

## Key Theme 2 – Environment

**1. Description of the capability Charnwood is seeking from the changes to the organisation. Delivery of this capacity is the end goal of the programme. The description forms the outline vision statement**

**We will contribute to limiting the effects of climate change, protect our environment but mitigate the effects of climate change where necessary**

- To protect the environment for future generations
- Work with partners to develop and deliver the Climate Change Strategy action plan
- To deliver a sustainable Borough which minimises waste and increases recycling
- To identify and manage climate change related risks in the borough like flooding

**2. Outline description of the benefits that should be delivered as a result of the change (include any dis-benefits). How will they be achieved and how will they be measured?**

Many of Charnwood Borough Council's activities have an impact on climate change, from our use of energy and the services we deliver to the raw materials that we use in our construction and maintenance programmes. Our services and activities will also be affected by the inevitable impacts of climate change.

The purpose of this programme is to adapt to the impacts of climate change and operate as a Council in a way that reduces these impacts and raises awareness across the Borough of the simple but effective steps that organisations and individuals can take to reduce their own impact on climate change.

The benefits of the programme will be evident across a range of key themes which are as follows:

- Energy
- Purchasing
- Transport & Air Quality
- Waste Minimisation and Recycling
- Development & Planning
- Biodiversity & Open Space
- Adapting to climate change
- Raising awareness

There will be three main vehicles used to ensure the delivery and monitoring of the activities, which are the Climate Change Strategy, the Zero Waste Strategy and the Local Area Agreement. The targets in the LAA in relation to the National Indicators will need to be met to ensure that the Council meets its obligations to the LAA commitments through the reduction in its emissions of carbon dioxide and in its progress in adapting to the impacts of climate change.

In addition, each Service Delivery plan within the Council will include actions towards the delivery of the key activities.

The impact of the activities will be measured against some fundamental outputs which will include:

- Cost
- Consumption

- Emission reductions

### 3. Initial Project and Activity List

Demonstrate clear leadership in our own activities to encourage and enable the community to respond to environmental issues. To include the following

- Continue to work to support community led approaches to renewable energy projects
- Continue to develop and support Loughborough farmers' market
- Develop further opportunities for the sale of locally produced food in the borough of Charnwood.
- Encourage schools and businesses to develop travel plans by working in partnership with Leicestershire County Council, the Local Strategic Partnership and the planning process.
- Waste minimisation & recycling education and promotion campaign
- Designing and tendering for a new waste & recycling service to achieve a further step change in waste minimisation and recycling
- Develop targeted promotions for key waste streams
- Develop local award scheme that recognises and promotes developments that have incorporated the principles of sustainable design
- Share information with government agencies, nature conservation organisations, research institutions and communities on potential and observed climate change impacts on biodiversity.
- Improve awareness on flood warnings in conjunction with the Environment Agency

Have regard to the environmental impact of everything we do. To include the following

- Reduction in Council's energy consumption in all its public buildings by 15% of the 2004 figures by 2010
- Procure 100% of the Council's electricity from renewable sources
- Carry out feasibility studies of renewable sources of energy for all new Council Buildings and replacement heating systems in existing buildings.
- Implement Green Purchasing Policy
- Purchase Council office furniture from sustainable forestry sources and implement a program of repair to damaged furniture where possible and feasible.
- All Council's own computers, photocopiers and printers with high energy efficiency rating
- Renewable energy use and energy efficiency measures are to be specified in all contract specifications where applicable
- 100% Council vehicles to run on low emission LPG or Bio-Diesel by 2010
- Effective management of Council's own vehicle fleet to reduce vehicle emissions
- Enhancement of the Railway station and public transport interchange through the Eastern Gateway Regeneration Project
- Development of a Park and Ride Scheme in the South of the Borough to reduce car journeys
- Improve air quality across the Borough through working in partnership with Leicestershire County Council in delivering the Local Transport Plan.
- Implement "long life" design criteria for all new and improved Public Buildings

Develop a comprehensive communications plan for promotion and feedback. To include the following

- Raising awareness with the Councils customers including its housing residents, planning customers etc. on the causes of climate change and what individuals can do

- to reduce their own contribution to climate change
  - Raising awareness amongst Council staff and members
  - Raising awareness and seeking commitment from Council's partners to implement improvements in their contribution to climate change
  - Awareness raising events on renewable energy; the ability to choose suppliers who provide electricity from renewable sources and renewable energy for domestic properties.
  - Public education & promotion targeting the reduction of kitchen and paper waste in the residual waste stream, reinforced by appropriate enforcement when required;
- Adapt to the inevitable impacts of climate change through Leicestershire Together
- Identify climate change risks to the authority through existing risk management systems and identify risks from projected climate change
  - Complete a comprehensive risk based assessment for climate change to identify significant vulnerabilities to climate change
  - Develop comprehensive action plan with prioritised actions in priority areas and embed adaptation in decision making processes and service areas

<b>4. Risks to the Programme</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Highest risk is to fail to deliver the targets included in the LAA in relation to NI 185 and NI 188.</li> <li>2. Risk of failure to influence behaviours in the community</li> <li>3. Risk of Council services not perceiving climate change as important in their service areas.</li> <li>4. Financial risks to the authority of not being prepared for the impacts of climate change</li> <li>5. The risk of achieving the timescale to relet waste services. This has been minimised by an action plan and timetable, together with a confirmation of the staff resource to deliver this project, together with ongoing rigour of monitoring at the project board(see Environment Services Contract Project)</li> </ol>

<b>5. Constraints</b>
Timescale for Environment Services Contract

<b>6. Assumptions</b>
Process for OJEU for reletting of contracts

<b>7. Costs</b>
<p>The activities in the climate change action plan, the promotion of activities and the requirements in the LAA delivery have not yet been costed.</p> <p>The Waste contract amounts to £4 million of services, in addition there are costs to the authority in terms of staff support to both tender and support the delivery of this contract</p>

<b>8. Timescales</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start-up</li> <li>• Manage and run</li> <li>• Realisation of benefits</li> </ul>