

## Report to Resources Committee

9 September 2014




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**Title:** Review of ISO 14001

**Report of:** Support Services Manager

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### **Purpose of Report**

1. To provide additional information about the review of ISO 14001 following the co-location of the company headquarters to the Civic Centre in February 2014.

### **Background**

2. In 2010 the company introduced the first environmental policy statement and, following a two stage inspection by British Standards Institution (BSI) achieved ISO 14001 certification.
3. The ISO14001 accreditation was based on the minimum level of the Environmental Management System (EMS) criteria that assessed office based activity which included utilities, waste disposal and stationery. Other activities that involved Repairs and Maintenance were assessed by our partners who also have ISO14001 accreditation.
4. The accreditation applied to Keelman House only as our out based housing offices are shared premises with utilities and waste disposal directly controlled by Gateshead Council.

### **Co-location of Company Headquarters**

5. Following the Company's move to the Civic Centre the majority of the Company's EMS elements were no-longer under the control of Gateshead Housing Company with utilities and waste disposal controlled by Gateshead Council. We have maintained our control of stationary ordering and we continue to follow EMS principles and values with this activity.
6. The cost to the Company for BSI external audits and re-accreditation is £3,000 with further mandatory six monthly audits at a cost of £1,800 per annum. Following value for money principles suggests that the cost is excessive when we are only able to maintain control of stationary.

## **The Future**

7. We are keen to continue to maintain the Environmental Policy principles through the work of the Environmental Management Group. We will update our customers via the Service Improvement Group (SIG) and our employees through internal communication methods.
8. We are serious about our social responsibility and will maintain and develop environmental sustainability in work and home life through changes in behaviour and attitudes.
9. We are confident that our employees apply EMS values and principles and this was endorsed in our recent Investors in People (IiP) accreditation and social responsibility assessment.

## **Link to values**

10. The report links to the following company values:-
  - Being honest, accountable and transparent
  - Being positive and responsive
  - Being caring and respecting

## **Impact on Customers**

11. Whilst there are no direct implications for customers arising directly from this report we are hopeful that our commitment to EMS will improve the environment in which we work and live.
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## **Risk Management Implications**

13. There are no risk associated to this report

## **Financial Implications**

14. There is a saving to be made by ceasing to continue with the accreditation.

## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

15. The company's commitment to environmental protection will be of equal benefit to all of our customers.

## **Value for Money implications**

16. Value for money principles have been followed in this report.

## **Health Implications**

17. The health of our customers will be improved by our approach to EMS principles and values and continuation of green policies to reduce emissions.

### **Environmental Implications**

18. There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

### **Consultation carried out**

19. No consultation was necessary when compiling this report.

### **Recommendation**

20. The committee is recommended to note the review of ISO 14001 following the co-location of the company headquarters to the Civic Centre in February 2014.