had been developed, recent issues had not been rivers flooding but run-off from surface water. A sustainable urban drainage approval body would come into operation and all future planning applications would have to go through a water management approval process.

Housing and Neighbourhood Services: -**Actions to be delivered: -**

- Improve the energy efficiency of social housing as measured through the SAP rating;
- Improve and maintain access to information on energy efficiency for Rotherham residents;
- Obtain external funding to support energy efficiency initiatives;
- Achieve zero carbon new residential development.

Useful resources: -

- The revised strategy was available to access on the intranet: <http://intranet.rotherhamconnect.com/C0/Environmental%20Management/default.aspx>
- The presentations presented at this seminar were also available on the intranet: <http://intranet.rotherhamconnect.com/C0/Environmental%20Management/Environmental%20Management%20Manual/Forms/Rotherham.aspx?RootFolder=%2fC0%2fEnvironmental%20Management%2fEnvironmental%20Management%20Manual%2fEnvironmental%20Presentations%20and%20Training%2fEnvironment%20and%20Climate%20Change%20Strategy%20Members%20Workshop%2026th%20March%202013&View=%7bC3F2C4C9%2d6860%2d4B3B%2d86E1%2d9D2B73BD0F90%7d>

Questions and comments on the Strategy: -

Elected Members were asked to send any comments or questions to environmental.managment@rotherham.gov.uk. Answers would be provided electronically.

Councillor Wyatt thanked the officers in attendance for their informative presentation and information shared.

Resolved: - (1) That the information shared be noted.

(2) That Elected Members feedback any questions and comments to the email address provided.