

PAPER NO. 4

REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE MEETING OF 19th DECEMBER 2011

Status: For Decision
Title: Leicestershire Together Environment Board
Originator: Matthew Bradford, Head of Environment and Leisure Services
Where from: Environment and Leisure Services
Where to next: Implementation

1 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To consider the Council's involvement in the Leicestershire Together Environment Board. A Briefing on the Environment Board is attached at Appendix A.

2 **Recommendations:**

2.1 **That Harborough District Council endorses/ and participates in The Leicestershire Together Environment Board.**

3 Summary of Reasons for the Recommendations

3.1 The aim of the Environment Board is to create a partnership structure that considers the whole range of environmental issues effecting Leicestershire. The current arrangements are too disparate leading to strategic opportunities being overlooked/missed.

3.2 The proposed structure will bring together representatives from a wide range of public and voluntary sector organisations to agree a list of environmental priorities for Leicestershire.

4 Impact on Communities

4.1 Environmental issues are at the forefront of our communities concerns and form a fundamental proportion of the Council's services. HDC offers a wide range of services to the public that fall within the themes covered by the Environment Board. It is important that our response to the environment is co-ordinated with other authorities and across themes. In joining the Board the Council will ensure the best outcomes for our citizens.

5 Key Facts

5.1 The Boards remit will cover Waste, Street Scene, Climate Change, Flood Risk, Natural and Historic Environments and Green Spaces.

- 5.2 The Board will comprise of the following:
- **Specialist Partnerships** –These will be officer led and will include officers from all local authorities plus other specialist organisations.
 - **The Executive** – will be chaired in rotation by a nominee from Leicestershire County Council’s Environment and Transport Directorate and a District Chief Executive. Each of the four specialist partnerships will nominate a representative to sit on the Executive which will also have two representatives from the voluntary sector.
 - **The Board** – will consist of the existing Waste Member Steering Group membership plus other portfolio holders from local authorities. Local charities and national organisations will also be invited to attend but will not be entitled to vote.
- 5.3 The Environment Board will form part of a wider county structure of theme boards that will include:
- Health & Wellbeing Board
 - Children and Young People
 - Community Safety & Criminal Justice
 - Local Enterprise Partnership

6 Legal Issues

- 6.1 The Environment Board is not a separate legal entity and has no formal decision making powers. Member bodies remain accountable for their own statutory responsibilities and their own legal and governance frameworks.

7 Resource Issues

- 7.1 The Environment Board will require Portfolio Holder attendance from members responsible for Waste, Climate Change Natural/Historic Environment. In most authorities, including HDC this will mean attendance by 2 or 3 members.
- 7.2 The Environment Board is not about pooling budgets. If a business case is made for joint commissioning/budget pooling then it would need to be approved by each spending authority.
- 7.3 Attendance at the Environment Board and its associated sub-groups will require additional officer input. In addition, actions emanating from the Board will require staff time at both a strategic and operational level.

8 Equality Impact Assessment Implications/Outcomes

- 8.1 None

9 Impact on the Organisation

- 9.1 Participation in the Environment Board would lead to greater integration with other authorities and voluntary sector organisations on a wide range of environmental issues.
- 10 Community Safety Implications
- 10.1 None
11. Carbon Management Implications
- 11.1 Climate change is one of the key themes being addressed through the Environment Board. Partnership expertise in this area would be advantageous to HDC due to a lack of corporate capacity in addressing this important environmental issue.
12. Risk Management Implications
- 12.1 None.
- 13 Consultation
- 13.1 The Leader and Portfolio Holder for Waste and Recycling have been consulted regarding this report.
- 14 Options Considered
- 14.1 Option 1 (recommended): That Harborough District Council endorses/ and participates in The Leicestershire Together Environment Board.
- 14.2 Option 2 (not recommended): That Harborough District Council does not endorse/participate The Leicestershire Together Environment Board.
- 15 Background Papers
- 15.1 A briefing paper on the Leicestershire Environment Board is attached at Appendix A.
-

Previous report(s): None

Information Issued Under Sensitive Issue Procedure: No

Ward Members Notified: Y/N

Appendices: *list any appendices here including title and filename in brackets (e.g. Performance Data 2010 (perfdata.doc)).*

A.

B.

C.

D.