

Full Council

Date:	6 August 2019
Title:	Environmental Policy
Contact Officer:	Graham Hunt, Town Clerk

Purpose of Report

1. To provide the background for a new Environmental Policy.

Background

2. Following on from the presentation on the Climate Emergency at the Council meeting on 18 June 2019, and the internal brainstorming event that followed, it is timely that the Council puts a new Environmental Policy in place which sets out clear environmental guidelines for staff and Councillors to follow, beyond that which is already included as part of existing Policies and Procedures.
3. A draft policy had been in existence for some time. This new policy is based on that, but has been through further iterations, involving various Councillors, Thame Green Living, and the Officer Management Team, to ensure that what it commits to is within Thame Town Council's resources and powers, fits in with the Thame Green Living Plan and is specific to Thame.
4. The latest v4 draft policy was circulated to all Councillors and staff for any final comments on Friday 26 July 2019.
5. Further comments were received and in most cases applied, mostly in relation to increasing urgency and ensuring timely review of other impacted policies, such as the Procurement Policy, the Investment Strategy, the Pesticides Policy etc.
6. An investment paragraph was also suggested, with two alternatives proposed. A decision is needed on which to apply.
7. Officers will separately work on updating relevant procedures / working practices.
8. Given the importance, it is also suggested that the policy be reviewed in 2 years' time, rather than the normal 4 yearly cycle.

Resource Appraisal

9. Any additional resource implications will be addressed through appropriate budgeting via the Budget Working Group.

Risk Assessment

10. There are no additional risks identified, and the implementation of an Environmental Policy will reduce overall risk.

Legal Powers: Local Government Act 1972 s 111

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

- i) The new Environmental Policy be adopted, subject to agreement on the investment paragraph alternatives.*