

Decision No: SCC006 – 16/03/2009

Forward Plan No: N/A

This record relates to Agenda Item 39 on the agenda for the Decision-Making

RECORD OF CABINET COMMITTEE DECISION

DECISION-MAKER:	SUSTAINABILITY CABINET COMMITTEE
PORTFOLIO AREA:	STRATEGY & GOVERNANCE
SUBJECT:	INTRODUCING AN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
AUTHOR:	MITA PATEL

THE DECISION

- (1) That the Sustainability Cabinet Committee approves:
 - (a) Development of an Environmental Management Policy
 - (b) Pilot implementation of an environmental management system accredited to BS EN ISO 14001:2004 standard
 - (c) Consideration then of progression to the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS).

REASON FOR THE DECISION

1. A drive for efficiency and Value for Money coupled with new environmental performance requirements in the UoR assessment mean that a more comprehensive and accountable environmental management approach is required.
2. Implementation of a formal EMS through the recommended approach specified in this paper will provide comprehensive knowledge, management and continued improvement of the council's environmental performance.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

1. An evaluation of all alternative options have been considered through advice sought from both good case study examples from other Local Authorities who have an accredited EMS in place and from impartial and accredited third party

assessors. The alternative options include the following:

a) Continuation of an informal environmental management approach

Although some good work has and is currently being delivered to improve the council's environmental performance, with no formal system in place to drive this, there are still many key areas that are not being addressed and information for which is not known i.e. poor overall management of our water use.

b) Going for ISO 14001 accreditation only across the council

Although achieving this council-wide would provide a comprehensive framework for environmental management that is recognised at an international level, in contrast to EMAS it does have limitations and is much less stringent on its requirements including (amongst others):

- No commitment for continued improvement of environmental performance of the organisation
- No requirement for open dialogue with the public,
- No staff involvement.

c) Going for EMAS only

Introducing this without ISO 14001 would mean that our environmental performance would only be recognised formally at a European level and would not formally comply with ISO International Standards. More importantly, in order to comply with the requirements of EMAS, the ISO/EN ISO 14001 certificate must be issued under one of the accreditation procedures recognised by the European Commission. The organisation would need to have taken steps to ensure that the scope to be covered by the EMAS registration is covered by an ISO/EN ISO 14001 certificate (see Appendix 2).

d) Going for the ISO 14001 and EMAS accreditation only in some departments.

Although this is a recommended approach in the short term, longer term ambition should be to seek EMAS accreditation right across the council so that a comprehensive management of the council's overall environmental performance can be achieved. This will also contribute to more accurate understanding of the council's environmental footprint data needed for UoR assessment.

Once this approach has been approved we will identify a department/s for undertaking pilot implementation.

OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION

None

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE RECORD:

We certify that the decision this document records was made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 and is a true and accurate record of that decision

Date:

16 March 2009

Decision Maker:

Councillor Mary Mears
Chairman of the Sustainability Cabinet
Committee

Signed:



Proper Officer:

16 March 2009

Mark Wall, Head of Democratic Services

Signed:



SCRUTINY

Note: This decision will come in to force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of publication subject to any review under the Council's Scrutiny 'Call-In' provisions.

Call-In Period

17-23 March 2009

Date of Call-in *(if applicable) (this suspends implementation)*

Call-in Procedure completed *(if applicable)*

Call-in heard by *(if applicable)*

Results of Call-in *(if applicable)*

Decision No: SCC007 – 16/03/2009

Forward Plan No: N/A

This record relates to Agenda Item 40 on the agenda for the Decision-Making

RECORD OF CABINET COMMITTEE DECISION

DECISION-MAKER:	SUSTAINABILITY CABINET COMMITTEE
PORTFOLIO AREA:	STRATEGY & GOVERNANCE
SUBJECT:	SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE THEME 2009/10
AUTHOR:	THURSTAN CROCKETT

THE DECISION

- (1) That the Sustainability Cabinet Committee directs officers in the Sustainability Team to organise the next Sustainability conference on the theme of the sea.

REASON FOR THE DECISION

1. The Deputy Leader with special responsibility for sustainability supports the sea theme proposed.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

1. An alternative theme could be A Sustainable Economy. This could examine both job creation potential of large scale energy efficiency and the future growth potential of environmental industries across the city – though this is already the subject of the Scrutiny Panel between March and May this year.
2. Another alternative could be related to Saving Money and Saving the Planet in response to the credit crunch and continued interest in tackling climate change. This could explore how to expand energy efficiency programmes, smart metering and the plans for water company programmes of water metering and retro-fitting of water saving devices. But this also raises affordability issues re water metering for low income families.
3. There is a realistic option to return to a single day conference if sponsorship and other resources (help in kind) cannot be secured to run a successful two-day event.

OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION

None

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

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Call-In Period

17-23 March 2009

Date of Call-in *(if applicable) (this suspends implementation)*

Call-in Procedure completed *(if applicable)*

Call-in heard by *(if applicable)*

Results of Call-in *(if applicable)*

Decision No: SCC008 – 16/03/2009

Forward Plan No: N/A

This record relates to Agenda Item 41 on the agenda for the Decision-Making

RECORD OF CABINET COMMITTEE DECISION

DECISION-MAKER:	SUSTAINABILITY CABINET COMMITTEE
PORTFOLIO AREA:	STRATEGY & GOVERNANCE
SUBJECT:	ECO SCHOOLS PROGRAMME UPDATE
AUTHOR:	SARAH COSTELLOE

THE DECISION

- (1) That the Sustainability Cabinet Committee note the report.

REASON FOR THE DECISION

1. Some concern about poor awareness of the extent and external profile of Eco Schools and the Environmental Education programme, at the same time as an increase in the number of schools requiring environmental education support.
2. Every Child's Future Matters: 'it may not be possible to deliver ECM at all unless sustainable development [...] becomes one of its leading considerations'.
3. Ofsted report on Schools and Sustainability May 2008: key recommendation to 'give higher priority to sustainable schools...funding for central and local initiatives... make it an integral part of [school] improvement plans'.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Sustainable Schools Framework

1. The Sustainable Schools Framework is a clear, comprehensive government strategy supporting work across 'eight doorways'. The aim is to develop existing programmes e.g. Eco Schools, i.e. building on rather than replacing/undermining existing programmes of support. The government have stated that it 'would like every school to be a sustainable school by 2020' but has provided little to resource this with. Schools and authorities engaging with this framework have found the self-audit complex and time-consuming. The lack of an award system, like that used in Eco Schools, makes it difficult for schools to celebrate their progress and motivate students to build on success. The framework is non-statutory.

2. The framework was assessed by the Healthy & Extended Schools Strategy Group early 2008. It was generally agreed that, although the strategy is ambitious, with central funding from DCSF it remains difficult to justify allocation of resources to implementation. The Sustainability Team continues to invest in developing its highly successful Eco Schools work, while an informal Internal Sustainable Schools Network is used to disseminate information from DCSF and GOSE to relevant council offices.

OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION

None

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

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**Call-In Period
Not applicable.**

Date of Call-in *(if applicable) (this suspends implementation)*

Call-in Procedure completed *(if applicable)*

Call-in heard by *(if applicable)*

Results of Call-in *(if applicable)*