



*caring about you & your environment*

**Report 02.743**

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Report to Environment Committee  
from Jane Bradbury, Divisional Manager, Environment

## **Divisional Manager's Report**

### **1. Purpose**

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress of the Environment Division and about any matters that have arisen since the Committee's last meeting.

### **2. Managers' Reports**

The Department Managers' reports, along with the Divisional Accountant's report, follow as attachment 1.

### **3. Emergency Management**

A separate report to the Committee outlines the provisions of the new civil defence emergency management legislation. The new Act presents an opportunity for local authorities to work together to create an effective emergency management operation in this Region. It will have implications for this Environment Committee which currently serves as a Civil Defence Committee. The new legislation requires that it be replaced by a joint committee with representatives from each local authority.

The CEOs of the local authorities in the Region recently met to discuss the issue and a small working party has been set up to recommend a way forward. As we have been waiting so long for the legislation, much of the necessary background work has already been done and it is now a matter of updating it and getting some action.

### **4. Environmental Monitoring**

A separate report includes our summary reports on the state of our environment. The report cards are a new way of presenting this information. It has always been a challenge for us to present such information to a variety of audiences. The new framework is

certainly an improvement on past practice. Hopefully, the way that we disseminate our environmental information will improve further with the proposed new marketing/communication initiative.

## 5. **Resource Managers Group**

The Resource Managers Group comprises representatives from regional councils and unitary authorities. It has been meeting on a quarterly basis for some years now and presents an opportunity for practitioners to get together and discuss resource management matters.

I am now convening that Group, which affords me the opportunity to become more actively involved in some resource management issues.

## 6. **Albie Work Programmes**

At the recent Solway Park workshop, I was asked a question about how I had selected programmes for consideration by councillors. My response at the time was instinctive rather than well thought out. I said that I had given priority to those programmes that we had to do (by law) and those that involved us working co-operatively with either other agencies and/or the communities.

Since the workshop I have been the Division's quarterly review report for the General Manager. In doing so, it occurred to me that my "instinctive" response had indeed been quite accurate.

Several years ago, the Division was quite insular in its approach to resource management. We were in the planning phase and, although we carried out the statutory consultation requirements – and often exceeded those requirements – joint projects were rare. Since then we have moved from "planning to doing" and zealously adopted the "community connections" approach. In reviewing our progress in the last quarter, it was quite overwhelming to see how much of our work is informing, advising and working with the community – often with other local authorities and other agencies. In my opinion, this approach has been well worthwhile. It recognises that the Council can't effect change by itself – it needs to involve others.

Report prepared by:

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