

ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

FULL CONSULTATION SUMMARY (INCLUDING RESPONSES)

NOVEMBER 2012

INTRODUCTION

1. This report provides a summary of the responses from the recent consultation on the Council's proposed Environment Strategy, as well as proposed comments as to how the consultation has been considered in respect to the final adoption version of the Strategy.

BACKGROUND

2. Doncaster Council has never had an Environment Strategy in place before, despite having corporate environmental priorities and obligations. As a result, the delivery and promotion of these environmental priorities has sometimes lacked impetus, coordination and profile.
3. The Strategy focuses on the following three themes, and each of these themes (T) contains a number of key priorities (P) as summarised below.

T1. Managing our environmental resources and services	
P1. Waste minimisation	Minimise the creation of waste in the borough and reduce the amount of waste that is created from going to landfill
P2. Deliver more energy efficient housing	Improve the energy efficiency of social and private rented households and ensuring the efficiency of new developments
P3. Effective flood mitigation	Promotion of flood mitigation and further developing local residents knowledge of flood risks in order to increase personal flood resilience
T2. Ensuring a quality environment	
P4. Protect our air and water quality and address contaminated land issues	Effective monitoring of Air & Water Quality and sites with contaminated land, taking remedial action when required
P5. Create a more attractive street-scene	Improve the look and attractiveness of the borough's Street Scene to support inward investment and to create places that people can be really proud of
T3. Valuing our environmental assets	
P6 & P7. Protect and promote our historic and natural environment	Increase public understanding of the value of our environment by promoting their social, cultural and economic benefits, whilst protecting its intrinsic value
P8. Ensure access to high quality green spaces and the countryside	Effective management of our public parks and woodlands and improve access to our public right of way network

CONSULTATION

4. The Strategy was subject to full public consultation for 4 weeks during September – October 2012. Particular key organisations and partnerships that can help deliver the Strategy have been targeted, including Town and Parish Councils. The consultation especially welcomed stakeholder's views on whether the Strategy supports or conflicts with other plans and aspirations that they may have. Identification of any opportunities for us to work together to deliver the Strategy were also asked for.
5. In total, 21 responses to the consultation were received by the closing date. The breakdown of these was as follows:
 - 9 x Town/Parish Council;

- 6 x Individuals/local residents;
- 1 x Rotherham MBC;
- 1 x Doncaster Naturalists' Society;
- 1 x South Yorkshire Archaeology Service;
- 1 x Doncaster Lakeside Wildlife Action Group;
- 1 x Don Catchment Rivers Trust;
- 1 x Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

CONSULTATION SUMMARY

CONSULTEE REF	COMMENTING ON	CONSULTATION RESPONSE SUMMARY	OFFICER RESPONSE
001	GENERAL	The Town Council is generally in support of the Strategy	Support welcomed
001	THEME 3/ PRIORITY 8/ ACTION P8.6	Can Town & Parish Council owned parks be included in the management plans?	Noted, management plans initially need to be prepared via a process of prioritisation, e.g. identified through the Area Plans. The wording in the Strategy refers to all public parks and does not rule out the possibility that these could be owned by Town/Parish Councils therefore.
001	THEME 3/ PRIORITY 8/ ACTION P8.9	Can you give further clarification on how open access will be given to Hatfield Moors, and how the rights of way onto the Moors from Lindholme will be affected?	Although the public already enjoy access to Hatfield Moor, it is not registered as access land under the provisions of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The Act provides for a landowner to dedicate land as access land. Natural England, as landowner, have indicated that they are willing to dedicate part of Hatfield Moor as access land but at the time of writing it is not known how much land they intend to dedicate or when. The dedication of land as access land does not affect public rights of way, however there are no legally recorded rights of way onto the Moors from Lindholme.
002	GENERAL	Doncaster Naturalists' Society is generally positive about the Strategy	Support welcomed
002	GENERAL	There was a policy statement on the future of the countryside by DMBC entitled 'A Breath of Fresh Air'. Although this was published many years ago, it had a lot of good stuff which is still relevant e.g. educational materials, guided walks, interpretive leaflets, voluntary warden scheme etc. These are they kinds of activities that can be achieved in partnership with the Naturalists' Society.	The document referred to was published in the mid 1990s. Agree a lot of the principles contained are still relevant, but perhaps too detailed for inclusion in the Environment Strategy which is a high-level over arching document. However, many of these principles will be picked up through the forthcoming GI Strategy which will help deliver many of the objectives of the Environment Strategy. The GI Strategy and delivery of projects will need to be prepared/delivered in partnership with all our relevant stakeholders so support welcomed.
003	THEME 1/ PRIORITY 1/ ACTION P1.2	Reference to 'Waste Recycling Centre' should be changed to 'Waste Treatment Facility' which is more appropriate terminology.	Noted – amendment to Strategy has been made

004	THEME 1/ PRIORITY 3	Reducing future flooding should include promotion and improvement of natural flood defences in riparian corridors. We are currently doing this in Doncaster through the EB & Flow Project (http://www.ywt.org.uk/what-we-do/projects/eb-flow) and the Revival Partnership (http://www.ywt.org.uk/what-we-do/conservation-projects/revival-%E2%80%93-new-future-lower-river-don) and would be happy to work with DMBC on future projects.	Agree that more natural flood defence solutions should be explored in addition to more physical engineered solutions. However, the Environment Strategy is a high level overarching Strategy. It will be the role of the Flood Risk Management Strategy to identify the most appropriate flood defence solutions, both physical and natural defences. Support for working together on future projects welcomed.
004	THEME 2/ PRIORITY 4	Through the Torne Catchment Partnership we are working to improve the water quality in this area and would be happy to work with the council on this aim.	Noted and support welcomed
004	THEME 3/ PRIORITY 7/ ACTION P7.2	The council should recognise the NIA and other locally important sites such as Potteric Carr as key assets within Doncaster which offer all of the above. We feel there is the potential to develop a local Nature Tourism project within the area to highlight these important assets. We already run a Nature Tourism Project in East Yorkshire (http://www.ywt.org.uk/what-we-do/projects/nature-tourism-triangle) and this could be easily adapted for a similar project in Doncaster which we would be happy to work with the council on.	Agree – the contribution that the NIAs can have for increasing nature tourism has been acknowledged in the Strategy. The Natural Improvement Area is included in Action 7.2 and other key assets are in South Yorkshire Local Nature Partnership which is included in Action 7.1 Support for working together on future projects welcomed.
004	THEME 3/ PRIORITY 7/ ACTION P7.4	We are already running a number of outreach projects in the area including the CONNECT Project (http://www.ywt.org.uk/news/2012/05/28/connect) and an education and outreach programme at Potteric Carr (http://www.ywt.org.uk/discover-learn/potteric-carr-flagship-reserve-doncaster). We also run a trainee programme, Skills for Wildlife (http://www.skillsforwildlife.co.uk/more-details.htm), as well as offering a number of other volunteering opportunities. We would therefore be happy to work with Doncaster Council to deliver this aim.	Noted and support welcomed
004	THEME 3/ PRIORITY 7/ OUTCOME 2	This aim fits well with our Living Landscape vision (http://www.ywt.org.uk/what-we-do/living-landscapes). We have a number of projects within our Living Landscapes including the Magnesian Limestone Project and the EB and Flow project which seek to fulfil these aims and we would be keen to work with the council on similar projects.	Noted and support welcomed

004	THEME 3/ PRIORITY 7/ ACTION P7.11	We are happy to be working with the council on the Biodiversity Offsetting pilot and hope that we can help to make it a success.	Noted and support welcomed
004	THEME 3/ PRIORITY 8/ ACTION P8.5	We would be happy to work with Doncaster Council on the green infrastructure strategy and its delivery.	Noted and support welcomed
004	THEME 3/ PRIORITY 8/ ACTION P8.9	We would support improved access to the moors but this would need to be carefully managed to ensure that sensitive areas were not disturbed.	Noted and agree with comment
005	THEME 1/ PRIORITY 1	Obviously the general direction of this theme is supported but it would appear to be dealing mainly with waste generated and dealt with in a legal manner. i.e. domestic. There seems to be little consideration for producing a plan to deal with domestic and industrial waste disposed of illegally by dumping. This is a major issue in rural areas and a considerable blight on the environment. Identification of the areas most affected with increased surveillance by authorities is one possible way forward but at a time of financial constraints this may not be possible so other avenues could be the use of local volunteers or community support groups to tidy the areas up. It is accepted that P5.1 mentions Flytipping and proposes that action is taken to increase enforcement action but there appears to be no policy to remove the reasons for flytipping or even a method of identifying why people find a need to flytip.	Noted and support welcomed, the other points are operational matters which this strategy will support.
005	THEME 1/ PRIORITY 2	<p>There are numerous initiatives around for improvement of home energy use. It would be useful to ensure that those developed and funded by DMBC do not cover the ground currently being covered by the Government. Those organisations closest to the ground are often those who are aware of local requirements and housing conditions (Parish Councils). It would be advantageous if these organisation could have an input into were the money is spent.</p> <p>We are also concerned by the word vulnerable used in Priority 2. A clearer definition of those intended to be targeted would help. This word</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>It would be helpful if the Parish Council could clarify what the concern is around the use of the word 'vulnerable'?</p>

		has a variable definition depending on its context.	
005	PRIORITY	It is understood that one of the biggest pollutants to air quality is car exhaust emissions particularly in heavy slow moving traffic. No mention is made of liaising with road building/enhancement departments to ensure their future plans take into account the areas causing maximum pollution. Consideration should also be given to ensuring the best use is being made of the road networks around Doncaster in addition to the engagement of South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan.	Noted. These are already undertaken as operational matters.
005	THEME 3/ PRIORITY 7 & 8	Many Town and Parish Councils have their own aspirations for green areas within their areas and also responsibility for the maintenance and use of local playing fields held in trust. No mention of any form of liaison is mentioned. We suggest that a close consultation would be beneficial in this before proceeding too far with this policy.	Noted, this is included in Actions P7.8 and P8.1.
006	GENERAL	<p>My main comment is in relation to trees. There is a document called "Woodland for Water" funded by the Forestry Commission and the Environment Agency which could be very helpful in connection with Doncaster's flooding problems and I consider should be quoted in the policy.</p> <p>You may or may not remember that I tried to make this point in my submission to the Inspector in relation to the Thorne Colliery site. My comments at that time were in connection with the development of the site and I consider that suitable tree planting in the right locations should be part of the conditions for residential, retail and industrial development. In connection with tree planting, I would also mention that this should be undertaken on residential development sites as these sites are left in a very stark and severe state. The last time I checked, there was a requirement for nine trees for every person to keep us alive. Trees absorb dust and nitrogens from the air so are exceptionally good for air management and I consider that this also should be included in the air management section. There are large sections of the A1 and M18</p>	<p>Noted, this is a high level overarching strategy. Other strategies are already in place, or will be prepared, by not just the Council but numerous partners and stakeholders to help implement the outcomes of the Environment Strategy. It is not felt necessary to make reference to them in the interests of achieving a succinct Strategy.</p> <p>Noted, however these are generally planning issues and comments in relation to landscaping and tree planting on any specific development site should be made as part of the Development Management process. Policies in the Local Development Framework require suitable tree planting/landscaping/green infrastructure etc on new development sites. The forthcoming GI Strategy will also include a section which covers trees/woodlands. It is not felt necessary to repeat these policies here for reasons as per the above response.</p>

		<p>which would benefit Doncaster by being planted with trees and shrubbery that would make it a more attractive place for travellers along to want to stop and visit. At the moment some parts look very barren with no screening having taken place when housing and industrial developments have taken place.</p> <p>I would also like to say that some of the large warehouses, in particular Ikea which is an "eyesore" in no uncertain terms, should employ a 3D artist to paint lovely countryside scenes on them. This would make Doncaster a more attractive place to want to visit instead of encountering these industrial units immediately people turn off these roads.</p> <p>I would add that I was very pleased to see that trees have been planted to screen the park and ride development on Bawtry Road. It is a big improvement and I hope the same takes place with the "rail port" development on greenbelt land at Rossington, particularly bearing in mind that it will be on higher ground.</p>	<p>Noted, however it not clear how such an action could be implemented by the Council given the property in question is in private ownership. Detailed design policies are included in the Local Development Framework to deal with design of new warehouses.</p> <p>Noted, appropriate tree planting and landscaping is being agreed between the Council and the developer as part of the Inland Port planning application and Development Management process.</p>
007	THEME 1/ PRIORITY 3	<p>Reference should be made to the potential benefits of SUDs, together with a commitment to include these in new and re-development areas. This form of drainage has both flood control and water quality benefits and has the potential to reduce the impact of peak floods. The flood defence strategy developed in co-operation with the Environment Agency and other partners should look to maximise all opportunities to develop new, and extend existing, wetland sites along the corridor of the River Don. It has been established that connectivity is the key to creating sustainable ecosystems and the management of floods, using controlled inundation, can provide many such opportunities. (linked to action P7.5)</p>	<p>Noted, agree that SUDs are an important flood alleviation technique, but this is a high level overarching Strategy. It's objectives and outcomes will be delivered through numerous other strategies and plans which can provide the necessary detail such as this. The Local Development Framework policy requires all developments in flood risk areas to make use of SUDs, and all major developments (1 hectare+) regardless of whether they are in a flood risk area. All flood defence solutions, both physical engineered solutions and more natural habitat creation schemes, will be considered through the Local Flood Defence Strategy.</p>
007	THEME 2/ PRIORITY 4/ ACTION P.4.11	<p>There should be a commitment here to enhance the fishery as well as the water environment, both are Environment Agency legislative requirement.</p>	<p>Agree, Strategy has been updated to include reference to enhancing fishery as well as water environment.</p>

007	THEME 3/ PRIORITY 6	The River Don has a fascinating history linked with the industrial development of South Yorkshire. Its story links with aspects of remnant habitats at Thorne Moors and Hatfield Moors which in themselves have high tourist potential. Over the last two decades remarkable improvements have taken place within the river environment to the extent that the river can once again boast salmon in its waters. The story of the river should become a feature of tourist information and information boards should be placed at strategic points to inform the public of the river's contribution to the economic development of South Yorkshire and of Doncaster in particular.	Noted, this is included in Action P6.11 and 6.12, but included a clearer reference in the Strategy at P6.11 also.
007	THEME 3/ PRIORITY 7 & 8	The standards set by the Water Framework Directive for the achievement of 'good ecological status' do not include a standard for controlling or removing floating waste material, a problem which blights the rivers of South Yorkshire. Being the most downstream conurbation on the system, Doncaster is the recipient of all the floating waste material which is deposited into the river upstream, resulting in the appearance of our local waterways environment being degraded. The unsightly appearance of this material helps to re-enforce the impression amongst the public that the river remains polluted. Additionally it is damaging to the rivers ecology and impacts on the recreational enjoyment people can derive. There is an opportunity through the work of the Don Network for collective action to be taken by all of the local authorities to address this issue.	Noted, comments are already reflected through Action P7.7
007	THEME 3/ PRIORITY 7 & 8	The corridor of the River Don is one of the most important yet under used environmental assets in the Borough, but is not even identified in the document as an important green space. Due to the lack of formal footpath access, the people of Doncaster rarely engage with the river environment and, as a result, undervalue it. There remains a perception that the river is still a degraded environment suffering from the impacts of its industrial past. It should be an objective to create new footpath links adjacent to the river corridor. For instance, a footpath/cycle link between Long Sandal Lock and the town centre and an extension of the barely used (because it is not signed and leads to an overgrown unmanaged track) route alongside the South Yorkshire Navigation and Doncaster Prison. An Improvement to this route could create an attractive circular	Noted, comments are already reflected through Action P7.7

		walk along the canal and river returning to Marshgate and the North Bridge, distance, approximately 1.5mls. To complement the water quality improvements that have occurred over the last two decades and the ecological benefits that this has encouraged, there should also be a commitment to improve the aesthetic characteristics of the canal and river frontage, particularly along the section between Marshgate and Eden Grove. These improvements should include marginal planting, including suitable trees, and also public access to the water's edge to encourage recreational use. The River corridor has the potential to become one of the town's most important recreational resources. It is well documented that the water environment has particular benefits for wellbeing which, in the case of Doncaster are not being effectively utilised. There should be a commitment to investigate the opportunities and to work with organisations committed to the rehabilitation of the river system to maximise the river and the canal as recreational and ecological resources.	
008	LEGAL & POLICY BASIS	You need to make reference to responsibilities of local authorities regarding the historic environment and the easiest way to do that is to refer to responsibilities with regard to listed buildings and Conservation Areas. If you want a reference for archaeology then you'll have to fall back on the NPPF!	Noted, however this is a high level overarching strategy which is not intended to deal with planning issues as these are covered via national and local policies, such as the NPPF/Local Development Framework. Text added to introduction to make this point clearer
008	THEME 1/ PRIORITY 3/ ACTION P3.3	Need to be aware that flood defence works can themselves have environmental implications, e.g. effect on archaeological remains – need to make sure these are fully considered in any management strategy produced, i.e. crossover between themes.	Noted
008	THEME 2/ PRIORITY 4/ ACTION P4.16	Historic land contamination may relate to industries that have left archaeological evidence so, as with flood alleviation above, important to ensure crossover between the themes, i.e. if a strategy for dealing with contaminated sites is being developed – need to ensure that their archaeological significance is considered as part of that process.	Noted
008	THEME 3/ PRIORITY 6/ ACTION P.6.1	I don't know what this will cover – can you give me some more info? Does it include archaeology? Some aspects would be relevant, e.g. working to reduce illegal metal detecting through DMBC's involvement with the Heritage Crime Initiative.	The Heritage at Risk Strategy will hopefully cover all elements of the historic environment - This responds to issues raised through EH's annual report on Heritage at Risk (this includes Scheduled Monuments (SMs) as well as Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas). However as

			currently the Local Authority does not have legislative powers over SMs we would hope to work closely with both EH and SYAS to enable there to be a reduction in harm occurring to SMs which of course could be linked to the Heritage Crime Initiative as SYAS mention.
008	THEME 3/ PRIORITY 6/ ACTION P.6.5	You've not mentioned DMBC involvement – is that because you are assuming you'll be signed up by the time this is produced? Even so, would be good to include – then can have an action that has DMBC following up through the Community Safety Partnership, etc – would also link to the Heritage at Risk Strategy (above).	As SYAS point out DMBC, hope to sign up to the Heritage Crime Initiative in the near future.
008	THEME 3/ PRIORITY 6/ ACTION P.6.7	If we're really valuing historic assets, its not only important that they are well kept but also that they are better understood, i.e. that we take opportunities to learn about them and their significance.	Agree with change. Strategy now includes reference to the importance of learning about our historic assets as part of the updated outcome for this action.
008	THEME 3/ PRIORITY 6/ ACTION P.6.11	Need to include archaeology – ensure SYAS and our resources are also linked. Information from the Sites & Monuments Record is now online through the Heritage Gateway (www.heritagegateway.org.uk) and the results of our characterisation project are online at www.sytimescapes.org.uk	Agree with change. Strategy now includes reference to archaeology also.
008	THEME 3/ PRIORITY 8/ ACTION 8.6	Another area where crossover is needed -woodlands are areas where archaeological remains can be expected to remain as earthworks (because they are not under the plough or a development) so they are often areas with significant archaeology. Need to ensure archaeological remains and their sensitivity to management activities are fully considered.	Noted
009	GENERAL	Members considered this previously circulated consultation document and noted that a response was required for the 23 rd October 2012. The Parish Council resolved to fully support the introduction of this policy and agreed with its aims and aspirations. The Parish Council would welcome to opportunity to actively participate and assist in implementing sections of the policy directly affecting areas in which the Parish Council had a responsibility and interest, especially priorities 5 & 6.	Support welcomed

010	GENERAL	The parish council welcomes the Strategy document but wishes to point out that experience has shown that the Authority is not currently delivering on services	Noted
011	THEME 1/ PRIORITY 1	Page 6 - There is no mention of re-use. The Waste Hierarchy prioritises reuse below waste minimisation, but ABOVE recycling and composting. Therefore it needs to be mentioned in the strategy.	Agreed, but in the context of this strategy minimisation includes re-use
012	GENERAL	<p>Obviously a great deal of thought and effort has been put in to the document with many aims and targets outlined. Ultimately the proof of the success of the strategies put forward will be reflected in how closely all the concepts are implemented and enforced in coming years. Many schemes fail to reach their theoretical aims because of a failure of application and enforcement.</p> <p><u>Environmental resources and services</u></p> <p><u>Street Scene:</u> In the opinion of many people the street- scene of Doncaster town centre is one of poor quality in spite of the huge sums of money spent on paving etc. The town centre needs a great deal of effort and application to improve the appearance of paved areas, shop frontages and perhaps repair the ravages relating to the “night scene” of the central area.</p> <p><u>Litter dropping:</u> Even further enhancement and enforcement of litter laws.</p> <p><u>Waste minimisation:</u> Generally waste collection appears satisfactory, but education of the younger members of society is essential.</p> <p><u>Energy efficient housing:</u> The authority needs to promote strongly any beneficial schemes to improve energy efficiency.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted. Action P5.7 acknowledges the need to work with take-aways and ensure such outlets take responsibility for litter problems outside of their premises, and immediate area, including an understanding of their legal responsibilities.</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted, the Strategy includes, as an action, the delivery of an education and waste minimisation programme, which includes a schools programme, as Action P1.1. Reference to continuing the need to raise awareness/education of people’s responsibilities and expectations of them included at Action P5.2 also</p> <p>Noted, the Strategy covers this in Actions P2.1/2.2 & 2.3</p>

		<p><u>Flood mitigation:</u> Obviously limiting flooding possibilities is of paramount importance, but it is felt policies must be left to the “experts.”</p> <p><u>Air and water quality, contamination:</u> The envisaged policies appear sensible and designed to maintain good standards.</p> <p><u>More attractive street scenes</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reference has already been made to the poor standard of cleanliness around the town centre. 2. Dog bins: Is the provision of extra dog bins to be extended to village communities? Unlike the old Doncaster area many of the villages which became part of Doncaster MBC in the early 1970's have had to fund dog bins and emptying costs from local precepts. Edenthorpe has spent almost £3000 on bins and several hundred pounds each year on emptying costs. All areas of DMBC should be treated equally. 3. Dog fouling laws should be strongly enforced – but again equality of care and enforcement should be for all communities and not just the old Doncaster Borough. Edenthorpe has never seen a dog-law enforcement officer on patrol. It is felt that tougher action on offenders would help to reduce the problem. A painted symbol on the pavement and warning signs on lamp posts no longer seems to be a deterrent. Successful prosecution of offenders may send a message to others that this is a dreadful crime that will not be tolerated and offenders will be punished. 4. Empty properties should be identified more quickly and steps taken to bring them to a habitable status as soon as possible. This should include Leger Homes who appear on occasions to be rather slow to undertake repairs and rein habit properties. <p><u>Protect and promote our environment/natural environment</u></p> <p>Apart from the protection of historical buildings and heritage sites,</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted and support welcomed</p> <p>Noted, however these comments seem to relate mainly to operational issues and do not require any changes to the Strategy which is a high level overarching document.</p> <p>Noted and support welcomed</p>
--	--	--	--

		<p>promoting tourism etc, all efforts must be maintained to protect all sensitive and valued environmental centres as well as those natural environmental areas which provide great pleasure and leisure opportunities for residents across the DMBC. The aims, objectives and planned actions appear sound and sensible.</p> <p><u>High quality green space and the countryside</u></p> <p>The Doncaster MBC Environmental Strategy Department have a major role to play in safeguarding the many aspects of the environment and none more so than in the planning of future residential/commercial developments throughout the area. It is of paramount importance that the Environmental Strategy Department exert a major guidance on the implementation of future projects, ensuring that a balance is maintained between the facilities/quality of life enjoyed by residents of particular communities at present, as against the possible impact of new developments in the same localities. It is vital that local communities have the opportunity to fully enjoy whatever environmental advantages and pleasures there are in their local area.</p>	<p>Noted, the Strategy will safeguard the environment and quality of life for communities. These comments also seem to relate to planning issues which are covered through policies set out in the Local Development Framework and/or issues that are addressed through the Development Management process as part of a planning application.</p>
013	GENERAL	<p>Theoretically it sounds good, but how will DMBC perform in practice. eg page 3 PROTECT/PROMOTE ENVIRONMENT. I.e in Historic terms, green belt, open space and country side. Page 6 Flood risk ?? N.B. work closely with to protect etc. How will this be implemented with Tickhill.? A very lengthy document that says a lot. How will it be done?</p>	<p>Noted, the Strategy is a high level overarching document, many of the objectives will be delivered via numerous other plans and strategies. For example, policies to protect our heritage, our environment, open spaces and countryside are part of the Local Development Framework, as are policies to address flood risk.</p>
014	GENERAL	<p>We have been liaising with DMBC staff to suggest improvements such as more litter bins, more seats and replanting of border areas. We have done some litter picking and assisted with removal of plants killed by the bad winter of 2010-2011. We would like to see the bare areas planted with native species to promote insect and bird life. We would like to provide safer nesting places for water birds. We are in favour of the fishing ban signs which have been placed around the lake. We have enjoyed seeing the area being used for dragon boat races, rowing, scuba diving, newfoundland dog training and so on. We have noticed how much the lake area is used by walkers, runners, cyclists, roller skaters,</p>	<p>Noted, additional wording has been included to Action P8.2 to address balance between economic diversification of the recreational offer at Lakeside, but protecting the natural environment also.</p>

		<p>dog walkers, pram pushers, wheelchair users to name but a few. People seem to be attracted to the water, with fish and birds and to the wide open spaces, with smooth, flat paths, plus some rougher terrain on the mounds and islands. It feels like a safe place for women to walk by themselves during the daytime, because you can easily see a good distance in most directions. Quite a lot of runners use it in the evenings by lamplight. We feel that the Lakeside area has been a hidden treasure taken for granted by DMBC rather than truly valued. Now that the push seems to be for greater economic usage, this needs to be handled very carefully. A recent example is the jet ski event which took place on the jubilee weekend. We feel that this type of noisy, disruptive motorised activity is totally unsuited to this particular stretch of water. We were told that the jet skis aerated the water. (Whenever I repeat this to people they laugh.) We feel that such activity is disturbing to the resident wildlife and the regular human users of the lake area. However, we have been told that the birds are not resident and whilst we agree that the lake is not a designated wildlife reserve like Potteric Carr, the birds have moved in over the years since the area was first developed. They are here now and deserve consideration and protection, for example, DMBC did erect barriers to protect one of the swan's nests this year, after a dog attack. Two swan families have nested, hatched and reared young this year much to the delight of many passers by. The interested casual observer can watch grebes and cormorants fishing, without needing to sit in a hide, or even use binoculars. The Lakeside area is a public open space, but not officially a park or a nature area, so it is at risk from unsuitable usage. We do not want to see the area spoiled by unsuitable developments and activities. We hope that the potential economic value of this area will not take precedence over its very important social, cultural and intrinsic value.</p>	
015	THEME 2/ PRIORITY 5	<p>At every parish council meeting over the past 6 months there have been complaints about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the apparent reduction in the frequency of cutting of the grassed areas in Warmsworth and the poor standard of work when it is done e.g. large patches being missed, grass and dog muck strewn over pavements. • Rubbish overflowing from litter/dog bins due to the lack of/reduction in emptying 	<p>Noted, however these comments seem to relate mainly to operational issues and do not require any changes to the Strategy which is a high level overarching document.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having to watch where you walk because of the dog muck on pavements and grassed areas. The situation appears to be deteriorating as there is no apparent enforcement action against irresponsible dog owners. • The amount of litter on the pavements, particularly outside takeaways, and roads and the frequency it is picked or the roads swept, if at all. <p>Although these complaints have been reported to the Neighbourhood Team and Ward Members there has not been any improvement.</p> <p>Over the past few years there has been a problem with fly tipping on Common Lane, Warmsworth and since February 2010 consultations have been held with various departments of Doncaster MBC over proposals to install a gate to restrict vehicular access, but with very little, if any, progress. This despite the fact that over the past 3 years there have been 52 reported instances of fly tipping that cost Doncaster MBC over £8,000 to clean up.</p> <p>Whilst the Parish Council supports the principles and aspirations in the Environment Strategy it doubts that there is sufficient financial resources or the will to ensure that it is successfully implemented.</p>	
016		<p>I have read the enclosed document but would like to see some mention of how to get children to think more responsibly before dropping litter. Could not the community wardens who I believe already visit schools re various issues add this to their remit? Some hard hitting photos of clean, litter free areas with contrasting photos of litter strewn areas may help and a discussion about who's responsibility it is to clean up. As a parent myself I think this is a very important message that many children today are not getting from their parents so this subject should be tackled in schools at primary age.</p>	<p>Noted, reference is now made in the Strategy of the need to continue to raise awareness/education of everybody's responsibilities and expectations of them in respect to littering, whether young or old. Also included in Action P5.1.</p>
017	GENERAL	<p>In respect of the draft environment strategy, consultation means in dmcb terms, that the decisions have already been made and the council are just seeking confirmation from the public</p>	<p>Noted, although unfortunately there is insufficient detail to comment further as to why the consultee feels this is the case?</p>

018	GENERAL? THEME 1/ PRIORITY 3	Hopefully it will all be implemented on time. Maybe there is a missed word after local out on page 4 in the section on Flood Risk Management.	Noted, agree there is the omission of the word 'authorities' after the word local at this section. The Strategy has been updated accordingly.
019	GENERAL/ THEME 1/ PRIORITY 1 & PRIORITY 2	<p>Interesting. We have been sent green hats for our green recycling boxes. What we need is more space to put recyclable refuse in. In our green box I can get plastic, bottles and cans in, but not paper or cardboard. The plastic bags we were initially issued with blew away, as did the lids to the boxes - even the boxes themselves, which are very light when empty. We need more bins to recycle properly, as other areas have, blue and brown I believe.'</p> <p>Having trawled through the document, which would seem to cover all issues, I'm not sure if personally I could improve on the document, although the strategy doesn't appear to address the existing private property sector from an energy efficiency aspect, apart from this and without question I support the contents.</p>	<p>Noted, however this is an operational issue and not something that is appropriate to cover in a high level overarching strategy such as the Environment Strategy.</p> <p>Support welcomed, private sector property stock is included in Action P2.2</p>
020	<p>THEME 1/ PRIORITY 1 & 2/ ACTIONS P1.1 & P2.4</p> <p>THEME 1/ PRIORITY 3/ ACTION P3.1</p> <p>THEME 1/ PRIORITY 3/ ACTION P3.6</p> <p>THEME 2/ PRIORITY 4/ ACTION P4.11</p>	<p>Interested in the schools programme you mention and wonder how this will be implemented.</p> <p>Interested in looking at the Flood Plan, can ordinary members of the public see it. Was promised for last couple of years that someone would come to the Rural Communities Group (St. Leger Homes) that someone would come and talk about it but has never happened to date.</p> <p>This section on drainage systems need to be maintained, quite important, our problem at Austerfield has been because of a serious lack of this and I predict it's borough wide in rural area.</p> <p>Water Quality and Air Quality, Austerfield has quarries, land fill and a Carbon Block making factory, and the need to monitor the villages water quality is very important. The factory is situated in the centre of the village - Permit given by Enviromental, but it store and uses many</p>	<p>Noted, contact details will be passed to relevant DMBC department for further information.</p> <p>As above</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

	<p>THEME 2/ PRIORITY 4/ ACTION P4.15</p> <p>THEME 3/ PRIORITY 7/ ACTION P7.3</p>	<p>noxious materials on site. Am worried about Dinitrotoluene use, from a water and air point of view. Can they test for Dinitrotoluene, they can in America?</p> <p>Brownfield sites. The area around the factory is one such site, I again would be worried if any development took place there on it being effectively completely de-contaminated.</p> <p>Up-date information on the natural environment. Am worried at the moment on the fate of Austerfield Field Study Centre, manager retired and wasn't effectively replaced, other staff left. Has been an Environmental Educational Centre for over 30 years (guess) for school children all over Doncaster, Doncaster has been so lucky to have it, need to raise the importance of it and rejuvenate it, I think it's under review by DMBC at the moment.</p>	<p>Noted, any development proposals would need to be in conformity with planning policies set out in the Local Development Framework which includes contaminated land. This would be addressed through the Development Management process which includes consultation with all the statutory consultees e.g. Environment Agency and the Parish Council.</p> <p>Concerns noted</p>
021	<p>INTRODUCTION</p> <p>THEMES & PRIORITIES</p>	<p>Improve what people <i>and businesses</i> think of their local area as a place to live <i>and work</i>.</p> <p>'Balance the need.....' creates the wrong setting for the environment strategy. I believe that my local authority's environment strategy should be fully integrated with all other council strategies. In particular it should support Doncaster's economic growth strategy so that it becomes a matter of where there are opportunities for all parts of my local authority to work together and not 'whether'. Again the setting created here is one of competition between economic growth and the environment. I would like my local authority to be thinking that the quality of our local environment will underpin strong, connected and economically inclusive communities and not compete against the need for economic growth and inward investment.</p> <p>I would be more interested in my local authority's environment strategy if it included the outcomes of the themes at the front of the document in</p>	<p>Agree, reference to businesses and work has been included in the Strategy.</p> <p>Agree, the objectives of growing the economy do not necessarily have to compete with environmental protection objectives. Additional text has been inserted to make more explicit the link between high environmental quality/attraction of economic investment/fostering a workforce with high quality of life/more likely to remain in the area/locate to it etc.</p> <p>Noted, however the Strategy has around 35 different outcomes in total; in the interest of having succinct</p>

		<p>this table. I would also be more supportive if I understood the outcomes or purpose of the themes and all their associated priority actions in terms of what it means for me and Doncaster's people. I suspect there would also be greater political support if that was set out.</p> <p>eg. 'Minimise the creation of waste.....' to reduce costs to rate payers and meet statutory targets. eg. 'Promote flood mitigation.....' to reduce the costs of flood protection and make Doncaster a safe place to live, attracting inward business investment. (Who wants to live or start up a business in a place threatened by flooding.) eg. 'Effective monitoring.....' to protect people's health and make Doncaster an attractive place to live and work.</p>	<p>documents it is felt that this would be unnecessary duplication. The comment in relation to what the Strategy means in terms of Doncaster's residents is agreed with. Additional text has been inserted into the introduction to emphasise what the Strategy means for our communities.</p>
021	THEME 1/ PRIORITY 3	<p>I would like to see some reference here to sustainable urban drainage in new or redeveloped areas that would reduce the cost to rate payers of future flood protection. My expectation is that it would complement planning/development strategies.</p>	<p>Noted, agree that SUDs are an important flood alleviation technique, but this is a high level overarching Strategy. It's objectives and outcomes will be delivered through numerous other strategies and plans which can provide the necessary detail such as this. The Local Development Framework policy requires all developments in flood risk areas to make use of SUDs, and all major developments (1 hectare+) regardless of whether they are in a flood risk area.</p>
021	THEME 2/ PRIORITY 4/ THEME 2/ PRIORITY 4/ ACTION P4.11	<p>I would expect my local authority to be reducing its energy use, impact on air quality and water usage across all its operations as a matter of reducing costs to the rate payer and impact on the environment.</p> <p>Priority 4.11. Assist the Environment Agency..... enhance the water environment <i>and associated fisheries</i>.</p>	<p>Agree, however, a separate Environment Policy for how the Council operates has been prepared in tandem with the Environment Strategy and will address such issues. It sets out broad principles for environmental responsibility which all staff will be expected to adhere to in the carrying out their everyday roles. In this way it supplements the Staff Charter and, alongside the Corporate Energy Policy, seeks to support the implementation of the relevant aspects of the Borough Strategy.</p> <p>Agree, the Strategy has been updated to include reference to associated fisheries.</p>

	THEME 2/ PRIORITY 4	Either here or in priority 5 I would like to see my local authority supporting and sharing intelligence with the Environment Agency in dealing with environmental crime. In particular there should be zero tolerance towards illegal waste activities that undermine legitimate businesses or creates serious risks to peoples health or property eg. contaminated land or uncontrolled tyre dumps.	Noted, these are operational matters
	THEME 2/ PRIORITY 4/ ACTION P4.10/12 & 13	I don't feel the need for my local authority to ensure the quality of drinking water, its supply or reduce its use. I feel that I pay Yorkshire Water, OFWAT and the Drinking Water Inspectorate to do that. I feel the same applies to adequate sewerage and sewage treatment.	Noted
021	THEME 2/ PRIORITY 5/ ACTION P5.1	Could there be an action here to promote civic amenity sites and other council services for residents to dispose of their rubbish rather than flytip it. A decrease in flytipping will reduce costs to my council.	Noted, this is included in Action P5.1
021	THEME 3, PRIORITY 7 & 8	Somewhere in these two priorities I would like my local authority to recognise and include the River Don and canal corridor as a specific environmental asset. Besides the green open space that it represents there are a number of popular recreational activities associated with the river including; angling, walking, cycling, boating, rowing, canoeing and watching wildlife. There is huge potential to develop this environmental asset for the benefit of Doncaster. Purpose.....to create opportunities for recreation that will improve people's wellbeing..... to protect and create habitats for wildlife, meeting statutory biodiversity targets?	Noted, included in Action P7.7