

**TO: ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
3 FEBRUARY 2004**

SUBJECT: SCRUTINY OF ACTION 21

FROM: ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTORATE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To agree the report, attached at appendix 1, which proposes the information and recommendations that should be made to the Executive in March based on the Committee's deliberations regarding the scrutiny of Action 21.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As part of its work plan for 2003/04 the Committee agreed to scrutinise the work of Action 21.

- 2.2 At the 8 October meeting the Committee agreed the following three areas for scrutiny at the 2 December meeting:

Quarterly reports to the Council's Senior Officers on the work of Action 21;
The Council's service level agreement with Action 21; and
The Action 21 Budget.

- 2.3 At the December meeting the Committee considered a report from Action 21 providing them with the information requested at the 8 October meeting. In addition to the report, presentations were made by Action 21 members on how they felt Action 21 was performing in relation to its service level agreement and work in general.

- 2.4 It was agreed at that meeting that officers would compile a draft report for submission to the Executive, taking into consideration the discussions held by Councillors and the contents of the report from Action 21. The draft report to the Executive is attached at appendix 1.

3. POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK

- 3.1 The report on the budget which was on the Agenda for the 9 February Executive assumed that the funding for Agenda 21 would fall out at the end of 2004/05 as originally planned. The potential increase in tax for 2005/06 is already in the order of 10% and to retain the support for Agenda 21 would add approximately another 1% to the Tax in 2005/06

- 3.2 There are no direct financial implications for the Council at this time. This service helps the Council to achieve two of the seven key themes within the corporate strategy both now and in the future. These are "Improve our services to provide a cleaner and greener environment" and "promote and contribute to a safer and healthier community".

4. **OUTCOME REQUIRED**

- 4.1 The Committee approves the report, attached as appendix 1, to be submitted for consideration by the Executive as the Committee's recommendations with regard to Action 21.

Graham Leach
Committee Services Officer

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Environment Overview Scrutiny Committee agenda & minutes for 8 October and 2 December 2003

Areas in District Affected:

All.

Executive Portfolio Area and Holder:

Councillor Mrs Begg, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services

For further information about this report please contact:

Contact Officer: Graham Leach

Tel: (01926) 456102

E-Mail: graham.leach@warwickdc.gov.uk

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