

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA**CABINET 15 JUNE 2006****REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORT,
ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE SERVICES****DRAFT ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY****1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The draft Environment Strategy was considered the Cabinet at its meeting on 23 February with a recommendation that it be approved for public consultation. It was also considered at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Public Realm on 13 March. The Cabinet asked for the draft to be reworked to make it more concise and for the action plan to be more measurable. The Cabinet Member for Environmental Health, Waste Management and Leisure agreed changes to the text and approved the draft for public consultation.

2. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- 2.1 The public consultation period took place from 13 March to 19 April. A range of consultation methods was used:
- Two focus group sessions with local residents (one prior to the preparation of a draft document and one afterwards);
 - Presentation of an early draft strategy to the Environment Round Table (consisting of local residents) and the Local Strategic Partnership steering group;
 - Letters to Residents' Associations, our partners and key organisations in the borough, and
 - Draft strategy posted on the Council's website.
- 2.2 The Cabinet Member for Environmental Health, Waste Management and Leisure approved the comments and suggestions arising from the consultation on 28 April. These are reflected in the current draft strategy (Appendix A).
- 2.3 The consultation draft has been well received and none of the comments are controversial. Typically they are supportive of the strategy and applaud the Council's leadership role. For example, "Show us, don't tell us" was a common theme as residents felt that the Council should be demonstrating what is possible to

achieve through its own actions. As a result the draft Environment Strategy features flagship projects for each of its seven themes (which were confirmed as being the most important local environmental issues during consultation on the Community Strategy).

- 2.4 People also told us they wanted to recognise the high concentration of scientific expertise in the borough by working closely with the Natural History, the Science Museum and Imperial College to promote and develop sustainability in the borough. The Environment Strategy therefore sets out our intention to establish a South Kensington Sustainability Forum which will bring these organisations together.
- 2.5 It had been suggested that an equalities impact assessment of the strategy be undertaken. However, there does not appear to be anything in the strategy itself that disadvantages any particular group of people. Each significant action may need to be considered with equalities in mind and assessed accordingly.
- 2.6 Another repeated comment was for the Council to look beyond its usual set of environmental contacts in the borough to engage a wider range of people and interests. The action plan therefore sets out the intention to develop a local network to help us deliver the aspirations of the Environment Strategy by providing feedback, discussing ideas, and instigating local actions by local groups themselves. It is also intended that the Council website features more information for residents and businesses about how to be more sustainable in day their day-to-day activities.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Cabinet is recommended to agree the draft Environment Strategy and forward it to the full Council for approval at its meeting on 28 June.

<p>MICHAEL STROUD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE SERVICES</p>
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