

**Extract from the minutes of the Cabinet meeting 28 January 2015**

**51. Colchester's Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2015-2020**

The Head of Commercial Services submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Cabinet received a presentation from Wendy Bixby, Sustainability and Projects Officer, which set out the vision behind the Strategy, the challenges facing the Council and Colchester and the achievements to date. The Strategy's two strategic priorities were highlighted: 'Community leadership' by reducing the environmental impact of the Council's building, services and operations and; 'Building resilient communities' by working with residents, business and third sector organisations.

Councillor T. Young, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Licensing and Culture, thanked Wendy for her presentation and for the work involved in drafting the Strategy. This was a vitally important Strategy that cut across all the Council's services and the work of all Portfolio Holders. Officers across the Council had been involved in the creation of the Strategy. The Strategy demonstrated that the Council took its Strategic Plan commitment to be cleaner and greener seriously.

Councillor Feltham, Portfolio Holder for Communities and Leisure Services, expressed her support for the Strategy and in particular emphasised the importance of the green spaces in the borough. The Strategy demonstrated the importance of working with partners across the borough and was also an invitation to residents to make a contribution through their individual actions.

*RESOLVED* that the new Environmental Sustainability Strategy for Colchester for 2015 to 2020 be agreed.

*RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL* that the new Environmental Sustainability Strategy for Colchester for 2015 to 2020 be adopted as part of the Council's Policy Framework.

**REASONS**

Environmental sustainability is a strategic priority for the Council. Having an adopted strategy will provide the Council, its partners, employees and residents with a clear statement of direction for its environmental sustainability related activities. The Strategy can show how the Council will undertake the detailed implementation of its priorities. The Council does not have a statutory responsibility to produce and publish an Environmental Sustainability Strategy; however, the strategy does

incorporate the Council's statutory responsibilities to produce a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report and Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Report.

#### *ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS*

To amend or not adopt the Environmental Sustainability Strategy. There are however clear risks to not having a robust evidence based strategy in place such as not achieving local priorities, not being able to evidence and articulate the Council's (CBC) wider vision for environmental sustainability and not providing a strong focus to residents and partners about their contribution to meeting our priorities.