

Body: Scrutiny

Date: 12 April 2010

Subject: Corporate Plan Priority Policy 5 – Environment : become a leader in environmental sustainability

Report Of: Jefferson Collard
Senior Head of Development and Environment

Ward(s) All

Purpose To advise the Scrutiny Committee on the current progress with the Corporate Plan Policy on the Environment

Recommendation: Members are requested to note the content of the report

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Introduction

- 1.1 This report informs Scrutiny of progress to date with meeting the Council's expectations in terms of its Corporate Plan Priority Policy 5 Environment: become a leader in environmental sustainability.
- 1.2 A copy of Policy 5 is at Appendix A.
- 1.3 The Actions, Activity and Indicators are commented on in this report by the Lead Officer for each of the activities, who will give an oral report to Scrutiny at its meeting on the 12 April.
- 1.4 Members will recall that Lead Officers last presented an oral update on progress at a Scrutiny Seminar on the 23 March 2009.

The Actions, Activity and Indicators

2.0 Increase recycling and encourage reduction and reuse

- 2.1 The Council has adopted a 10 Year Waste Strategy (2003-2013) which will be reported on, to Cabinet on at a later scrutiny meeting.
- 2.2 The Council provides a weekly refuse collection service and a fortnightly kerbside collection service for recyclables including: glass bottles and jars (three colours); newspaper and magazines; cans; textiles; and plastic bottles. The Council also provides a fortnightly kerbside collection service for green garden waste and cardboard. All of these services are generally available to all households within the borough.
- 2.3 A drop was noted in dry recycling tonnages at the end of quarter 2. This fall in recycling has been largely attributed to the cessation of the Waste Awareness Promotions post and a dip in recycling levels noted nationally due to the recession. A promotions project to arrest this was subsequently planned and managed by the Waste Awareness Team.

Audited performance data for quarter 3 demonstrated an increase of around 1.5% in dry recyclables during the start of the promotions project. Additionally, the project work was also shown to have increased participation in the worst performing third of neighbourhoods across Eastbourne by over 66%.

2.4 EBC is required by Central Government through the Household Waste Recycling Act to offer a collection of at least two separate materials for recycling from all households by 31st December 2010. Work during 2009/10 has increased service coverage from 92% to 99.5%. The remaining properties are all blocks of flats with capacity issues; however, work is planned for 2010 to provide them with the most appropriate services available.

2.5 In January 2009 the Council changed its 'pay', fortnightly collection service for green garden waste to an opt in 'free' service which now serves over 19,800 households.

Work is being planned for 2010/11 to expand on these participation figures.

2.6 Since the change of the Garden Waste collection service to a free one the usage of the Garden Waste bring sites provided each Saturday morning has dropped considerably. As such, and with consideration that the collection service is now available to all households, the decision was made to stop providing this additional service from the end of March 2010.

2.7 The Council maintains 23 separate 'bring sites' across the borough which collect permutations of separate coloured glass bottles and jars, paper, cans, plastic bottles, cardboard, dry cell batteries, textiles; and tetra-pak.

Performance

2.8 The outturn figure for recycling/composting for 2009/10 is estimated to be over 32% attributable to an increase in the collection rates over the previous year of green garden waste. This can be seen in the table below:

Eastbourne Household Waste Data

	2008/09 (tonnes)	2008/09 (%)	2009/10** (tonnes)	2009/10* (%)
Dry Recyclables	7,313	20.46	7200	19.57
Green Garden Waste	2,352	6.58	4,600	12.50
TOTAL RECYCLING	9,665	27.04	11,800	32.07
Residual Waste	26,081	72.96	25,000	67.93
Total Waste	35,746		36.800	

* estimated figures

** tonnages have been rounded

2.9 The waste stream overall is estimated to show an increase for 2009/10,

which seems to be attributable to the rise in Green Garden Waste. This increase in the GGW stream is mirrored by a substantial drop in residual waste, which may account for roughly half of the tonnage increase in GGW. However, this means that around 1,200 tonnes of extra waste has entered the waste stream as GGW, which in turn explains the increase in waste overall.

2.10 The performance of the Council's 'bring sites' for dry recyclables and the Saturday morning 'bring sites' for green garden waste for 2008/09 and 2009/10 is shown in the table below:

Eastbourne Household Waste Data

	2008/09 (tonnes)	2008/09 (% total dry recyclables and green garden waste)	2009/10** (tonnes)	2009/10* (% total dry recyclables and green garden waste)
Total dry recyclables collected at 'bring sites'	2,952	8.26%	2,682	7.29%
Total green garden waste collected at Saturday morning 'bring sites'	117	0.33%	54	0.15%

• estimated figures
** tonnages have been rounded

2.11 The Green bring sites show a clear drop in usage as already discussed, and will be stopping for the end of March 2010.

The dry recycling bring sites have sustained a very positive level of performance. Looking at the tonnages only it is shown that these sites have seen a drop of less than 300 tonnes, or around 9% from the previous year. This is unexpectedly buoyant considering the corresponding larger dips in kerbside dry recycling. The percentage performance data for dry recycling looks worse than it is because of the increase in total waste created by the additional green waste entering the stream at kerbside.

Outturn for 2009/10

2.12 The estimated outturn for 2009/10 for green garden waste of 12.5% is very close to the figure of 13% as estimated in the previous report to Scrutiny. This waste has been largely resistant to the effects of the recession which have impacted on dry recycling figures.

2.13 Dry recyclables show a drop in tonnes throughout 2009/10. This drop was noted at the end of quarter 2 and a promotions project to arrest this was subsequently planned and managed by the Waste Awareness Team. Audited performance data for quarter 3 demonstrated an increase of around 1.5% in dry recyclables during the start of the promotions project.

2.14 Residual waste continues to drop, assisted this year by the diversion of garden waste into the free collections which was previously being presented for landfill.

Eastbourne Household Waste Data

	2009/10* (tonnes)	2009/10 (%)	2010/11* (tonnes)	2010/11 (%)
Dry Recyclables	7200	19.57	7200	20
Green Garden Waste *	4,600	12.50	5,200	14
TOTAL RECYCLING	11,800	32.07	12,400	34
Residual Waste	25,000	67.93	24,300	66
Total Waste	36.800		36,700	100

* tonnages have been estimated

- 2.15 Estimated performance figures for 2009/10 are based on current levels of participation and minimum of growth in garden waste service. These figures also assume that the current recession and its effects upon purchasing habits, and therefore recycling habits, upon will continue through the next 12 months.

Estimated Outturn 2010/11

- 2.16 To reach the current Corporate Plan Objective of 36% recycling rate by may 2011 it will be necessary to either reduce the household waste stream in some way, or to recycle more. Accepting that there is little control over the generation of waste beyond publicity and re-use and recycling the current shortfall could be addressed through an increase in the number of households using the green garden waste collection service. To meet the expectation of an additional 2% over the estimated outturn figure for 2010/11 it will be necessary to attract an additional 3,000 households to the service currently used by 19,800 households.
- 2.17 The additional staffing resource available to the waste awareness team will continue for a further period of 15 months during which time the team will be actively involved in promoting waste reduction, re-use and recycling.

3.0 Develop and implement a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (Environment Strategy)

- 3.1 The Community Environment Partnership for Eastbourne (CEPE) met for the fourth time in December 2009. Working groups have been set up to consider specific concerns, e.g. climate change and whilst the Council is leading on and coordinating the process, the emphasis is on working with the community and partners.
- 3.2 The draft Environment Strategy and action plan will be reported to Cabinet on March 31 2010. It is presently on the Council's web site as a consultation document. It will also be discussed at the next meeting of the Eastbourne Strategic Partnership. CEPE is a sub group of the Eastbourne Strategic Partnership and so progress will be regularly reported to and overseen by the ESP.
- 3.3 The strategy supports the East Sussex Strategic Partnership's 'Pride of

Place' strategy, which desires to create at the local level a place that is active, inclusive, safe and healthy; has a sustainable and diverse economy and strong local culture; is well designed and built with good access to services; and maintains the environmental qualities of the area.

3.4 The following key themes have been identified within the Environment Strategy for collective action:

- Creating a low carbon town
- Reducing and managing our waste responsibly
- Protecting our green spaces and biodiversity
- Ensuring the quality of the air we breathe
- Adapting a warmer world
- Ensuring we use water sensibly
- Protecting our marine and historic environment

Each of the seven themes sets out why it is important that it is part of the Environment Strategy, where we are now – providing a snapshot of the current situation - and where we would like to get to – describing our goals for the future. Key strategic actions that will be needed to achieve these goals are identified within the document.

3.5 The strategy will be regularly monitored by CEPE who will publish a progress report every year highlighting what progress has been made against the action plan, and it will also include any new actions that have been adopted in order to further progress the objectives. The first report will also identify baselines.

3.6 **Corporate energy efficiency work**

3.7 At Council in February 2010, a motion was passed to join the national 10:10 campaign, the aim of which is to reduce carbon emissions by 10% in 2010. Work is underway to achieve this aim, with the proposals for the refurbishment of 1 Grove Rd and associated energy efficiency improvements.

3.8 Scrutiny committee has been updated on a 6 monthly basis on the work the Council is undertaking to improve energy efficiency corporately as well as our climate change work. This includes providing Display Energy certificates in each of our buildings, installing low energy light bulbs in our buildings wherever possible, developing the web site to include more information on climate change and how people can reduce their carbon emissions, and actions to help us deliver the national performance indicators, 2 of which are LAA targets. We have also held another bike challenge to encourage our staff to consider alternatives to using their cars.

3.9 We will shortly be installing smart meters for both gas and electricity supplies to our buildings, and these will provide us with accurate and frequent data that will:

- allow building managers to proactively monitor energy use (which could help us to reduce our energy bills by 5%)
- give us the information we need for NI 185 (see 3.16 below)
- allow us to quantify savings made by investing in low carbon technologies

- 3.11 Following the recommendations set out in the Council's Green Fleet Review the following measures have been adopted:
- an officer panel has been set up for the evaluation of replacement leased fleet vehicles, and is empowered to apply agreed test criteria in selecting the most appropriate vehicles;
 - a corporate target has been set so that, wherever possible, all replacement vehicles should reduce carbon emissions by at least 10% compared with the vehicle being replaced;
 - a corporate target has been set that the fleet should reduce by a minimum of two vehicles over the next 4 years.

In addition to the saving on carbon it is estimated that these actions will save the Council £7,000 every year.

Delivery of energy efficiency measures to households

- 3.12 We are delivering a programme of energy efficiency measures for private sector households, which includes basic insulation measures such as loft and cavity wall insulation, and the more sophisticated renewable energy systems that provide free hot water from roof mounted solar panels. This work is funded through our 3 year Private Housing Renewal programme (Brighton and East Sussex or BEST) and will contribute towards the overall amount of carbon we need to save in the town.
- 3.13 The Eastbourne BEST budget of £475,000 will be fully spent for 2009/10, and includes the installation of over 1090 measures - 43 of which are solar hot water panels. This work is helping to raise the profile of energy efficiency within Eastbourne and very importantly, is developing the market for renewables.
- 3.15 There are 5 national indicators which relate to the environment within the remit of Environmental Health, 2 of which are LAA targets as well.
- 3.16 **NI 185 relates to the CO2 reduction from local authority operations.** The purpose of this indicator is to monitor the carbon emissions from our own operations. We reported to DEFRA a baseline figure of 5,469 tonnes of carbon emitted in 08/09.

We now need to make year on year reductions. The amount of annual reductions has not been set however we are expecting approximately 100 tonnes per annum as part of our contribution to reduce carbon emissions for the whole town (see N186 below). We are working with colleagues across East Sussex to continually develop our approach to this indicator.

- 3.17 **NI 186 relates to the per capita CO2 emissions in the local authority area and is an LAA target.** This indicator measures the amount of carbon dioxide each person is responsible for emitting and allows year on year comparisons to see how much these emissions have been reduced. In agreement with other East Sussex Councils, the target is to make a 4,600 tonne (2%) reduction.

The 2007 data reported 5.1 tonnes per capita which was a 2% reduction on 2006 and the second year in row a reduction occurred. There is a two year time lag in reporting the data.

This indicator only measures carbon emissions that come from energy

used in homes, businesses, and vehicles travelling on main roads. It is monitored by the Government using electricity and gas consumption data and transport census data, but does not measure carbon emissions that come from people's use of trains, planes and local transport (the traffic census data does not pick up all local road traffic use) or people's emissions from food consumption, and general purchase habits.

The Government believes annual reductions for this indicator cannot be achieved solely by local authority actions (e.g. our energy efficiency programme) and other reductions will be achieved through the delivery of national policies e.g. making sure 70mph on trunk roads is not exceeded.

Government data for the baseline year of 2005 stated that within the confines of this indicator, emissions per capita were 5.6 tonnes. This equates to approximately a total of 500,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide for the whole town. It is worth noting that the average emissions per person in the UK is nearer to 9.5 tonnes as this takes into account all of their carbon producing activities.

Our LAA commitment for this indicator is up to April 2011. As this was a new indicator to us and one we wanted to have a real chance of achieving in the first stages we set our targets based on the achievements made through our energy efficiency programme. We are therefore committed to making annual reductions up to 2011 of 4600 tonnes per annum which using the 2005 baseline emissions (498,000) is approximately a 1% year on year reduction.

However, the Climate Change Act sets an 80% reduction by 2050 which equates to a 3.5% year on year reduction. We therefore need to make a 2.5% year on year reduction in carbon emissions in order to reach the CCA targets.

We are again working with colleagues across East Sussex to develop a uniform approach to monitoring our activity for this indicator and to develop best practice methods that can make real behavioural change.

- 3.18 **NI 187 relates to tackling fuel poverty – people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating.** The purpose of this indicator is to measure progress in tackling fuel poverty through the improved energy efficiency of households inhabited by people claiming income based benefits.

A survey took place in 2008/09 which found that 14% of people in receipt of benefits live in homes with a SAP rating of less than 35 (defined as a cold house). The 2009/10 survey is presently taking place.

- 3.19 **NI 188 relates to measures being taken to adapt against the impacts of climate change and is an LAA target.** Four levels have been defined and our target was to reach Level 0 baseline at the end of 2008/09, level 1 by the end of 2009/10 and level 3 by March 2011. Level 0 was achieved and we will achieve level 1 by the end of March 2010.

This NI is measured by self assessment via a Government approved checklist, and achieved by rigorous internal risk monitoring. Again we are working with partners in East Sussex and the Environment Agency, and we have defined the steps we need to take to reach each level.

3.20 **NI 194 Level of air quality, and percentage reduction in NOx and primary PM10 emissions through local authority's estate and operations.** Data being collected for NI 185 can also be used to report on this indicator as it uses the same base data.

4.0 Plan next stages in the development of Eastbourne Park

Background

4.1 Eastbourne Park is a 'green lung' of countryside that extends into the core of the town. It mostly a low lying landscape of grazing marshland surrounded by urban development. It has enormous potential as an environmental and recreational facility for the benefit of residents of the town and beyond. The reason this land has not been significantly developed in the past is because it forms a significant part of the functioning flood plain for the fluvial or river system of the Willingdon Levels.

4.2 Eastbourne Park has an area of 380ha and it sits in the bowl of the Willingdon Levels Catchment Area. The catchment area covers 2790ha (about 28 square kilometres) and extends well beyond the borough boundaries into Wealden District. The Levels have several streams, or sewers as they are affectionately known locally, that flow through its area and then discharge into the sea at two locations. One goes through Princess Park and into a culvert under the road to the sea, and the other goes out through the Pevensey Levels and into the sea.

Planning Policy

4.3 For the purposes of Planning, Eastbourne Park is divided into 4 sectors:-

- A. Broadwater
- B. Southbourne
- C. West Langney
- D. Shinewater

4.4 Positive planning began for Eastbourne Park in the 1967 when the first Eastbourne Urban Plan proposed the idea of an 'Eastbourne Park' to be created by reclaiming large tracts of Eastbourne Marshes to provide camping facilities, playing fields, sports centres, open spaces and lakes. In 1990 the Eastbourne Park District Plan (EPDP) was adopted by the Council which allowed urban extensions for, amongst other things, about 800 new homes on 20ha (5%) of land and some 26ha (7%) of the land for employment space around the edge of the Park together with significant new access roads. The recreational space was to be enhanced by the requirement to provide flood mitigation measures in the form of lakes. Examples of the leisure and recreational space already put in place are:-

- Shinewater Park;
- Golfing Range;
- Mini Railway;
- West Langney deep water lake and recreational area.

The Future

- 4.5 Eastbourne Park has been subject to three planning policy documents since the 1980s. With the publication of ever more prescriptive government guidance on a range of issues, particularly flood protection, the more difficult it has become for built development to take place in Eastbourne Park. The new planning system for the use of land, known as the Local Development Framework (LDF), also means the old plans need revisiting.
- 4.6 The Planning Policy Team is therefore preparing a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (under the LDF system) for Eastbourne Park. The SPD will accompany the LDF:Core Strategy and provide detailed policy guidance. The purpose of the Core Strategy and accompanying SPD will be conserve and enhance the existing environmental, landscape biodiversity characteristics of Eastbourne Park for future generations, whilst sensitively developing the town's most underused resource to improve the social and economic wellbeing of the community.
- Work is well underway and is being guided by a cross council steering group, which includes Councillors. As part of the work the Councillor Steering Group undertook guided sites to other wetland nature reserves earlier this Spring.
- 4.7 The work on the SPD also includes discussions with key stakeholders and formal consultation with the community. Currently further formal community consultation is planned for the autumn.
- 4.8 Managing the town's flood risk in Eastbourne park remains one the Council's key priorities. Officers are continuing to evaluate alternative options for spending the section 106 contributions that have been collected for carrying out flood mitigation measures. The Council's engineer is currently preparing tender documents to employ consultants to look as to whether the creation of wetlands or a further new lake area (probably as an extension of an existing lake) would provide the requisite compensation for development that has been built in the Willingdon Levels catchment area. The fund for flood mitigation work is currently about £350,000. Part of the feasibility work will be to improve community access to the new wetlands or lake area and link it to the existing access network. The tentative programme for the work is that it the consultants study should be completed by this summer. Work will require planning permission.
- 4.9 As part of the management of flood risk the Environment Agency (EA) has requested that the Council's hydraulic modelling for the flood compensatory scheme needs to be updated. Officers will work with the technical group at the County Council who have already been awarded substantial sums from the EA to undertake a surface water management plan.

5.0 Develop protection of the Downs

Background

- 5.1 The Eastbourne Downland covers an area of 1,810ha accounting for about 40% of the borough. It is designated an Area of Outstanding

Natural Beauty (AONB), but as many are aware it is has recently been designated as part of the new South Downs National Park.

- 5.2 The Downland (at least most of it) was purchased by the Council in 1929 and has managed it ever since. It contains 4 working farms which use the land mainly for sheep and cattle rearing. The other main use is for recreational and leisure access. The Council manage the estate in line with the requirements of Natural England. Almost 700ha are designated as an Environmental Sensitive Area. It also has about 370ha designated as Sites of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI) as well as a significant peppering of scheduled monuments from early historic occupations. The Downland, and particularly the cliffs, are home to important birds such as the Peregrine, Dartford Warbler and Wheatear and are protected during the nesting season. The boundary with the sea is also a Heritage Coast, which is an informal designation that identifies the area has some national interest.

Planning Policy

- 5.3 It is not surprising given the above that planning policy protects the Downland from Development. The current Eastbourne Borough Plan has a special chapter devoted to the Downland and it contains 6 key policies which cover :-

- D1 - Protection of the AONB from development;
- D2 - Protection of the Heritage Coast from development;
- D3 - Protection of SSSI's from development;
- D4 – allows development that meets the needs of agriculture, subject to strict guidelines;
- D5 - Allows the change of use of existing agricultural buildings subject to strict guidelines;
- D6 – Promotes recreational and leisure facilities consistent with Downland policies D1, D2 & D3.

However these policies will be superseded if (when) the South Downs becomes designated a National Park.

- 5.4 The government began a public inquiry into the designation of the South Downs as a National Park in 2005. Following a legal challenge on the proposed New Forest National Park, the government re-opened the inquiry into the South Downs NP in 2008 and finally closed it in July last year. The Inspectors final report was lodged on time with the government on 28 November 2008. A decision on the designation was published by the government in December 2009. The new National Park will come into full effect from the 1st April 2011. However the AONB will be de-designated on 31st March 2010 and a shadow national park authority will be established for one year on the 1st April 2010.

Future

- 5.5 The new NP Authority will have the planning powers for preparing the LDF and undertaking the development control function. At this moment it has not yet been confirmed whether the new NP Authority would delegate those functions back to the 15 local authorities that the NP area currently covers. It is suspected that in time the new NP Authority would want to prepare a comprehensive LDF for the new area to ensure consistency of

the management of any proposed development. Several options are being considered but it is likely that the Development Control function will be delegated back to the LAs, with the National Park retaining authority for 'major' development proposals. In Eastbourne's case there are only a few (about 15) planning applications each year so the impact either way would be insignificant. Of course land ownership would also still be within the control of the local authority.

- 5.6 In summary the Downland will continue to be protected by both planning policy, whoever prepares it, and by the local authority decision making ability as the land owner.

6.0 Address uncontrolled development

- 6.1 Due to concerns of the Scrutiny Committee this matter has recently been subject to a separate investigation looking at the effectiveness of the Enforcement Procedures.

- 6.2 In summary Cllr Barbara Goodall and Cllr Alex Hough interviewed key planning officers, including the Planning Manager, to establish what officers did when retrospective planning applications were refused. This effectively meant that Scrutiny wanted to know what enforcement action was undertaken where illegal development had been carried out and would need to revert back to its original condition.

- 6.3 The Scrutiny Committee heard that there is an Enforcement Policy in place which was completely overhauled and published in 2006. The policy covers the following areas:-

- **Reactive Enforcement** : responding to complaints; and
- **Proactive Enforcement** : monitoring of planning conditions; serving section 215 Notices on unsightly land/buildings, particularly in connection with the Difficult Property Group; monitoring of holiday accommodation use.

The policy sets out the priorities of the work, clearly relating to the protection of acknowledged matters of interest. For example unauthorised works to a listed building is considered a high priority due to the potential lose of irreplaceable historical fabric. The document contains a total of 27 policies on how the Borough Council will deal with the different enforcement matters. The Enforcement Policy has since been updated and is expected to be approved at Cabinet in March 2010.

- 6.4 In summary Scrutiny recommended that:-

- Planning Committee receives regular updates on enforcement cases;
- Press releases are issued on suitable cases showing that the Council is taking enforcement seriously.

The first update was given to the planning committee meeting in December and press releases will be considered for suitable cases from April 2009.

7.0 Improve monitoring of air quality to protect health

Statutory Local Air Quality Management

- 7.1 As part of our statutory Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) duties under the Environment Act 1995, the Council is required to monitor for Particulates Matter (PM10) and Nitrogen Dioxide and has done so since 1998.
- 7.2 These pollutants are considered to be the most significant as they are emitted from road vehicles which are the primary source of pollution in the town. The results are available on the Sussex-air website www.sussex-air.net.
- 7.3 This data is used to produce annual LAQM progress and assessment reports to DEFRA. If any of the national objectives for these pollutants are exceeded, and if 'modelling' concludes that residents are exposed to levels above the national objectives, we must develop an Air Quality Action Plan in conjunction with Highways, Planners etc and implement an Air Quality Management Area(s) (AQMAs).
- 7.4 This would involve developing and implementing initiatives that would reduce the pollution in the affected areas which would primarily involve traffic reduction measures. To date this has not been necessary however levels of Nitrogen Dioxide are generally increasing locally, particularly in the Whitley Road/Seaside and Terminus/Ashford/Gildredge Road areas, therefore it is possible that EBC may need to develop an AQMAs in one or more of these areas in future.

Monitoring of fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5)

- 7.5 The Council and the University of Brighton have developed into a 4 year joint project to monitor background levels of fine particularities at Willingdon Trees. Research indicates that PM2.5 is responsible for adverse health effects in humans and so is currently of particular interest. The University of Brighton provided the equipment and is undertaking collation of data and filter analysis throughout the duration of the project.
- 7.6 The site commenced officially on 1st April 2009 and monitors background levels. This project will provide a greater understanding of the background levels of PM2.5 in the town and its composition.

National PM2.5 Monitoring

- 7.7 Eastbourne was chosen by DEFRA as an urban background site to monitor for PM2.5, PM10 and Nitrogen Dioxide as part of the Automatic Urban and Rural Network. DEFRA provided the equipment which is also sited at Willingdon Trees adjacent to the joint EBC/University of Brighton site.
- 7.8 The Site has been operating since May 2009 and the monitoring results are posted on the Sussex air website (www.sussex-air.net). This 13 year project will gather monitoring data on urban background levels of PM2.5 in order to set National objectives.

Air Alert

- 7.9 AirALERT is a service provided by the Sussex Air Quality Partnership (SAQP) of which Eastbourne BC is a partner. AirALERT sends free

messages to the mobile or home telephone of registered asthma sufferers informing them that high air pollution is predicted in their area of Sussex. The alert will be sent out the day before a pollution episode is predicted so that it can help asthma sufferers make informed choices about managing their respiratory health. Sussex has shared and developed the airALERT service with other authorities including Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Southampton. There are 324 current subscribers for Sussex, of which Eastbourne has 24 and in 2008 there were 39 alert days and in 2009 there were 46 alert days.

- 7.10 AirALERT produces air-quality forecasts for the following 24 hrs/weekend which are converted to text and voice messages and sent out to recipients each afternoon. The messages will only be sent if a forecast of 'moderate' or 'high' levels of pollution are predicted, i.e. pollution levels which may trigger symptoms. For more information please visit www.sussex-air.net/airalert

Industrial Processes

- 7.11 Under the Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999 and associated regulations etc, the Council is required to annually inspect and permit premises known as Part B activities.
- 7.12 There is an extensive list of the processes that fall within this legislation and in Eastbourne the processes we inspect are petrol stations, respraying workshops, dry cleaners, concrete batching plant and the Crematorium. A statutory fee is set for these inspections which amount to approximately £6k per annum and officers in the Pollution team undertake these inspections.

Bonfires

- 7.13 These are regarded a nuisance by local residents and in 2009/10 the Council dealt with 71 complaints compared to 76 in 08/09, 79 in 07/08 and 78 in 06/07.

Bonfires are not the most appropriate option for the environment and can produce pollutants which can adversely affect human health. There are responsible alternatives to burning garden waste such as recycling/composting etc which should be considered in preference to burning. From January 2009 the Council started providing a free of charge, "opt-in" Green Garden Waste Collection Service. The service is a fortnightly collection of Green Garden Waste using either a 180 litre wheeled bin or a 90 litre reusable sack. In the long term it is hoped that this service will result in a noticeable reduction in the incidence of bonfire complaints in the town. The Pollution Team will however continue to act quickly to deal with such issues to reduce their effect and improve air quality.

Low Emission Strategy

- 7.14 Sussex-air has recently become one of three regional champions (2010) for the Low Emission Strategies Partnership Regional Group Initiative. This will enable the partnership to allocate resource to develop a **Sussex**

Low Emission Strategy, low emission policy links in Sussex LDF's and LTP's, plus to develop some low emission planning guidance/documents and pilot some low emission tools.

Working with strategic planners, it is hoped that by linking in low emission policies into these key strategic documents, it will enable and encourage low emission developments, low emission zone options and move toward reduced transport emissions which benefit air quality and climate change. Sussex-air has also been involved in the consultation and development of air quality elements in the developing SE Plan with the South East England Partnership Board.

Lead Officers

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Environmental Health Manager

APPENDIX A

Priority Policy 5 Environment: become a leader in environmental sustainability

Actions and Activity	Reporting Arrangements
<p>5.1 Increase recycling and encourage reduction and reuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerbside cardboard collection has been introduced and is collected with Green Garden Waste Service (May 2009) 	<p>Lead Member: Cllr Steve Wallis</p> <p>Lead Officer: Senior Head of Development and Environment.</p> <p>Reports to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet - 2 September 2009 <p>Key indicators: NI 191, NI 192, NI 193</p>
<p>5.2 Improve waste management arrangements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a revised Service Level Agreement with East Sussex County Council 	<p>Lead Member: Cllr Steve Wallis</p> <p>Lead Officer: Senior Head of Development and Environment.</p> <p>Reports to: The service level agreement will be implemented with East Sussex County Council and Districts and Boroughs .within East Sussex as from 1st April 2010.</p> <p>Key indicators: NI 191, NI 192, NI 193</p>
<p>5.3 Conduct appraisal of future allotment needs</p>	<p>Lead Member: Cllr Steve Wallis</p> <p>Lead Officer: Senior Head of Development and Environment.</p> <p>Reports to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Development Framework Steering Group – 7 April 2010 <p>Key indicators: N/A</p>
<p>5.4 Continued management of coastal defences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitted funding bid at end of April 2009 • Developed a 5 year programme of works by September 2009 	<p>Lead Member: Cllr Steve Wallis</p> <p>Lead Officer: Senior Head of Development and Environment.</p> <p>Reports to: Due to be reported to either the Environment Agency National Review Group at the beginning of May 2010 or their Project Appraisal Board meeting on 20th May. Peter Padgett awaiting confirmation from the E.A. as to which meeting the report will be presented to.</p> <p>Key indicators: NI 189</p>
<p>5.5 Develop protection of the Downs</p>	<p>Lead Member: Cllr Steve Wallis</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report for Downland forum highlighting actions achieved has been published 	<p>Lead Officer: Senior Head of Development and Environment.</p> <p>Reports to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Downland Forum – August 2009 Downland Forum – 4 February 2010 <p>Key indicators: N/A</p>
<p>5.6 Develop the Environment Strategy in consultation with the Environment Partnership and implement action plan</p>	<p>Lead Member: Cllr Steve Wallis</p> <p>Lead Officer: Senior Head of Development and Environment.</p> <p>Reports to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrutiny Committee - 6 April 2009 Scrutiny Committee - 7 December 2009 Cabinet – 31 March 2010 Scrutiny Committee– 12 April 2010 Strategic Partnership date tbc. <p>Key indicators: N/A</p>
<p>5.7 Develop Eastbourne Park Supplementary Planning Document Research evidence and prepare draft SFD for consultation by end of October 2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare to build new lake with public access using section 106 money 	<p>Lead Member: Cllr Steve Wallis</p> <p>Lead Officer: Senior Head of Development and Environment.</p> <p>Reports to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steering Group meetings: 24 April 2009 26 June 2009 14 August 2009 6 November 2009 Scrutiny - 8 February 2010 <p>Key indicators: N/A</p>
<p>5.8 Monitoring Air Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and co-ordinate the installation of a new DEFRA sponsored Automatic Urban and Rural Network air monitoring station and undertake ongoing equipment calibration at this site Contribute to the development of a European funded project application to monitor particulate matter across the Channel from key transport routes in conjunction with the Sussex Air Quality Partnership and other major partners in England and France 	<p>Lead Member: Cllr Steve Wallis</p> <p>Lead Officer: Senior Head of Community</p> <p>Reports to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrutiny - 6 April 2009 Scrutiny – 12 April 2010 Particulate matter - unfortunately this project did not receive EU approval. However the Sussex Air Quality Partnership (SAQP) are investigating the possibility of developing further EU bids in partnership with EU and UK organisations to address similar objectives. In Jan 2010 the SAQP successfully obtained

	<p>£20k funding to develop 'Low Emission Strategy' guidance across the Sussex region in with a view to developing a specific Supplementary Planning Guidance document. This initiative is being coordinated by the SAQP coordinator.</p>
	<p>Key indicators: NI 194</p>