

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change

Contaminated Land Strategy 2025-20301. Purpose of Report

To seek approval for the updated Contaminated Land Strategy in accordance with the Corporate Priority of Environment – protect the environment for the future.

2. Recommendation

Policy Overview Working Group is asked to RECOMMEND to Cabinet that the updated Contaminated Land Strategy be approved.

3. Detail

The Contaminated Land Strategy details the Council's approach to assessing the risk from contaminated land within the Borough and the need for that land to be remediated, as it is developed to ensure land is suitable for its use. The approach remains unchanged from the previous strategy but includes actions to review the contaminated land prioritisation software, review the site information and carry out further assessments of the highest priority sites. **Appendix 1** contains the strategy, **Appendix 2** is the Change table.

4. Key Decision

This report is a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 as it affects all Wards in the Council's area.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

The Policy Overview Working Group will make a recommendation regarding this report.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Assistant Director Finance Services were as follows:

There are no additional budget implications to consider at this stage with ongoing business as usual activities being met within existing resources. Dealing with contaminated land issues through development places the remediation costs on the developer. Any intrusive assessments required to assist in the screening, risk profiling and/or emergency remediation works (if not recovered) may incur significant costs, the funding for which would need to be sought on a case-by-case basis. Any significant budget implications in the future, over and above virement limits, would require approval by Cabinet.

7. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

It is a requirement of the Statutory Guidance for local authorities to identify and prioritise land most likely to pose the greatest risk to human health and the environment. The priority list of potentially contaminated land sites discharges the above statutory duty by providing the best advice to landowners and developers interested in investing in the town or elsewhere in the Borough. Having such up-to-date information regarding land contamination, the Council can effectively manage risk from any development encountering issues via the planning process coupled with due diligence so that there are no legal repercussions for the Council.

8. Human Resources Implications

There were no comments from the Human Resources Manager.

9. Union Comments

There are no Union comments.

10. Climate Change Implications

The climate change implications are

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any Official (SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

As this is only an update to a policy an equality impact assessment is not required.

13. Background Papers

Nil.