

CONTAMINATED LAND STRATEGY 2022-2027

Council - 19 July 2022

Report of: Chief Officer - Planning & Regulatory Services

Status: For Comment

Also considered by:

- Cabinet - 7 July 2022
- Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee - 28 June 2022

Key Decision: no

Executive Summary: This report is a draft revision of the 2001 strategy. It has been for consultation with internal council departments and externally with the Environment Agency.

The proposed strategy reflects on the action taken with respect to the previous strategy and incorporates our current methods of addressing this statutory duty.

Portfolio Holder: Cllr. McArthur

Contact Officers: Colin Alden, Ext. 7186, Nick Chapman, Ext. 7167

Recommendation to Cleaner & Greener Committee:

That it be recommended to Cabinet to be recommended to Council to approve adoption of the Contaminated Land Strategy 2022-2027.

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Reason for recommendation:

This will align the strategy with current working practices in order to discharge the Council's statutory duty.

Introduction and Background

- 1 The Contaminated Land Strategy is a key document required by Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (inserted by Section 57 of the Environment Act 1995), which introduced a new statutory regime for the identification and control of contaminated land and which came into force in England on the 1 April 2000.
- 2 The original strategy was relevant at the time and for several years but as those sites identified as requiring assessment have been either screen and any necessary action taken or sites were remediated as part of the planning process the needs of the strategy have changed.
- 3 The revised strategy identifies that the Development Control Process has been instrumental in the remediation of many sites and with any identified site screen as posing no significant risk or remediated or are currently being remediated through the planning process. This strategy proposes this method of discharging the statutory duty primarily by the Development Control Processes.

Other options Considered and/or rejected

- 4 As this strategy reflects current practice it incurs no additional or minimal cost.
- 5 The original strategy required significant officer input and significant costs in the active screening, sampling and determination by external consultants.

Key Implications

Resource (non-financial)

Activities are undertaken by existing staff.

Financial

Minimal cost as undertaken within existing resources.

Legal Implications

The proposals will align the strategy with current working practices in order to discharge the Council's statutory duty.

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Net Zero Implications

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the council's ambition to be Net Zero by 2030. There is no perceived impact regarding either an increase or decrease in carbon emissions in the district, or supporting the resilience of the natural environment.

Conclusions

The Contaminated Land Strategy 2022-2027 should be approved as part of a statutory duty under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Appendices

Appendix A - Contaminated Land Strategy 2022-2027

Richard Morris

Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer - Planning & Regulatory Services