

**ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY
(Report by Head of Technical Services)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Cabinet at their meeting on 1 February 2007 approved the first draft of an Environment Strategy.
- 1.2 The strategy has now been reviewed in full by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Corporate and Strategic Framework) and the 'greening the business' and 'service impacts' implications of the strategy have been considered further by the Service Support and Service Delivery Overview and Scrutiny Panels respectively. Two meetings of the Environment Strategy Working Group, appointed by Cabinet, also have reviewed the strategy and the proposals for its further development.
- 1.3 Comments from these internal review processes have been incorporated into a second draft of the strategy which it is proposed to use as the basis for a consultation with the public and parish and town councils. In addition it is proposed to consult with other public and private sector interests under the auspices of the Environment Forum of the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership.

2. ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 2.1 The approach to the consultation is detailed in the table below

Timing	Purpose	Process
June	Establish public high level understanding and priorities	'Environmental Priorities' questionnaire in summer edition of District Wide
	Share strategy and invite comment from key partners and local stakeholders.	Re-launch Environment Forum of Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership by means of a stakeholder Consultation event.
	Public awareness raising	Engage with local communities at a number of events e.g. Warboys' Greener Living Event
July/August	Public awareness raising	Continue programme of events aimed at engaging with local communities.
September	Share strategy and invite comment from Town and Parish Council	Hold consultation events at up to five locations around the District
	Establish baseline of local people's environmental awareness	Undertake survey of a representative sample of 1,000 Huntingdonshire residents.

- 2.2 Through the approached outlined above the council will collect a wide range of data from self-selecting respondents to the District Wide questionnaire through to the more rigorous, statistically sound, output from the targeted research. This will provide a rich evidence base which will underpin the final Environment Strategy which it is proposed that the council will adopt in October 2007.
- 2.3 Throughout the consultation process work will continue on developing a draft action plan for which resource requirements will be identified and presented for consideration with the final strategy.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 Cabinet are recommended to –
- (a) approve the draft Environment Strategy at Annex A as a basis for consultation;
 - (b) approve the engagement and consultation proposals at Section 2 of this report; and
 - (c) authorise the Head of Technical Services, after consultation with the, Environment Strategy Working Group to agree the form of the baseline survey.

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