
REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	AGENDA ITEM: 10
DATE OF MEETING:	20th NOVEMBER 2008	CATEGORY: DELEGATED/ RECOMMENDED OPEN
REPORT FROM:	DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES	
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	PETER MCEVOY	DOC:
SUBJECT:	CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS01

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 Members accept, in principle, the Derbyshire Partnership Forum's Climate Change Strategy as the over-arching strategy to form the framework for County wide action on Climate Change.
- 1.2 Members note the informational content of the draft strategy document attached at Appendix 1, and accept the draft as the basis for consultation with partners including the LSP and Derbyshire County Council with a view to adopting a Climate Change Strategy for the South Derbyshire Area later this financial year.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To inform members about the Climate Change Strategy adopted by the Derbyshire Partnership Forum for the whole County Area and to agree the outline of the South Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy aimed at reducing Carbon emissions and encouraging adaptation within its area.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 In April 2008 the Derbyshire Partnership Forum selected 35 National Indicators for priority action within the Derbyshire Area. Two of these indicators related to Climate Change namely NI 186 (reducing Carbon emissions per capita), and NI187 (adapting in readiness for a changed climate).
- 3.2 In November the Government's Climate Change Bill will be passed and a legal commitment to reduce the Country's Carbon emissions by 80% by the year 2050 will be enshrined in statute. However the expectation that local government would be a key driver in delivering a substantial reduction in carbon emissions has been made clear for some years featuring prominently in the 2006 white paper "Strong and Prosperous Communities.

- 3.3 On 29th June 2008 the Derbyshire Partnership Forum approved Climate Change Strategy for all its partners to follow with the aim of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting in readiness for Climate Change. This strategy was written as an over-arching strategy and it is intended that partner organisations have their own local strategies and action plans via which more specific change will be brought about.
- 3.4 The Derbyshire Partnership forum's strategy will in time be followed up by an action plan which will also be over-arching and will address County wide issues like transport and schools etc. This however has not been rapidly forthcoming and given the enormity of the scale and challenge of the targets imposed on Councils by the Climate Change Bill it seemed necessary to introduce the subject to members sooner rather than later and in particular to do two things;
- introduce the Derbyshire Partnership forum's strategy to members and
- to agree an early draft of a Climate Change Strategy for South Derbyshire.
- 3.5 Appendix B to this report is the Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy (this can be accessed via; http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/consultation/consultation_search_index/climate_change.asp), which contains a considerable amount of detail and scientific background to the issue.
- 3.6 Attached as appendix A is an early draft of a Climate Change strategy for South Derbyshire.
- 3.7 At this time it is not possible to finalise either the strategy and, to much greater degree, the action plan due to a range of reasons i.e. the unavailability of a Area Level Action Plan, the Climate Change Bill not being finalised at the time of writing but most of all because the scale of corporate and community action needed to address these targets is so huge that the task of defining and quantifying accurately even what can be done within existing resources is the work of years.
- 3.8 The strategy therefore acknowledges this difficulty and sets out an intention to work in the short term to develop a rough outline of what are the carbon implications of current levels of activity and plans. This will provide the most accurate basis possible to show the extent of future changes in services and policies that will be needed.
- 3.9 Sir Nicholas Stern demonstrated in his report that taking necessary action sooner rather than later would have a much lower economic impact. Furthermore common experience confirms that change planned over the long term is far more efficient than hastily changed plans e.g. designing new buildings to a high specification is more cost effective than having to retrofit insulation or heating systems.
- 3.10 It is therefore desirable that a draft strategy and draft action plan, despite the gaps in information at this time, should be made available to members, officers and council partners so that their decisions can be informed by both the scale and nature of the climate challenge facing them.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 No implications from adopting the strategy at this time. It may be worthy of note that a reduction of UK emissions by 80% over the next 42 years will only be achieved by allocating substantial resources.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 None

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 The Local Strategic partnership's assistance is key to successfully addressing CO2 emissions in the community and therefore delivering on indicators NI 186 and 188.

6.2 The small scale of the impact of reducing the Council's Carbon footprint can be seen in the draft action plans and the conclusion is evident that campaigning for community wide changes will be necessary if long term targets are to be met.

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 The challenging target set for NI 186 and the long-term requirement of an 80 percent reduction by 2050 will require substantial mobilisation of resources.

7.2 The Council's Carbon footprint and the Defra emissions information offer a useful baseline.

7.3 More information is needed to plan and organise efforts to reduce Carbon emissions and in particular more detailed information about options for energy savings and renewable energy generation will be required.

7.4 The attached draft Climate Change Strategy forms the basis for consultation with partner organisations and their contributions towards an ongoing programme of Carbon reductions will be sought and included prior to final approval of the strategy later in this financial year.

8.0 Background Papers

8.1 None