

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – THURSDAY, 22 JANUARY 2026

ITEM 6 – CABINET RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS

Scrutiny comments made on: Environmental Policy

Date considered by Cabinet: 13 January 2026

	Comments/recommendations from scrutiny	Advice provided by officers at the meeting	Cabinet response
C1	Policy content: Concerns raised that the draft policy was bland, lacking detail and not actionable. It was felt that it was too generic and did not reflect the council's context or ambitions such as the climate emergency targets.	Officers explained that the policy was intentionally high-level to align with best practice with the aim to embed environmental considerations into all council decisions without being prescriptive	Noted. Cabinet supported the high-level approach that aligned with the industry's best practice.
C2	Policy style: Requested better explanation of the policy's purpose and the need for plain English was emphasized. Also, the need for clarity in the document for the public including the use of 'plain English' and an explanation on who 'Unipart' are and what role they had with the policy.	Officers explained Unipart's involvement as a private sector partner experienced in ISO standards, whom recommended starting with a broad policy. Officers offered to provide a more detailed presentation to Cabinet to include clearer explanations.	Noted.
R1	Recommendation: That cabinet does not adopt the policy in its current form and that it be revised to include more concrete, council specific commitments and context before being reconsidered.	-	Noted. Cabinet acknowledged the comments and recommendations made by scrutiny, but following consideration decided to adopt the Environmental Policy as presented to them at the meeting.