

SUBJECT: CITY OF LINCOLN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

DIRECTORATE: MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

REPORT AUTHOR: KATE BELL, REGENERATION OFFICER

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present and seek views on the draft Environmental Policy and Christmas Market Environmental Policy Statement.
- 1.2 To seek views on the proposed approach to member consultation on the draft Environmental Policies.

2. Background

- 2.1 On the 6th of January 2020 the Council's Executive approved the Lincoln Zero Carbon report, recommending that the Council adopt an Environmental Policy by Spring 2020.
- 2.2 On the 23rd of July 2019 Full Council passed a Motion to declare a climate and environmental emergency. The Motion includes a commitment from the Council to take action to deliver carbon reductions to reduce the Council's own carbon emissions.
- 2.3 On the 24th of September 2019 Full Council passed a Motion to support Lincoln to achieve plastic free community status and to eliminate, wherever possible, single use plastics from the Council's operations.
- 2.4 For the 2019 Christmas Market the Council's Events Team contacted stallholders requesting that they work with the council to take steps to reduce their environmental impact and reduce, where possible, the single use plastics.
- 2.5 The Council's Vision 2025 Climate Change Internal Low Carbon Taskforce, which includes representatives from a range of service areas and all Directorates, have worked together to prepare a draft Environmental Policy. In light of the Council's commitment to the priority theme 'let's address the challenge of climate change' the taskforce will become the Climate Change Vision Group.

3. The Purpose of an Environmental Policy

- 3.1 The purpose of an Environmental Policy (EP) is to set out our goals for protecting and improving the environment. The Policy covers all of our activities and estate, including our 'landlord' responsibilities for property and council homes.
- 3.2 Adopting an Environmental Policy will help to ensure that all Council employees

apply the policy where it relates to their role in the authority's corporate activities. In addition it will enable the Council to encourage and support our partners to adopt their own policies, leading by example.

- 3.3 Following Executive approval on the 6th of January the Council have started setting up the necessary processes to work towards an independently accredited environmental management system. The EMS is a systematic approach that enables organisations to work towards achieving environmental improvements over the short, medium and long term. An Environmental Policy is a minimum requirement to achieve accreditation for any EMS.
- 3.4 Without an EP the Council are not able to ensure, through the procurement process, that suppliers and outsourced service providers apply the policy to services or goods supplied to the Council, or require that they have their own equivalent policy to work to.
- 3.5 The EP demonstrates that the council is honouring its commitment to deliver the actions outlined in the Climate and Environmental Emergency Declaration as well as its commitment to be a single use plastic free council.

See Appendix A for a Draft Environmental Policy

4. Implementing the Environmental Policy

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Council will manage the significant environmental aspects of its activities through a single Council-wide environmental management system (EMS). An Environmental Management System (EMS) is a structured and documented system used to manage and report on an organisation's environmental performance and responsibilities. In addition to reviewing energy consumption the Council would also review and work towards reducing the environmental impacts of events, such as the Lincoln Christmas Market.
- 4.2 It is proposed that the EMS will be used as a mechanism to monitor and steer the implementation of the Council's Environmental Policy. The EMS would ensure that the Council takes the necessary steps to understand and control any risks of harm to the environment resulting from our activities, and to respond to opportunities for environmental improvement.
- 4.3 The Climate Change Vision Group will be responsible for monitoring and delivering the EMS and EP as part of the council's V2025 commitment to address the challenges of climate change.
- 4.4 It is proposed that the Environmental Policy and EMS will be included in the Climate Change Vision 2025 annual progress reported to Performance Scrutiny Committee. Any amendments to the policy will require scrutiny by the Policy Scrutiny Committee. The Council will publicise its environmental performance each year to enable the people of Lincoln to hold us to account.

5. Lincoln Christmas Market (LCM)

- 5.1 At many markets, large scale events and festivals throughout the UK events organisers are taking steps to reduce waste and Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emissions.

On the 24th of September 2019 Full Council passed a motion to support Lincoln to achieve plastic free community status, part of this includes a responsibility to reduce, wherever possible, single use plastic waste at council organised events. In addition the council's commitment to address the challenge of climate change it is necessary that wherever possible the Council take steps to reduce the environmental impact whilst retain events that are so beneficial to the city.

- 5.2 A specific Lincoln Christmas Market Environmental Policy Statement would clarify the Council's environmental position and values, with a commitment that the Council is working towards improving the environmental performance of large scale events in the city over a period of time. It is not the intention that the statement will require the Council, stakeholders, contractors or stall holders to make any sudden changes in the first year. This will be a gradual process and will require the Council's Events team and Policy Scrutiny Committee to review the policy statement on an annual basis.
- 5.3 In 2019 the Council's Events team took steps to inform stall holders ahead of the 2019 Lincoln Christmas Market (LCM) of the Council's Climate and Environmental Emergency Declaration and our commitment to reduce the environmental impact of the LCM. The events team sent out a polite letter to all stall holders asking them to make efforts to reduce single use plastic and general waste. The response from stall holders was largely positive, with the majority stating in their applications that they care about the environment.

6. Environmental Policy Statement - Lincoln Christmas Market (LCM)

- 6.1 The following aims are proposed to reflect the long-term strategic commitment for the LCM. Progress towards achieving the aims in full will be incremental year on year, and managed through the LCM's detailed annual implementation plans.
- To comply with the requirements of environmental legislation and approved codes of practice
 - To assess the environmental impact of current and likely future operations
 - To continuously seek to improve environmental performance
 - To reduce impacts, wherever possible, from pollution, emissions and waste
 - To encourage more sustainable forms of transport
 - To sustainably manage the use of all resources, energy, water and procurement
 - To raise awareness, encourage participation and train employees in environmental matters
 - To expect similar environmental standards from all suppliers and contractors
 - To assist performers, stall holders and visitors to participate in the LCM in an environmentally-sensitive way

See Appendix B for a Draft Environmental Policy Statement

7. Corporate Priorities

- 7.1 This would be meeting the new corporate priority Let's Address the Challenge of Climate Change.

8. Organisational Impacts

8.1 Finance

The Environmental Policy will not have any direct costs associated with it, other than existing officer resources. It is anticipated that any indirect costs as a result of implementing the Policy will be either covered within existing budgets or included in a project specific report to CMT/Executive.

8.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules

The Environmental Policy is likely to have implications to the procurement of contracts and services. It is proposed that any changes to contracts to enable the council to reduce the environmental impact through third party suppliers or services is introduced gradually and on a case by case basis. It will be necessary to review contracts when they come up for renewable, as well as new contracts, to consider the environmental and financial implications.

It is proposed that once the Environmental Policy has been approved by Executive the committee report template is amended to extend 'Significant Community Impact' to include '&/or Environmental Impact' in order to enable officers to explain any anticipated environmental impact as a result of the new policy, project or proposed service change.

9. Land, Property and Accommodation

N/A

10. Recommendation

- 10.1 To consider the proposed the content of the Council's draft Environmental Policy and the proposed member consultation.
- 10.2 To consider a specific LCM Environmental Policy Statement.
- 10.3 To give approval for the council to adopt an Environmental Policy and specific Events/Christmas Market Environmental Policy Statement to Executive Committee.