1. MINUTES

The minutes of the Environment and Regulation Policy Committee meeting held 14 March 2016 were agreed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBER</th>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>REASON</th>
<th>INTEREST</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cllr P Broome</td>
<td>Proposed Community Assets</td>
<td>Member has previously held discussions with the Council with regard to the Tree Belt adjacent to his property.</td>
<td>Other</td>
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<td>Strategy</td>
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<td>Cllr T Lewis</td>
<td>Proposed Community Assets</td>
<td>Chairman of the Venta Icenorum Joint Advisory Board.</td>
<td>Other</td>
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<td>Strategy</td>
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3. PROPOSED COMMUNITY ASSETS STRATEGY

Members considered the report of the Head of Environmental Services, which presented the Committee with the draft Community Assets Strategy (CAS) for comment and final approval by Cabinet.

The Head of Environmental Services presented the draft Strategy, explaining that the purpose of the document was to detail and lay down the future management of its community assets. The document was a new Strategy for the Council and aimed to create a more sustainable approach to asset management.

During his presentation, the Head of Environmental Services explained that a number of Management Plans, covering Tree Management, Street Lighting, Playgrounds and Play Equipment, Public Open Spaces and Common Land, would sit beneath the main Strategy. These Management Plans would provide a strategic approach, focussing on robust maintenance, infrastructure, opportunities for divestment and cost reduction, and community input and sharing.

Members were reminded that the Strategy had been subject to a public consultation exercise, the results of which were highlighted at paragraph 3 of the report. Members noted that the number of responses to the consultation had been disappointing, but the Strategy had been amended to take in to account the issues raised in the responses received.

In response to a query, the Head of Environmental Services confirmed that the Strategy also included odd parcels of land that were not currently being used and other assets, such as wells. Referring to page 3 of the Strategy, officers agreed to amend the document to include an additional asset group; “Miscellaneous Assets”.

Officers responded to a number of questions on points of detail. In response to queries regarding street lighting, members were informed that this was a complex issue. Some lights were owned by the Council, some by Parish/Town Councils, with the responsibility for the management of lights varying across the District. These detailed issues would be the subject of a future Management Plan.
The Head of Environmental Services explained that officers were currently working through all the assets owned by the Council so that members would have available a definitive list of assets, split by ward. It was hoped that this would enable members to play a role in the divestment of assets, and encourage local communities and parish councils to become involved.

Considerable discussion followed, after which members concluded that further work was required before the Strategy was ready for consideration by Cabinet. In particular, the issue of the future adoption of open spaces and other infrastructure as part of the development management process warranted further consideration. Parish participation and community involvement was to be encouraged and members supported a further consultation exercise, before consideration by Cabinet. Members recognised that this was a huge cross cutting exercise, which would involve other officers of the Council.

**RESOLVED:** That the Strategy be redrafted, and a further consultation exercise take place, before consideration by Cabinet

(The meeting closed at 2.56 pm)

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Chairman