

CABINET

12 November 2009

DEVELOPMENT OF WDSP HIGH QUALITY ENVIRONMENT GROUP CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME

REPORT OF HEAD OF PARTNERSHIPS, COMMUNICATION AND IMPROVEMENT

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RECENT REFERENCES:

CAB 1560 Live for the Future: Tackling Climate Change – 1 December 2007

CAB1920 Council Energy and Emissions Performance – 12 November 2009

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Since the first Climate Change Plan was adopted in 2007, new scientific research and national guidance has been published and the Winchester District Strategic Partnership High Quality Environment Group is developing an updated Climate Change Programme, focussing on activity in the District.

This programme contains the District's response to the climate change indicators within the Local Area Agreement and includes a target of reducing the Districts CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 20% by 2012. The programme currently contains 24 key projects, 13 of which are in development with Project Managers allocated. The other 11 still require more work and Project Managers to be assigned to take them forward.

Resources are required from across the Winchester District Partnership to enable progress if the target is to be met.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1 That the principle and scope of the proposed Climate Change Programme be approved to allow a detailed and fully costed programme of work to be completed.
- 2 That Cabinet confirms that a growth bid of £20,000, to support the Climate Change Programme, be considered as part of the Council's 2010/11 Budget options.
- 3 That Cabinet indicates the priority it wishes to give to this programme, to enable officers to plan the allocation of staff time to work, such as leading on agreed projects, leveraging in external funding and contributions from partners and via funding streams, and otherwise supporting the achievement of the 20% by 2012 carbon reduction target.

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REPORT OF HEAD OF PARTNERSHIPS, COMMUNICATION AND IMPROVEMENT

1 Introduction

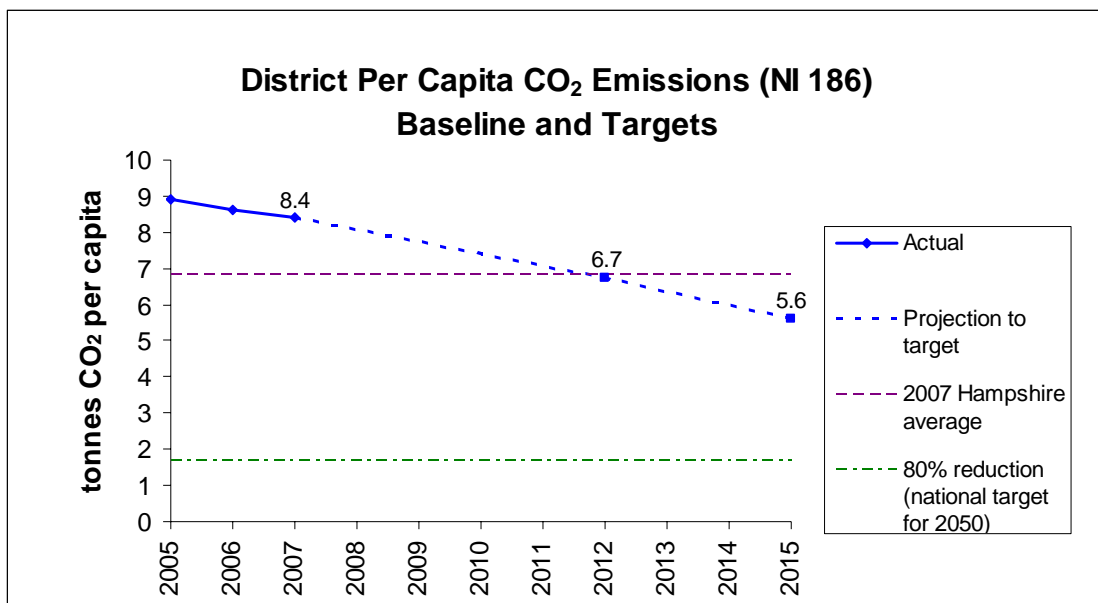
- 1.1 The District's first Climate Change Plan "Live for the Future: Tackling Climate Change" was adopted in December 2007. Whilst the focus was on outcomes for the District, partnership involvement was variable. However, the plan contained many actions for Council divisions and progress has been made.
- 1.2 Since 2007, the issue of Climate Change has continued to gain importance, with scientific research showing an ever stronger case for urgent action. The role of local authorities has also been clarified, with the publication of the Energy Measures Report, to which all local authorities must have regard when exercising their functions, and the inclusion of climate change indicators in the National Indicator set.
- 1.3 A major achievement since 2007 has been the successful establishment of a new charity, Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC), core funded by the City Council (£18,000 per annum for 3 years to March 2011). This dynamic new organisation has already made a considerable impact in raising awareness, highlighting best practice, and galvanising organisations and residents to take action.
- 1.4 Another significant development has been creation of the High Quality Environment Group within the Winchester District Strategic Partnership, currently led by Mr Robert Hutchison, the chairman of WinACC. This has provided the perfect opportunity to update the Climate Change Plan to incorporate collaborative working and involve new partners in projects.
- 1.5 The updated Climate Change Programme focuses on climate change mitigation and adaptation across the District. Actions to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the Council's own estate and operations are not included within this programme, but are the subject of the Cabinet report CAB1920 "Council Energy and Emissions Performance".
- 1.6 There has been much activity over the past few months working towards the development of the programme. This includes the 20% Carbon Challenge Seminar for large employers, the seminar for Town and Parish Councils, seminars on low carbon procurement and local food procurement, and collaborative action planning on transport, energy management, renewable energy and home insulation.

- 1.7 The inclusion of the climate change National Indicators in the Hampshire Local Area Agreement (LAA) is driving work on this issue at county level. Work is developing on the actions that can be taken across the county on waste management, CHP/district heating, retrofitting existing buildings, behaviour change, skills development and energy provision. Consultants have also been commissioned by Hampshire County Council to produce an overarching vision and engagement strategy for climate change; and to develop a list of the best actions to take across Hampshire for both mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.
- 1.8 Taking action to reduce carbon emissions necessarily cuts across a wide range of settings and activities. The draft Climate Change programme has taken the overarching outcome for climate change identified in the Sustainable Community Strategy, the four outcomes identified in the 2007 'Live for the Future: Tackling Climate Change' framework, and developed from this 17 priority areas for action. The diagram in Appendix 1 shows this structure. Each of these priority areas has one or more key projects, which will be managed and monitored as a programme of activity. The table also lists other activity taking place in order to provide a fuller picture of what is going on around the District. Appendix 2 contains the draft programme.

## 2 Targets, Indicators and Data

- 2.1 The 2007 Climate Change Plan included a target of reducing the District's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by one third by 2015 and this was approved by Cabinet. In February 2009, the Board of the Winchester District Strategic Partnership (WDSP) agreed an interim target of a 20% reduction by 2012. This is a highly ambitious target, which will require the development of engagement and activity across the District. However, this level of ambition is important, particularly for the Winchester District as the current levels of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, at 8.4 tonnes per capita, are the highest in Hampshire and sixth highest in the South-East. A 20% reduction will therefore bring the District's emissions to the level that many are at now. The Hampshire average is currently 6.8 tonnes per capita. A 20% reduction in Winchester District would bring it to 6.7 tonnes per capita.
- 2.2 Over the past few years there has been progress in the collection of data on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions at District level. DEFRA are now producing figures annually for National Indicator 186: *per capita reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the LA area*. These are full national statistics and can be used for year-on-year comparisons. This provides the baseline against which the progress of the District in reducing emissions will be measured.
- 2.3 The scope of NI 186 has been defined to include those emissions sources that local authorities can influence. This includes emissions from most businesses, domestic energy use and most road transport, but excludes emissions from motorways, aviation and shipping and those businesses participating in the EU emissions trading scheme.

- 2.4 There is concern over the NI 186 figures being calculated on a 'production basis' and therefore excluding the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions arising from the goods we import. 'Consumption' figures are available from the work of the Stockholm Environment Institute, with the latest figure for 2004 of 13.48 tonnes per capita. However, these are still classified as experimental statistics and cannot yet be compared with previous years. NI186 therefore represents the best current statistics on which to base targets and show progress. However, it is important that organisations review their procurement policies and practices to ensure that their spending influences the market towards low carbon goods and services. The WCC procurement policy is currently being updated to ensure it reflects the Council's carbon reduction objectives.
- 2.5 The latest NI 186 figures are for the year 2007, showing Winchester District's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to be at 934,000 tonnes, which equates to 8.4 tonnes per capita. This has reduced over the last two years, but the per capita figure remains the highest in Hampshire. It is proposed that this latest figure is used as the baseline against which to monitor the impact of the programme. The 20% reduction by 2012 and 33% reduction by 2015 targets are calculated from this baseline and shown on the following graph. The current Hampshire average and the national 2050 target of an 80% reduction are shown for reference.



- 2.6 The Hampshire LAA also includes NI 188: Planning to Adapt to Climate Change. This is a process indicator, with progress to be reported at one of five levels (0-4). The LAA target is for each council to be at level 3 by March 2011. The WDSP Climate Change Programme includes a project that is working towards, and currently on track to meet, this target.

### 3 The Programme

- 3.1 There are currently 24 key projects suggested to form the programme of climate change activity.

3.2 Of these 13 are in development, with Project Managers in place and in some cases already underway. These are:

- a) Partnership for low carbon procurement policies.
- b) The project relating to the priority area of 'reducing greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture/forestry'.
- c) Heatseekers and Green Homes Scheme.
- d) Development of LDF Core Strategy Climate Change Policies and Supplementary Planning Document.
- e) Support renewable energy demonstration projects throughout the District.
- f) Develop ESCo (energy services company) services in the District.
- g) Secure additional funds for carbon reduction activity.
- h) Energy masterplanning for the district.
- i) Planning for adaptation to climate change.
- j) Winchester Declaration on Climate Change.
- k) Low carbon champions network – organisations.
- l) Low carbon champions network – communities.
- m) Town and Parish Council's carbon reduction.

3.3 However, 11 projects still require more work, most particularly a Project Manager to take them forward. These are:

- a) Promotion and effective implementation of travel plans in schools colleges and major employers.
- b) Development of bus services and information.
- c) Promote low emissions vehicles to residents and businesses.
- d) Further develop transport infrastructure that gives top priority for walking and cycling, followed by public transport and finally to other motorised transport.
- e) Investigate and implement the best measures to enable reduced travel and smarter car use.
- f) Reduce energy use in organisations.
- g) Comprehensive home insulation strategy for the District
- h) Negotiation with energy companies about installing smart meters in the area as soon as possible.
- i) Key project under priority of 'Promoting contingency planning'
- j) Public engagement and education on Winchester's 20% carbon challenge.
- k) The project relating to the priority area of 'carbon footprint of food'.

#### 4 Resource Requirements

4.1 The Chair of the High Quality Environment Group has submitted a paper to the WDSP Executive and the City Council on the 'minimum conditions for success of the 20% carbon challenge'. This paper is attached as Appendix 3.

4.2 Negotiations are underway with Hampshire County Council and other partners with the intention of identifying project managers and other resources to take these projects forward.

4.3 The climate change programme is a priority in the current Winchester City Council Corporate Business Plan. As such sufficient resources need to be made available to ensure that the City Council plays its full part in the delivery of the programme. It is proposed that staff roles are reviewed to enable the formation of a team within the Council which can focus on this outcome, working both within the Council and with partners to help deliver the programme.

4.4 Members views are sought on the level of funds which the Council will contribute. Members will need to consider this alongside the requirement for action to reduce the Council's own operational carbon emissions (see CAB 1920 on this agenda). Funds which support the implementation of carbon reduction projects could be shown as a separate budget line in order that the City Council's contribution to delivering against climate change targets is transparent.

## 5 Programme Management and Monitoring

5.1 The Sustainability Officer is taking on the role of Programme Manager, overseeing and monitoring the overall progress of the programme. Progress will be reported to the WDSP High Quality Environment Group and the Environment Scrutiny Panel, and to Cabinet and Principal Scrutiny Committee as part of the monitoring of the Corporate Business Plan.

5.2 The projects within the programme will be held on the Covalent performance management system.

## 5.3 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

## 6 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND CORPORATE BUSINESS PLAN (RELEVANCE TO):

6.1 The programme is working towards the Sustainable Community Strategy outcome that 'The District meets the challenge of climate change'. Its importance is recognised by its inclusion in the current year's Corporate Business Plan.

## 7 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

7.1 The programme in its entirety has not been fully costed. The Chair of the High Quality Environment Group has set out his view on 'minimum conditions for success' in the attached paper (Appendix 3). It is clear that resources to deliver all the projects will only be achieved by contributions, in funds and in kind, from all member organisations of the WDSP and through external funding from national sources where possible. Members' views are sought on the proposed level of the Council's contribution to the programme.

## 8 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 8.1 Projects within the programme will be risk managed in line with the Council's corporate risk process. However, there is a broader set of risks which are driving the need to take effective action on climate change mitigation and adaptation. These risks to the future of our global environment have been set out by the International Panel on Climate Change and in recent guidance produced by the UK Climate Impacts Programme. The Council's response to these broader risks is expressed through the inclusion of climate change as a priority in the Sustainable Community Strategy and the development of the Climate Change Programme.

### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Agendas, minutes and papers relating to the WDSP High Quality Environment Group Reports and Minutes on the WDSP website, and papers relating to the preparation of the Climate Change Programme held by Partnerships, Communication and Improvement Division.

### APPENDICES:

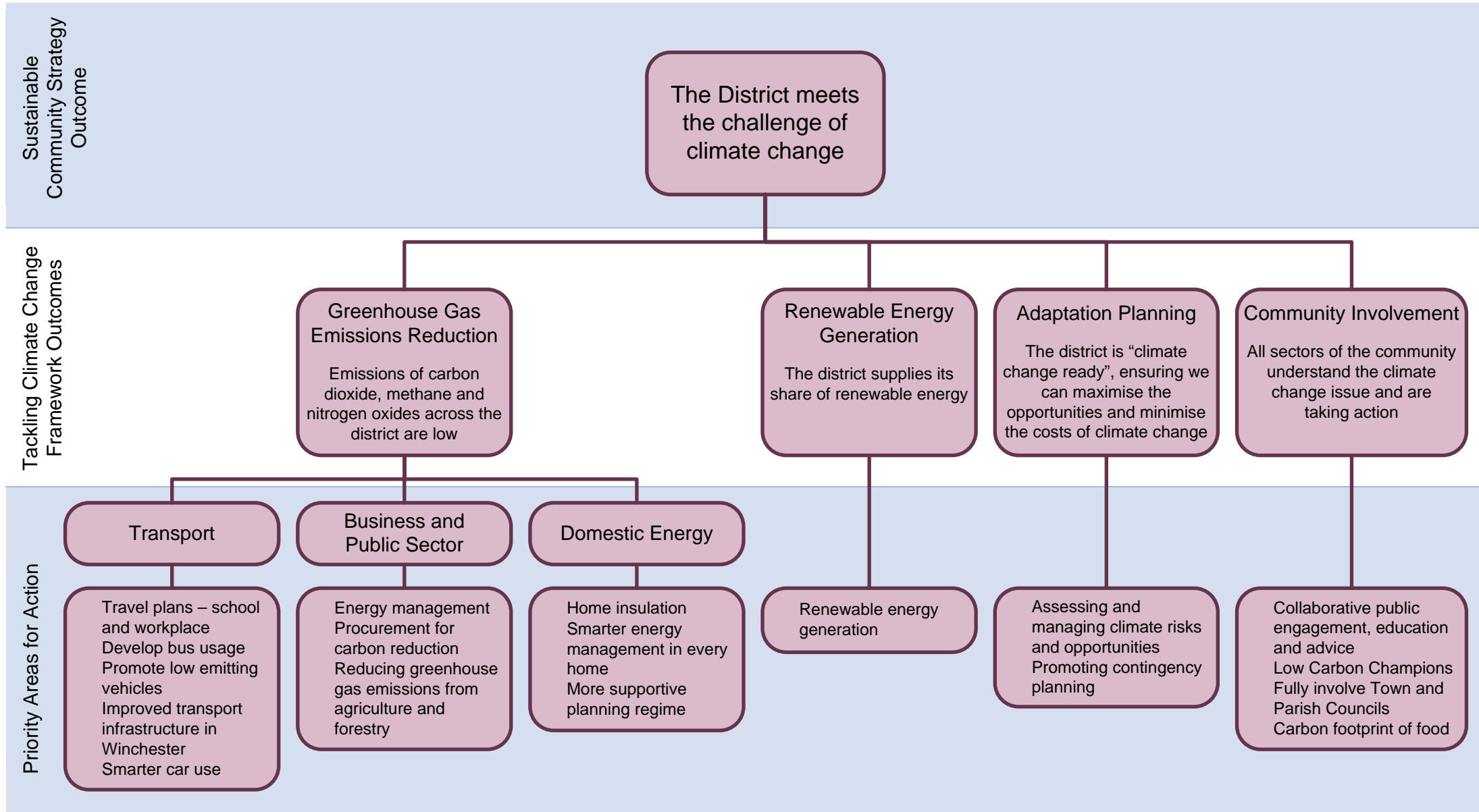
Appendix 1: Climate Change Programme Structure

Appendix 2: Draft Climate Change Programme

Appendix 3: Winchester's 20% Carbon Challenge – minimum conditions for success (paper written by the Chair of the WDSP High Quality Environment Group)



# Appendix 1: WDSP High Quality Environment Group Climate Change Programme Structure



## WDSP High Quality Environment Group Draft Climate Change Programme

Priority Area	Outcome Objectives	Projects/Actions	Targets	Known/ Additional Budget	Project Manager or Contact	Invite to be involved:
<b>Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction: Transport</b>						
Travel plans – schools and workplace	Staff and students at schools, colleges and organisations are using sustainable travel methods	<b>Promotion and effective implementation of travel plans in schools, colleges and major employers</b>	90 per cent of schools, colleges, and large organisations to have travel plans.  (modal switches monitored through travel plans)	County Council budget for travel plans and cycling proficiency; one off DSCF grants to schools with travel plans  Additional budget needed for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel plan co-ordinator for Winchester</li> <li>• Costs of additional cycling proficiency training.</li> <li>• establishing workplace travel plans</li> <li>• individualised marketing</li> </ul>	Not yet identified	HCC, Sustrans, Winchester Cycle Working Group, WinACC.
Develop bus usage	More use of buses and more paying passengers	<b>Development of bus services and information</b>	To be developed around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % increase in passengers</li> <li>• % reduction in car travel</li> <li>• Tonnes carbon dioxide reduced</li> </ul>	Additional budget needed	Not yet identified	Passenger Transport Forum, Bus companies, WACA, WinACC
		Implement Park and Ride service from new site with traffic management controls to achieve reliable times.			Contact: Andy Hickman, WCC	

Priority Area	Outcome Objectives	Projects/Actions	Targets	Known/ Additional Budget	Project Manager or Contact	Invite to be involved:
Promote low emitting vehicles	Lower average emissions from different classes of vehicles based in Winchester district	<b>Promote low emission vehicles to residents and businesses</b>	To be developed around reduction in average gms of carbon dioxide per car km	Transfer of existing County Council and District Council resources. WinACC Communication Group involvement in marketing with appropriate resourcing from County Council Budget for electric charging facilities	Not yet identified	Not yet identified
		Ensure low emission vehicles for new Park and Ride bus contract	Euro 5 engine vehicles specified	See proposal in CAB1916 to be considered by Cabinet (Traffic and Parking) Committee on 5 Nov 2009	Contact: Andy Hickman, WCC	
		Improve City Council marketing of discounts for residents' parking of lower emissions vehicles.			Contact: Andy Hickman, WCC	
		Reduced carbon emissions for City Council lease car scheme	Revised limits introduced this year		Contact: Bob Merrett, WCC	
Improved transport infrastructure in Winchester	Walking and cycling is prioritised.	<b>Further develop transport infrastructure that gives top priority for walking and cycling, followed by public transport and finally to other motorised transport.</b>	To be developed around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % Increase in walking and cycling</li> <li>• % reduction in car travel</li> <li>• tonnes carbon dioxide reduced.</li> </ul>	Additional budget needed for Cycling officer for Winchester And funds for new /improved cycle and pedestrian routes  Potential to access Sustrans funding	Not yet identified	Hampshire County Council, Sustrans, WCC

Priority Area	Outcome Objectives	Projects/Actions	Targets	Known/ Additional Budget	Project Manager or Contact	Invite to be involved:
		<b>Consultation and agreement on Town Centre Access Plan</b>		See report CAB1921 elsewhere on this agenda	Contact: Andy Hickman, WCC	
		<b>Implement Town Centre Access Plan</b>			Contact: Andy Hickman, WCC	
Smarter car use	'Smarter' use of vehicles for work and leisure purposes in all sectors of society with greater fuel efficiency, more sharing of vehicles, and less need to travel.	<b>Investigate and implement the best measures to enable reduced travel and smarter car use.</b>	To be developed around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction in average gms of carbon dioxide per car km</li> <li>% Reduction in car driver travel</li> </ul>	WinACC Communication Group involvement in marketing with appropriate resourcing from County Council	Not yet identified	<b>IBM, HCC</b>
<b>Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction: Business and Public Sector</b>						
Energy management	Active energy management leading to reduced energy usage in all large organisations and assistance available for small and medium sized organisations to do the same.	<b>Reduce energy use in organisations</b>	To be developed around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy reduction</li> <li>Reduction in carbon footprints</li> </ul>	Staff time required	Not yet identified	Sustainable Business Partnership
		Organisations on WDSP management group join WinACC and commit to measuring their carbon footprint and report on actions to reduce it.			Contact: Jen Anderson, WCC	

Priority Area	Outcome Objectives	Projects/Actions	Targets	Known/ Additional Budget	Project Manager or Contact	Invite to be involved:
Procurement for carbon reduction	Collaboration between organisations in respect of procurement to achieve maximum reduction in carbon emissions from operations within the district.	<b>Partnership for low carbon procurement policies</b>	To be developed around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number signed up to joint policy</li> <li>• Joint working</li> </ul>	Room hire, refreshments, staff time.	Manager: Jen Anderson, WCC Project Officer: Nigel S Green, WCC	Sustainable Business Partnership, WCC
		Consider promotion of green accreditation for local suppliers and, if agreed, pursue.	Local suppliers improve performance.		Not yet identified	Kate Crawford, Sustainable Business Partnership
		WCC Working through the sustainable procurement flexible framework			Contact: Nigel S Green, WCC	
	Major public sector food procurement sourced more locally over time.	Convene initial meeting of Hampshire Fayre, Hampshire Farmers' Markets reps, HCC, UoW, RHCH, Prison, Colleges	Understanding of what is currently procured and potential for local sourcing.		Contact: Kate Crawford, WCC	
Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture and forestry	Reduction against baseline (to be determined).	<b>Key Project under development</b>	Under development		Project Manager: Andy Rigg, Farm Energy Project	Sparsholt College, John Lewis P'ship; HCC; HEP Rural Task Force; NFU: Land Based Consortium

Priority Area	Outcome Objectives	Projects/Actions	Targets	Known/ Additional Budget	Project Manager or Contact	Invite to be involved:
<b>Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction: Domestic Energy</b>						
Home insulation	Achieve widespread improvements in home insulation across the district	<b>Heatseekers and Green Homes Scheme</b>	750 properties insulated, equating to a CO <sub>2</sub> saving per year of between 457 and 1050 tonnes.	£0 cost Officer time.	Project Manager: Kevin Reed, WCC	Energy Saving Partnership and Mark Group
		<b>Comprehensive home insulation strategy for the District</b>	At least 300 additional Warm Front grants At least 500 additional CERT- funded home insulation programmes	Additional staff time and budget needed. Potential to secure external funding	Not yet identified	
		PUSH 4 Safer Homes initiative			Contact: Kevin Reed, WCC	
		Social housing to meet Decent Homes Standard	100% roof insulation at 270mm, UPVC double glazing and draught proofing and condensing boilers by 2012		Contact: Richard Botham, WCC	RSLs
Smarter energy management in every home	All homes have metric meters and a growing number of homes have smart meters. All new homes to have smart meters	<b>Negotiation with energy companies about installing smart meters in the area as soon as possible</b>	Smart meter in every council property by 2012 (dependent on negotiations)	Staff time	Project Manager: Possibly Andy Palmer, WCC	
		Raise awareness of out-of-date meters			Not yet identified	
		Include requirement for smart meters in supplementary planning document			Contact: Steve Opacic, WCC	

Priority Area	Outcome Objectives	Projects/Actions	Targets	Known/ Additional Budget	Project Manager or Contact	Invite to be involved:
More supportive planning regime	Ambitious standards for new development that help deliver the carbon reduction targets	<b>Development of LDF Core Strategy Climate Change Policies and Supplementary Planning Document</b>	New housing to meet targets in Core Strategy Policy		Project Manager: Steve Opacic, WCC	
		Ensure High standards of sustainability for new affordable housing	New affordable housing CSH 4 by 2010	Within existing budgets	Contact: Andy Palmer, WCC	
		Work closely with Thornfield Properties PLC to ensure Silver Hill development is as sustainable as possible			Contact: Kevin Warren, WCC	
<b>Renewable Energy Generation</b>						
Renewable energy generation	Increase renewable energy supply in the District	<b>Support renewable energy demonstration projects throughout the district</b>	Under development	Budget needed for project management and development	Project Manager: Alex Templeton, Farm Energy Project	Forestry Commission
		<b>Develop ESCo services in the district.</b>	Under development	Budget needed for project management and development	Project Manager: Alex Templeton, Farm Energy Project	HCC, Forestry Commission
		<b>Secure additional funds for carbon reduction activity</b>	Under development		Project Manager: Alex	Forestry Commission

Priority Area	Outcome Objectives	Projects/Actions	Targets	Known/ Additional Budget	Project Manager or Contact	Invite to be involved:
					Templeton, Farm Energy Project	
		<b>Energy master-planning for the district.</b>	Under development	Budget needed to develop and implement strategy	Project Manager: Alex Templeton, Farm Energy Project	HCC, Forestry Commission
		Abbey Mill Feasibility Study			Contact: Kevin Warren, WCC	
		Feasibility of City Centre District Heating			Contact: Kevin Warren, WCC	
<b>Adaptation Planning</b>						
Assessing and managing climate risks and opportunities	The district is prepared for climate change, and ready to maximise the opportunities and minimise the costs of climate change.	<b>Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change</b>			Project Manager: Teresa Kennard, WCC	
Promoting contingency planning		<b>Key Project requires development</b>			Rob Gazzard, Forestry Commission (provisional)	
<b>Community Involvement</b>						
Collaborative public engagement, education and	Local people understand the urgency and importance of	<b>Public engagement and education on 'Winchester's 20 per cent carbon</b>	To be developed on no. of articles, publications and website hits	Substantial budget needed for major public engagement and education programme	Not yet identified	Businesses WinACC, University, schools,



Priority Area	Outcome Objectives	Projects/Actions	Targets	Known/ Additional Budget	Project Manager or Contact	Invite to be involved:
advice	tackling climate change and are taking effective action	<b>challenge'</b>				colleges, NHS Trusts
		<b>Winchester Declaration on Climate Change</b>	20 organisations signed by Mar 2010	Staff time	Project Manager: Jen Anderson	
		Green Homes Concierge Scheme		Need to find funding for feasibility study	Not yet identified	
Low Carbon Champions	Trained champions are available to give advice and support to organisations and communities	<b>Low Carbon Champions Network – Organisations</b>	To be developed on number of organisations with trained low carbon champions	£6,000 funding for the underpinning development work with core Winchester District Strategic Partnership members approved.  each agency will need to pay for its own programme.	Project Manager: Chris Holloway, WinACC	WinACC; each WDSP Partner
		<b>Low Carbon Champions Network - Communities</b>	To be developed on number of communities with trained Low Carbon Champions	WinACC has applied for funding to reach out to faith communities	Project Manager: Chris Holloway, WinACC	WinACC
Fully involve Town and Parish Councils	Town and Parish Councils take leadership on climate change, reducing their carbon footprint and developing local carbon reduction initiatives	<b>Town and Parish Councils carbon reduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a champion in every T&amp;PC by 30.3.10</li> <li>Every T&amp;PC to have undertaken 3 actions by 31.12.09</li> <li>3 new Greening Campaigns (or equivalent) a year</li> </ul>	Winchester City Council small grants fund.  Winchester City Council and Hampshire County Council fund greening Campaign across the district.	Project Manager: Steve Lincoln, WCC	WinACC; WDATPC; The Greening Campaign
		Current Greening projects in Oliver's Battery, Alresford, Colden Common, and			Contact: Steve Lincoln, WCC	

Priority Area	Outcome Objectives	Projects/Actions	Targets	Known/ Additional Budget	Project Manager or Contact	Invite to be involved:
		Fulfood in Winchester				
Carbon footprint of food	To reduce the carbon footprint of food produced and consumed in the District	<b>Key project requires development</b>	To be developed around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals to eat more local food</li> <li>• Institutions to use more local food</li> <li>• more local food to be available</li> </ul>	No known budget identified BIG (the lottery) has funding for community gardens	Not yet identified	Winchester Allotment Society; Horticultural Society; Hampshire Fare; Parish Councils; TACT and Resident's Associations; HCC; Farmers' Market

### Appendix 3:

#### Winchester's 20% Carbon Challenge – minimum conditions for success

Paper by Robert Hutchison, Chairman, High Quality Environment Group, WDSP

#### Introduction

1. On 27 February 2009 the Board of the Winchester District Strategic Partnership (WDSP) committed the WDSP to achieving a 20 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the district over the three years to March 2012. This is a very ambitious target partly because, while a majority of the population say that they are concerned about climate change, many people are cynical or resigned about the issue.
2. This paper sets out the benefits of early action and what, in the judgement of the author, is the minimum that needs to be done by the City Council and others (including all organisations involved in the WDSP) successfully to achieve the agreed target.

#### Background

3. In the six months from March to September 2009, the WDSP has made only slow progress in developing and implementing a widely owned Action Plan capable of achieving the 20 per cent reduction target.
4. On behalf of the WDSP, Winchester City Council and Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC) invited representatives from organisations and businesses in Winchester district to a seminar **Winchester's 20% carbon challenge**. That seminar, held on 9 June, fed into a draft SMART Action Plan (that is one with Specific, Measurable, Agreed, Realistic and Timetabled objectives). However, at the time of writing, the Action Plan contains many gaps and progress in Winchester District towards the target is hard to discern. The transformation of Ashburton Court by the County Council and the City Council's published commitment to invest over £3 million in the refurbishment of the Guildhall are welcome new developments which should help reduce the City's carbon footprint. The University of Winchester is adopting a strong approach to carbon reduction and there have been a number of other local carbon reduction initiatives, but, overall, there has been insufficient recognition of the urgency or scale of the challenge, and little effective action.
5. The reasons for the very slow progress are:
  - a. Hampshire County Council has not yet signed up to 'Winchester's 20% carbon challenge', even though three County Councillors were present and gave their support at the meeting at which the 20 per cent commitment was made; consequently the County Council is not currently willing to make officer time available to help with the transport or other projects listed in the draft Action Plan which they are exceptionally well placed to help progress and influence.
  - b. Winchester City Council has not yet allocated sufficient resources – neither leadership nor staff time.
  - c. So far most of the other members of the WDSP have offered no, or very limited, resources, although WinACC is keen to play its full part in trying to reduce the District's carbon footprint.

6. A critical mass of engagement and activity across the District is essential to have any serious chance of achieving a 20 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in Winchester by March 2012. To achieve that critical mass we need strong leadership, team building, resources, partnership working, determination, a sense of urgency and an up-to-date understanding of how to initiate and maintain behavioural change. It is essential to engage a wide range of organizations and the people of Winchester in projects that capture the public imagination.
7. Leadership is the first essential. That leadership must come primarily from Winchester City Council and Hampshire County Council. The move to a low carbon society needs publicly to be emphasised as a top priority for action by both local authorities, and accelerating moves to a lower carbon society recognised as a major opportunity to improve public health, further enhance Winchester as a district in which to live and work and create the jobs of the future.

### **The benefits of early action**

8. The consensus among well-informed climate scientists is that a 20 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions relative to 2007 by 2012 is the minimum required in wealthy areas like the City of Winchester. Winchester should get excellent national publicity if, in 2012/13, independent auditors show that such a reduction has been achieved.
9. The social and economic benefits will exceed the reputational benefits. Improved public transport, smarter car use, less commuting, and new forms of communication including video conferencing, will mean less traffic congestion, financial savings, and more time for friends and family. In a low carbon society it will be easier to strengthen local social and cultural life; stronger communities are safer communities. More cycling and walking to school and to work, and eating fresher food, should improve health, reduce obesity and, as research shows, even improve educational standards.
10. People want to live in warmer homes with lower heating bills. Better housekeeping and prudent investment in energy efficiency will cut energy bills for both households and businesses.
11. The local authorities have the opportunity to create the low carbon equivalent of Silicon Valley in Winchester district. As the information revolution changes into the low carbon revolution, a new generation of entrepreneurs is needed. Being ahead of the game as we move to a low carbon economy will call for new skills and produce direct benefits to existing businesses through access to new markets and enhanced competitive edge.
12. National and regional funding is available to accelerate the move to a low carbon society for, among other things, retrofitting homes and buildings, developing renewable energy, starting new businesses, promoting cycling, and initiating local food projects. With some re-structuring of staff responsibilities the City Council will be well placed to apply for these. And both government and opposition parties are flagging up plans to encourage people to generate their own energy in their homes, businesses and communities. The City Council needs the expertise to be able to exploit the new opportunities that the decentralisation of energy supplies will bring.

### The minimum conditions for success

13. The rest of this paper sets out the more specific innovations and initiatives needed if the City Council and the WDSP are to have a serious chance of successfully achieving their target. Eight such initiatives and innovations are listed here:
14. **A SMART Action Plan** for the 30 months from October 2009 until March 2012 to be approved by the WDSP Executive and the City Council's Cabinet, with cross party political support in the City Council, and Member and officer support in Hampshire County Council. The SMART Action Plan, with timetables, targets and budgets, will consist of 15-20 projects, each making a major contribution to the 20 per cent reduction target. Immediate action is needed to start work on these projects while the Plan is being finalised.
15. **As the local authority for Winchester, the City Council needs to accept full responsibility for developing and implementing the Action Plan – this work needs to be led by a member of the Corporate Management Team, with the support of the WDSP.**
16. **Essential additional investment.** A 20 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions cannot be achieved without considerable additional investment. Lord Stern, the government's former principal adviser on the economics of climate change, has stated that between 1 and 2 per cent of GDP needs to be spent every year to avert the risk of runaway climate change. In 2009/10 Hampshire County Council expects to have a net expenditure (excluding expenditure on education) of £657 million. Winchester City Council spends £65 million a year on a wide range of services. 1 per cent of these sums are £6.6 million and £650,000 respectively. Local authorities need to think in terms of making new investments, on at least this scale, in low carbon initiatives every year for the foreseeable future. In doing so they will help create the jobs and more sustainable society of the future.
17. Considerable re-framing of City Council budgets for 2010/11 and beyond should result in the required 'step change' in the allocation of staff time and budgets. A new budget line for low carbon initiatives should be created. Appendix A lists priority areas for new revenue investment if the 20 per cent carbon challenge is to have any chance of success.
18. **A member of the City Council's Corporate Management Team to drive implementation of the Plan.** Leadership from the top of the City Council is essential. A member of the Corporate Management Team, with a wholehearted commitment to achieving the target must be responsible for working with the Programme Manager to help drive forward the Action Plan. The High Quality Environment Group of the WDSP is establishing a sub-group to act as the monitoring group for the Action Plan.
19. **A professional team to accelerate the move to low carbon Winchester.** A core team of seven or eight professionals (most working full-time) is needed to reach the 20% carbon reduction. Members of the team need to have experience and expertise in sustainable transport, renewable energy, energy advice and home insulation, retrofitting buildings, promoting local food, training, communications and public engagement, including fully involving the public, private and voluntary sectors. The team would maximize inward investment for low carbon

developments, help create the 'green collar' jobs of the future, and manage most of the projects in the Action Plan.

20. The majority of the core team should be City Council employees – including some new appointments – but with considerable support from the County Council. WinACC is willing to take responsibility for training low carbon champions, and the Primary Care Trust (NHS Hampshire) should be asked to second a staff member to develop a food and healthy living project.
21. **A Public Engagement Strategy.** If the WDSP achieves its target, it will be because people have changed their behaviour throughout the district. It will have become normal to use energy carefully in every home and work place, to drive smartly, to walk or cycle for short journeys, to insulate every building as well as possible, to create less waste and consume less. People in Winchester district will recognise climate change as the biggest issue of the twenty-first century, and as a great opportunity to improve the quality of their lives. This requires a programme of Public Engagement and Education, using the latest insights about what brings about positive behavioural change. Such a programme should be developed as a partnership between the public, private and voluntary sectors in Winchester, linked to a programme of training and support for low carbon champions throughout the district. WinACC can help considerably with this Strategy but is not currently resourced to develop and implement a Strategy that will effectively reach the dozens of schools, hundreds of employers, and over 100,000 residents in Winchester district. Additional resources are required.
22. **The Winchester Declaration on Climate Change.** At the 9 June 2009 seminar it was agreed that the City Council would initiate the Winchester Declaration on Climate Change and that the leaders of all the major organizations in the district will be encouraged to sign, with Winchester City Council and Hampshire County Council leading by example. The Chief Executive of the City Council has undertaken to ask all City Council employees who live in Winchester district to join WinACC. The leaders of the political parties represented on the City Council will be asked to do the same for the elected members of their party. All elected members and members of the City Council staff should be invited to attend a one-day training course by 31 March 2010 on the benefits to Winchester of moving rapidly to a low carbon society.
23. **The development of appropriate metrics.** What gets measured gets managed. Performance measures are required to monitor and manage progress in the implementation of the Action Plan. It is proposed that 2007 figures should be used as the baseline (the latest available at this time). Some national statistics for greenhouse gas emissions ignore the emissions from imported goods and from international air travel and shipping. It is proposed that both 'production' figures (as used by DEFRA for NI 186) and 'consumption' figures (as published by the Stockholm Environment Institute) should be used to measure progress in Winchester, with greater importance attached to the latter.
24. Other local measurements also need to be put in place. For example, as an essential contribution to Corporate Social Responsibility, all major employers should be asked to measure, and commit to monitoring and reducing, their carbon footprints on a year-by-year basis; annual surveys of the City Council's Citizens Panel could help to track changes in attitudes and behaviour, and sample surveys of households and small businesses should be conducted.

## Conclusion

The need for early and effective action on climate change has never been greater. In September 2009 this need was highlighted by the national 10:10 campaign which is seeking the commitment of individuals and organizations to reduce their carbon footprints by 10 per cent in 2010. Numerous local authorities of all political complexions – including West Sussex and Warwickshire County Councils – have already signed up for the 10:10 campaign. It is hoped that most if not all local authorities, including Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Council, will do so. 10:10 is entirely consistent with Winchester's 20 per cent carbon challenge; indeed it should help inject a much needed sense of urgency in the 20 per cent carbon challenge. A commitment to reducing the carbon footprint of Winchester by 20 per cent by 2012 is an essential but enormous undertaking and, for the City Council to have any credibility, it must act rapidly and take the lead in providing the means with which to achieve the objective to which it has already committed itself. Indeed to justify any claim that they are taking climate change seriously every major organisation either needs to have done, or now needs to do, the following:

1. *Made 'meeting the challenge of climate change' a key priority in its published business plan.*
2. *Given a member of its Senior Management Team the lead for climate change/carbon reduction.*
3. *Published a plan for reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent by March 2012 (using 2007 as a baseline).*
4. *Published a carbon reducing 'Staff Travel Plan'.*
5. *Audited energy use in its buildings.*
6. *Secured the capital to retrofit existing buildings – any loans being repaid from energy savings.*
7. *Identified staff throughout the organisation to be trained as energy champions or "low carbon champions".*
8. *Published the above commitments to staff and customers, encouraging them to measure and reduce their own carbon footprints.*

*Each of the points 3-8 in the above list need to have a lead officer and a budget and be monitored regularly.*

## Appendix A: Proposed new budget line: low carbon initiatives

Significant new investment is needed in low carbon initiatives during the period until April 2012 to give Winchester any serious chance of achieving a 20 per cent reduction in the District's carbon footprint, to improve health and well-being, and to help develop the low carbon businesses and jobs of the future.

It is proposed that a new budget line 'Low Carbon Initiatives' is introduced in the City Council's budget for 2010/11 and that for each of the two financial years 2010/11 and 2011/12 minimum new investment should be made as follows in the following areas:

<b>Sustainable Transport ...</b>	<b>£50,000</b>
<b>Renewable Energy....</b>	<b>£40,000</b>

**Home insulation and retrofitting....£30,000**  
**Public engagement ..... £30,000**

Work in each area will need to be conducted in partnership with other organisations with the aim of drawing in considerable external funding to supplement the funding contributed by members of the WDSP, and to achieve clear outputs as identified in the Climate Change Action Plan. An initial set of outputs by March 2012 under each of these headings is as follows:

### **Sustainable Transport**

- Active City Council staff travel plan and targets
- Significant increase in quantity and quality of travel plans being acted upon by schools and other major employers in Winchester
- Re-established Winchester Car Club - with new jobs in Winchester
- Delivery of priority cycle infrastructure schemes – involving new jobs
- Agreed District wide Cycling Strategy
- At least £100,000 additional funding secured for cycling schemes
- A publicised and well promoted cycle network for Winchester attracting new visitors
- A reduction in car travel in Winchester and 20% increase in cycling by Winchester residents measured by surveys

### **Renewable Energy**

- Energy Supply Company (ESCO) established for the District creating new jobs
- At least six renewable energy demonstration projects supported throughout the district with new jobs in installation and maintenance
- At least £250,000 secured for Winchester homes, schools and businesses from government funding for the Renewable Heat Initiative, the introduction of Feed-in Tariffs from April 2010, and other government funding for renewable energy

### **Home insulation and retrofitting**

- Full monitoring and support of Heatseekers scheme with maximum benefits derived for Winchester businesses
- Strategy for home insulation and retrofitting across Winchester district developed and implemented based on clear understanding of barriers to take up of home insulation measures
- At least 300 additional Warm Front grants
- At least 500 additional CERT- funded home insulation programmes (on top of those resulting from work of Heatseekers) ; this could be worth at least £100,000 in saving on insulation costs, and at least £75,000 annually in energy bills to Winchester residents, as well as creating new jobs.
- Ten per cent of Winchester households with Smart meters (funded by the CERT programme) by March 2012
- Winchester benefiting from government's 'pay as you save' funds (flagged up in the **The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan**) to help people pay the costs of transforming their homes to the best energy efficiency standards
- Retrofitting advice service available to businesses signing up to Winchester's 20 per cent low carbon challenge

### **Public engagement**

- 200 organisations – including most of the major organisations in Winchester – signed up to the Winchester Declaration on Climate Change and given the advice and support needed to reduce their carbon footprints by 20 per cent by 2012



- Three major events across Winchester district –each attended by at least 500 people - to raise awareness, spread best practice about moving to a low carbon society, and promote understanding of the opportunities inherent in such a move; one of these will be a low carbon travel fair – to promote travel plans and alternatives to car use
- An annual schools and colleges programme – with films, competitions and training to encourage full involvement of all Winchester’s schools in Winchester’s low carbon challenge
- Specific engagement programmes with businesses and voluntary sector organisations – such as the Women’s Institutes and faith communities – to secure their full involvement
- Enhanced communications programme – with regular imaginative media coverage - to keep the 20 per cent carbon challenge in the public eye
- Competitions to help generate a ‘buzz’ and enhance civic pride
- Banners, leaflets, posters and videos to inform people about the 20 percent challenge, to get people talking and to provide advice.