

CABINET

13 September 2006

CLIMATE CHANGE

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES

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RECENT REFERENCES:

None.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

There are a number of reasons for tackling the Climate Change issue, by both mitigation through reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to its effects.

Local Government is challenged to do this through the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006. This work also brings benefits to the City Council, including efficiency and cost savings and community leadership.

It is proposed that a Climate Change Plan is developed for the Winchester district, with an Informal Member Officer Group set up to oversee the process. This will also involve representation from the Winchester District Strategic Partnership. The process will include a workshop for members, officers and partners, with detailed planning to take place through the Informal Member Officer Group.

The City Council can begin this work by signing the updated Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1 That Cabinet agrees to begin the process of preparing a Climate Change Plan by setting up the Climate Change Informal Member/Officer Working Group to oversee the work.
- 2 That Cabinet reaffirms its commitment to tackling Climate Change by agreeing to sign the updated Nottingham Declaration.

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DETAIL:

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Government, in its 2006 Climate Change Programme raises the concerns being expressed by the scientific community over the problems society is likely to face with the predicted changes to our environment.
- 1.2 The ten warmest years globally since instrumental records began in 1861 have all occurred since 1994. 1998 was the warmest year and 2005 was almost as warm.
- 1.3 Without action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions global temperatures are expected to rise by between 1.4 and 5.8°C by 2100 and sea level could also rise by between 0.09 and 0.88 metres compared to 1990 levels. Even with action taken now, some climate change will happen due to past emissions.
- 1.4 Such changes will have significant impacts on human society and on the natural environment, with increases in drought and extreme rainfall and greater risks of abrupt changes in climate.
- 1.5 This highlights the two components of the Climate Change work: Mitigation through reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and Adaptation to the effects of Climate Change that we are already locked into.

2 Drivers

- 2.1 There are a number of reasons why we should tackle the Climate Change issue. They range from International and National approaches such as the Kyoto Agreement and the UK Government's responses to that which include the Climate Change Programme itself as well as the setting of the UK domestic target to reduce CO2 levels to 20% below 1990 levels by 2010 and 60% by 2050.
- 2.2 UK local government has been set the challenge principally through the Climate Change & Sustainable Energy Act which was enacted this year. Every local authority must have regard to annually published energy reports in carrying out any and all of their functions. This may well be reinforced through changes to CPA and the emerging Planning Policy Framework.
- 2.3 Specifically within Hampshire there is a renewable energy target. The draft South East Plan, submitted to government on 31st March 2006 contains sub-regional targets for installed renewable energy in Hampshire of 115MW by 2010 and 122MW by 2016. The latest figures from Hampshire County Council state that currently 0.94MW are installed and 8.05MW planned. In addition, the South Hampshire sub-regional policies within the draft South East Plan include a target of at least 100MW of renewable energy in the sub-region by 2020.

3 Winchester's Climate Change Plan

- 3.1 The City Council is in a position to benefit from a number of aspects of work on Climate Change:
- a) **Efficiency and cost saving:** Within corporate buildings, measures to increase energy efficiency implemented through the Carbon Management Programme, will also reduce energy costs, which is particularly important for the future given the predicted increases in gas and electricity prices.
 - b) **Community leadership:** Local authorities have a unique role, with responsibility to promote the well-being of an area now and for the future, delivery of key services, influence over how people live and work, enforcement powers, practical knowledge and democratic legitimacy. This creates the opportunity to lead the community in tackling the climate change issue.
 - c) It is clear that local government is expected to be taking action on Climate Change, and indeed Winchester City Council is already doing many things, from the Carbon Management Programme, to Planning requirements. Action now on drawing these together into a coherent plan will ensure that we are in a position to respond effectively to government initiatives due shortly, such as the energy measures report and the new Local Government Performance Framework.
- 3.2 It is proposed that, in response to the above drivers, a Climate Change Plan is developed for the Winchester district. It will follow best practice by focussing on four outcomes:
- a) **Carbon Management:** Greenhouse gas emissions across the district meet or are lower than national government targets.
 - b) **Renewable Energy Generation:** Government targets for renewable energy are supported, with the district supplying its share.
 - c) **Adaptation Planning:** the district is "Climate Change-ready", ensuring we can make full use of the opportunities for and minimise the costs of climate change.
 - d) **Community Involvement:** the community of Winchester district understands the climate change issue and is willing and able to take action on it.
- 3.3 It is recognised that some action is already taking place towards these outcomes. This will be drawn out as the plan develops, along with areas where changing the way we do things would bring Climate Change benefits.
- 3.4 In creating a plan for the whole district, it is important to get involvement from both partners and the community generally. This will be sought throughout the plan development process.

4 Reaffirming Winchester City Council's commitment to the Nottingham Declaration

- 4.1 Signed by Cabinet in 2001, the Nottingham Declaration commits us to preparing a plan, with our local community, to address the causes and effects of climate change. A revised declaration was launched in December 2005, updated to reflect the current situation and place equal emphasis on adaptation to climate change and mitigation of climate change. This provides the Council with the opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to tackling the issue of Climate Change by signing the updated version. The update is reproduced in Appendix 1.
- 4.2 The commitments contained within the Declaration will be achieved through development and implementation of the Climate Change Plan. Signing the updated declaration could be the start-point for the work on preparing the plan.

5 Process for developing the Climate Change Plan

- 5.1 The issue of Climate Change is truly cross-cutting, with many of the council divisions involved in one or more aspects. To gain the appropriate leadership on this issue it is therefore proposed that an Informal Member Officer Group (IMOG) be set up to oversee the process. Given the need for wider partnership involvement it is also proposed that a representative of the Winchester District Strategic Partnership is sought for the group.
- 5.2 The proposed Climate Change IMOG will be chaired by Cllr Pearson. Membership will be sought from each of the political groups and Strategic Partnership. The Sustainability Officer will attend each meeting, with other officers drawn in as necessary. The first meeting is expected to take place in October.
- 5.3 It is also proposed that the process of preparing the plan will include an all-day workshop for members, partners and officers. This will follow the Results Accountability methodology to take participants through from the desired outcomes and appropriate indicators, to actions that can be taken. This workshop is likely to take place in November.
- 5.4 Detailed planning will be taken through the Climate Change IMOG, but it is currently expected that a consultation draft of the plan will be complete by the end of March 2007.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

6 CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

- 6.1 By tackling the Climate Change issue, this plan will help to meet the priority "safeguarding our high quality environment for the future" and within the "Working Better" will help us in "ensuring we act in a sustainable manner in all that we do".
- 6.2 The plan will also help the Council in "seeking to promote sustainable communities through all its actions" – one of the corporate values.

7 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 7.1 The preparation of the Climate Change Plan will require staff time from across the organisation in discussing and investigating possible actions.
- 7.2 Future resource implications will be investigated during the development of the plan. Any projects requiring resources in 2007/08 will be brought separately for discussion as part of the budget process. Resources for medium-term actions will be discussed when the draft plan is reported in March.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

UK Climate Change Programme 2006

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/ukccp/index.htm>

EU Energy Performance in Buildings Directive

<http://www.diag.org.uk/document.jsp?id=355>

Planning Policy Statement 22

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143908>

Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2006/ukpga_20060019_en.pdf

Microgeneration Strategy

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/sources/sustainable/microgeneration/strategy/page27594.html>

Figures for current installed and planned renewable energy capacity

<http://www.see-stats.org/stats-hampshire-iow.htm>

APPENDICES:

Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change (2005 version)

The Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change

We acknowledge that

- Evidence shows that climate change is occurring.
- Climate change will continue to have far reaching effects on the UK's people and places, economy, society and environment.

We welcome the


- Social, economic and environmental benefits which come from combating climate change.
- Emissions targets agreed by central government and the programme for delivering change, as set out in the UK Climate Change Programme.
- Opportunity for local government to lead the response at a local level, encouraging and helping local residents, local businesses and other organisations - to reduce their energy costs, to reduce congestion, to adapt to the impacts of climate change, to improve the local environment and to deal with fuel poverty in our communities.
- Endorsement of this declaration by central government.

We commit our Council from this date _____ to

- Work with central government to contribute, at a local level, to the delivery of the UK Climate Change Programme, the Kyoto Protocol and the target for carbon dioxide reduction by 2010.
- Participate in local and regional networks for support.
- Within the next two years develop plans with our partners and local communities to progressively address the causes and the impacts of climate change, according to our local priorities, securing maximum benefit for our communities.
- Publicly declare, within appropriate plans and strategies, the commitment to achieve a significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from our own authority's operations, especially energy sourcing and use, travel and transport, waste production and disposal and the purchasing of goods and services.
- Assess the risk associated with climate change and the implications for our services and our communities of climate change impacts and adapt accordingly.
- Encourage all sectors in our local community to take the opportunity to adapt to the impacts of climate change, to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions and to make public their commitment to action.
- Monitor the progress of our plans against the actions needed and publish the results.

Council

acknowledges the increasing impact that climate change will have on our community during the 21st century and commits to tackling the causes and effects of a changing climate on our city/county/borough/district.

			
Leader of the Council	Chief Executive	Minister of State Climate Change and Environment	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister