

REVISION TO THE COUNCIL'S CONTAMINATED LAND STRATEGY

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Background Papers:- Environmental Services Committee August 1997 and Cabinet June 2002. Environment Act 1995
Contaminated Land Strategy 2002
Financial Implications:- None
Equalities Implications:- None
Legal Implications:- Statutory requirement
Risks: Failure to produce an adopted strategy will open the Council to threat of judicial review.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June 2002 members approved the Statutory Contaminated Land Strategy which details how the Council would go about fulfilling its statutory requirement to inspect the district to identify potentially contaminated sites. It explains the requirement and timescale to prioritise those sites for further investigation, to carry out detailed inspection of the prioritised sites and to assess the remaining potentially contaminated sites. The strategy has been simply revised to reflect subsequent changes in legislation which has included radioactive contamination, to update administrative changes since it was first adopted and to meet the requirement to keep the strategy under periodic review.

DECISION

To approve the adoption of the revised contaminated land strategy.

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BACKGROUND

The Environment Act 1995 required the Council to inspect its area from time to time to identify 'contaminated land'. Statutory guidance made it clear that a formal strategy document must be produced which sets out how land which merits detailed individual inspection will be identified in an ordered, rational and efficient manner, and in what time scale.

CHANGES

This revised strategy incorporates the changes to the legislation which have occurred since the last strategy was published. The main feature is the inclusion of radioactive contamination as potentially contaminated land, although the subsequent guidance indicates that it is unlikely that any land would fall within the Braintree District. The strategy also includes updated reference to the Braintree District Local Plan Review, the Local Development Framework and the Corporate Strategy. The revised timetable reflects the progress to date and the resources available to deal with remaining sites within a reasonable timescale.

Colin Batchelor
May 2008