

PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 18th May 2010

Report of the Director of Housing and Health

ITEM 9 PROGRESS REPORT ON DELIVERY OF CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2005-2010

Purpose of Report

To provide members with an update on the progress in implementing the Council's Climate Change Strategy

Action Requested

The Committee is asked to note the content of the report.

Policy Context

The production of a Climate Change Strategy is a commitment of the Nottingham Declaration to which the council became a signatory on 2nd March 2005.

The Strategy contributes to the achievement of the Council's Corporate Plan aim to reduce the Borough's impact on climate change.

Background

At its meeting on 28th April 2005 the Cabinet endorsed the first Climate Change Strategy, which was for a period 2005 – 2010. Full Council approved the Climate Change Strategy and action plan, through which the objectives of the strategy is delivered, on 5th September 2005.

Performance and progress of the strategy action plan has been reported annually to the Council's Performance Scrutiny Committee. This is the final year in which performance and progress of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2005 - 2010 will be reported to Scrutiny Committee.

The new Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2010 - 2013 was submitted to Cabinet on the 13th May 2010, for endorsement and a recommendation to Full Council to approve the new Strategy. Once the final strategy has been approved, it will be open for this Committee to decide how it wishes to monitor the progress being made against the new action plan.

The Strategy Aims

In the UK Climate Change is now a top priority. The Climate Change Act 2008 allowed the UK government to set an ambitious target of reducing the UK CO₂ emission by 80% by 2050, and introduce a carbon budget for the country. A range of instruments including the Carbon Reduction Commitment are driving large companies utilising over 6000 MWh in electricity to reduce their consumption or

comply with a cap and trade scheme. Incentives like the Renewable Obligations Certificate and Renewable Heat Incentive have created a revenue stream for cooperatives and power companies who choose to invest in renewable energy generation and export back to the national grid. Planning instruments such as the Code for Sustainable Homes has set a mandatory target of zero carbon homes by 2016 and the Building Regulation 2000 introduced a step change in standards of acceptable energy and water efficiency of buildings. Sustainability appraisals are now required for regional and local spatial planning strategies. Accreditations such as the ISO 14001, Environmental Management and Audit System (EMAS) and BS8555 Acorn are highly regarded industry standards within the commercial and industrial market place.

The Council is in step with the strong UK focus on climate change and is leading in its commitment in several ways. The Council was one of the first Local Authorities in the region to sign the Nottingham Declaration and to produce a Climate Change Strategy in 2005. It also adopted the Carbon Trust's Local Authority Carbon Management Plan, a tailored programme of asset related projects to achieve carbon emission reduction, in 2003. The Council was one of the first local authorities to achieve and successfully maintain ISO 14001 accreditation for its Environmental management System in 2006. The aim of these endeavours has been to embed the consideration of climate change and sustainability into every area of corporate decision making.

Since the adoption of the Climate Change Strategy 2005 – 2010, the Council has taken significant steps to reduce its carbon footprint and affect change within the community. Key achievements to date include:

- Successfully received £370k in Salix Funds for energy improvements of buildings.
- 13% overall reduction in energy consumption since 2005.
- 36% electricity reduction at main office Southfield Road.
- Established baseline council footprint in 2008/9.
- Awareness campaigns, including the 'Big Switch Off' resulting in equivalent of £2 million energy savings across Leicestershire and 10% across public buildings.
- Engagement with schools through Eco Schools programme with over 20 schools actively participating in 'Big Switch Off'.
- 'Green Doctor' scheme with Groundwork in over 150 homes in Charnwood and North West Leicestershire providing free energy audit and energy saving devices.
- Low energy lighting at Beehive Lane car park set to save approximately £20,000 in electricity per year.
- Number of council homes with deemed high Energy Efficiency (SAP) ratings have increased from 64% to 73% .
- 2,784 house holders received 'Warm Front' grants at a cost of over £3 million.

Many of the achievements above focus on mitigation actions to reduce the carbon footprint, and energy efficiency in particular. This is in keeping with the sources of carbon emission within the Borough as reported in the 2007 National Air Emission Inventory of UK emissions categorised by local authority area. Charnwood's main contributions arise from industry and commerce (40.9%), domestic activity (29.8%) and road transport (27.1%). Despite a population increase, the carbon emissions of the Borough have fallen from 7.4t CO₂ to 7.1t CO₂ per capita from 2005 to 2007.

Through the Climate Change Strategy the Council has been in the position to affect change through planning, development, transport, provision of services, the local economy, and community initiatives. The aim is to secure maximum benefit for residents, educational facilities, industry and commerce, voluntary, community and faith groups of present and future generations.

Partnership Working

The Council is leading by example and therefore is in a strong position to influence the wider community. We recognise that the Council cannot deliver climate change objectives alone. This has led to strong partnership working with Leicestershire Together, Environmental Action for Better Leicestershire (ENABLE), Cleaner Greener, Leicestershire Waste Partnership, Climate Mitigation and Adaptation group (CLIMA), and as strategic lead of Charnwood Together.

In particular, Charnwood Together, the Borough's local strategic partnership, has been an essential partner. The Climate Change delivery group have contributed to the following strategic objective within the Charnwood Sustainable Community Strategy 2008:

- To reduce contributions to climate change and to promote prudent use of resources through patterns of development, design, transport measures, reducing the use of minerals, energy and water and minimising waste and encouraging recycling in support of achieving a carbon neutral borough.

Subsequently the delivery groups produced a Climate Change Strategy Map centred on the following themes:

- Transport
- Energy efficiency/renewable energy
- Adaptation

Work groups with expert leads have been formed around these themes to deliver projects within a period running from 2008 to 2012. Specific projects to date include a transport survey of all partner organisations to identify opportunities for joint policy and projects and a workshop on climate change adaptation, to identify the top ten priority risks to the delivery of Charnwood Together strategic objectives. The group has also contributed to consultations on the Local Transport Plan, Town Centre Master Plan and Local Development Framework.

Since the adoption of the strategy the Council has aimed to meet the following climate change national indicator targets in the second Leicestershire Area Agreement, for which the period of delivery runs from 2008 to 2012.

- NI 185 – reducing CO2 emissions from council operations
- NI 188 – process of adapting to climate change

The main forum to address these indicators has been the CLIMA partnership. In conjunction with county wide partners, the Council has received over £1.5 million in funding. This has been for awareness raising campaigns such as the Big Switch Off

Campaign, video conferencing facilities between County and district council offices to reduce business mileage, energy improvement measures such as automatic meter reading, a 2 year Knowledge Transfer Partnership between the local authorities, Rural Community Council and De Montfort University for climate friendly communities, and more recently a regional allocation of £950K to address climate change with particular emphasis on training for environmental health officers, planning officers and Members.

Monitoring Progress

The Climate Change Action Plan has been the main method of reporting achievements in relation to climate change, but as the section above shows, not an exhaustive indication of achievement. The key actions within the Climate Change Action Plan are categorised into the following strategic themes:

- Energy
- Purchasing
- Transport and Air quality
- Waste
- Development and Planning
- Biodiversity and Open Spaces
- Adaptation
- Awareness Raising

Progress against the actions within the Climate Change Strategy is outlined within Appendix I. The actions have been rated green, amber or red, dependent on whether the action has been completed (green), there is progress with minor issues (amber) or the action has not been met within the allocated timescales (red). Each of the actions also have an additional comments section, where applicable, to explain current progress or to provide additional information.

Of the 57 current actions within the action plan, and using R-A-G (Red, Amber & Green) status to depict progress the following has been achieved:

- 45 actions completed or ongoing progress being delivered (Green)
- 9 actions are ongoing progress with some issues (Amber)
- 3 actions not achieved (Red)

Revision of the Key Actions

Within the original strategy document it was stated that the strategy would be reviewed every three years. As the policy document was set to expire in 2010, the strategy has now been updated to reflect the current aspirations of the Council as set out in the Corporate Plan 2009-12, the LAA targets up to 2012, and the most recent information on UK Climate Change Projections and Impacts.

The term of the updated strategy has also been reduced from five to three years to ensure it can respond to changes in the Council's strategic direction, national legislation, and local and regional governmental structure.

The strategic themes are maintained in the updated strategy. To ensure continuity of delivery, the following steps have been taken:

- Green actions have been closed or carried forward into the updated action plan.
- Amber actions have been closed where they no longer reflect strategic direction or revised and carried forward into the updated action plan.
- Red actions have been closed where they no longer reflect strategic direction or revised and carried forward into the updated action plan

The new Strategy has been developed to continue to improve the Council's performance on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Financial and Legal Implications

The strategy and action plan has been delivered within existing resources and through external funding where it has been secured. This will continue with the updated strategy and action plan.

Risk Management

There are no specific risks associated with this report.

Background Papers: Climate Change Strategy
Climate Change Action Plan Progress

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Climate Change Strategy – Progress Report 2009/10

Progress key on Climate Change Strategy objectives.

Green	Green – objective completed or ongoing progress being delivered
Amber	Amber – on target with some issues
Red	Red – major issues to be resolved/objective timescale missed

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

Obj	Action/Actions to reduce Climate Change	Timescale	Progress	Additional Comment
E1	Reduction in Council's energy consumption in all its public buildings by 15% of the 2004 figures by 2010	2010	Amber	The council has achieved a 13% reduction in energy consumption across its public buildings of 13% from 2004 – 2009. 2010 figures are yet to be determined.
E2	Procure 75% of the Council's electricity from renewable sources.	2010	Red	The Council currently procures 100% of electricity for public buildings from low carbon Combined Heat and Power (CHP), which is recognised as a greener source of electricity and exempt from the Climate Change Levy (CCL). The fuel used in the CHP units is not a renewable source. Therefore the reporting should be 0%. The OGC's Pan Government Energy Project (2007) may restrict procurement of renewable sources by the Council. To comply with Project recommendations public sector users must procure through approved suppliers who are expected to provide less than 15% of renewable energy nationally.
E3	Carry out feasibility studies of renewable sources of energy for all new Council Buildings and replacement heating systems in existing buildings.	Ongoing	Green	Feasibility of on-site renewable energy generation is assessed by Asset Management during refurbishment or new building projects by Asset Management on case by case basis. Heating systems are being updated where necessary.
E4	Raise awareness of renewable energy and energy efficiency across local businesses institutions and householders	Ongoing	Green	Big Switch Off Campaign, October 2008 and 2009 on energy efficiency engaged with schools businesses and communities across Charnwood and Leicestershire resulting in a 30.8Megawatt saving across Charnwood and the equivalent of a £2 million saving across Leicestershire.
E5	Develop an award scheme for energy efficient initiatives in local businesses	2007 (2010)	Green	Businesses awarded for their energy reduction and involvement during the Big Switch Off Campaign 2009
E6	Feasibility Study on a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) project tied into a new development	(2007) 2010	Green	Low Carbon Energy Generation Development Study was approved by Cabinet on 4th September 2008 and carried out in 2009 by Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire. The carrying out of further study will be determined by the strategic direction of the Local Development framework

				or equivalent planning strategy
E7	Achieve the Decent Homes Standard for the Council owned housing stock	2010	Amber	CNH continue to work towards this standard
E8	Develop and implement a Fuel Poverty Strategy to reduce fuel bills for the Council owned properties	(2006) 2010	Amber	Affordable Warmth Strategy is currently in development by Charnwood Neighbourhood Housing and being consulted on with the Council
E9	Improve energy efficiency through the Home Energy Conservation Act by 30 % by 2010	2010		The Council is no longer required to meet this requirement.
E10	Work towards the Decent Homes Standard for Private Housing	2010	Amber	There are no specific targets for achieving decent homes standard for privately owned properties. However the Council continue to administer grants to assist homeowners address the thermal efficiency of their properties to decent standard.
E11	Continue to work to support community led approaches to renewable energy projects	Ongoing	Amber	A community owned wind turbines in conjunction with Astra Zeneca, Energy4All and Groundwork was being considered. However the decision to close AZ, Charnwood has been put this project on hold at present. 2 commercial renewable energy generation schemes are currently going through the planning application process. Initial feasibility study on potential sites for renewable energy within the borough has been carried out and published to inform developers. Further work necessary.

Purchasing

Obj	Action/Actions to reduce Climate Change	Timescale	Progress	Additional Comments
P1	Implement Green Purchasing Policy	2006 (2010)	Green	The document 'Environmental Consideration in Purchasing' forms one of the procurement framework documents.
P2	Purchase Council office furniture from sustainable forestry sources and implement a program of repair to damaged furniture where possible and feasible.	2006	Green	Furniture purchased through ESPO. Surplus furniture is first offered to a recycling and repair company before final disposal
P3	All Council's own computers, photocopiers and printers with high energy efficiency rating	2006	Green	New IT equipment meets high standards of energy efficiency.
P4	Renewable energy use and energy efficiency measures are to be specified in all contract specifications where applicable	2006	Green	A sustainability assessment has been integrated in the Pre Qualification Questionnaire and Invitation to Tender toolkit for council contracts over £5,000.
P5	Continue to develop and support Loughborough farmers' market	Ongoing	Green	The market and local produce continues to be supported and promoted by culture and arts dept.
P6	Develop further opportunities for the sale of locally produced food in the borough of Charnwood.	Ongoing	Green	The Town Centre Plan proposes the expansion of the pedestrian zones of Loughborough town centre proposed and would allow for the expansion of the Loughborough market.

Transport and Air Quality

Obj	Action/Actions to reduce Climate Change	Timescale	Progress	Additional comment
T1	Develop and implement a Staff Travel Plan for the Borough Council	2006	Green	The Council's Staff travel plan has been in place since 2006
T2	Conduct a feasibility study into staff pool vehicles to include alternative fuels	2006	Amber	Initial feasibility assessment integrated into Fleet Contract renewal process in August 2009.
T3	100% Council vehicles to run on low emission LPG or Bio-Diesel by 2010	2010	Red	Insufficient biodiesel and LPG supply within the borough to support council fleet. Further trials part of waste fleet contract with Serco.
T4	Effective management of Council's own vehicle fleet to reduce vehicle emissions	Ongoing	Green	Tracking system introduced with new fleet contract in 2009, to reduce unnecessarily vehicle mileage.
T5	Direct necessary development to urban areas/locations well served by public transport systems	Ongoing	Green	Proposed through Local Transport Plan. Ongoing implementation
T6	Enhancement of the Railway station and public transport interchange through the Eastern Gateway Regeneration Project	2007	Amber	Development of Eastern Gateway still ongoing.
T7	Development of a Park and Ride Scheme in the South of the Borough to reduce car journeys	2007	Amber	Park and Ride scheme begun as part of the Hallam Fields development. Release of funding is a barrier to this schemes completion at present.
T8	Encourage schools and businesses to develop travel plans by working in partnership with Leicestershire County Council, the Local Strategic Partnership and the planning process.	Ongoing	Green	Targets for travels included within Cleaner, Greener block of Local Area Agreement (LAA)
T9	Improve air quality across the Borough through working in partnership with Leicestershire County Council in delivering the Local Transport Plan.	Ongoing	Green	Air Quality In Charnwood – All 31 monitoring locations show lower nitrogen dioxide levels which are road traffic related The Local Transport Plan this will impact on the Loughborough and Syston AQMAs as the exceedence of air quality national standards in these areas are traffic related. Other 'softer' measures will also have impacts, such as cycling, bus usage, car sharing and travel plans. The Council meet regularly with the County Council to discuss on-going issues and proposals for the LTP.
T10	Ensure safe access for pedestrians and cyclists	Ongoing	Green	The Loughborough Town Centre Plan will increase the pedestrian zones within the town centre, introduce a town centre bypass to divert car users around the main high street and increase cycling routes
T11	The Council to set car park tariffs designed to discourage long stay parking to encourage the use of more sustainable modes of transport	Annual charging regime	Green	Sunday charge and bank holiday were introduced as part of the last car park tariff review in September 2003. Parking charges related to carbon dioxide emissions in line with national road tax banding has been proposed for Council staff.

T12	Take part in annual events to promote other modes of travel around the Borough	Ongoing	Green	Council's Rural Rides Programme is ongoing. The Council supported the Action for a Better Charnwood promotional event at Loughborough Market for Car Free day in Loughborough.
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Waste

Obj	Action/Actions to reduce Climate Change	Timescale	Progress	Additional Comment
W1	Enhanced domestic recyclable waste collection service to increase domestic recycling to 40%	2006(2010)	Green	CBC recycling rate for 2008/9 was 40.95%.
W2	Development of Zero Waste Strategy	2007	Green	The Zero Waste Strategy was published in March 2007 and covers the period from April 2007 to March 2012
W3	Waste minimisation & recycling education and promotion campaign	Ongoing	Green	Campaigns on key waste streams including Chewing Gum 2008, and Green Waste 2009.
W4	Reduce amount of Council's own waste going to landfill by 20% over next 5 years	2010	Green	Recycling facilities have been increased with the main council offices. Paper, Cardboard, Glass, and Plastics are all diverted from landfill with a subsequent 41% reduction in council's own waste to landfill.
W5	Develop targeted promotions for key waste streams	Annually	Green	Promotions taking place through Zero Waste Strategy action plan

Development and Planning

Obj	Action/Actions to reduce Climate Change	Timescale	Progress	Additional Comment
DP1	Introduce Leading in Design Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	2005	Green	Leading in Design SPD published 13/02/2006
DP2	Minimum 10% renewable energy generation from all 'Major Developments'	Ongoing	Green	This is stipulated within the East Midlands Regional Plan, Policy 2, paragraph 1.4.2. and is enforceable by the local authority.
DP3	Feasibility Study into a site for a good quality community based Combined Heat and Power (CHP) project	2006		This has been superseded by the feasibility study for renewable energy.
DP4	Including climate change factors in the Local Development Framework Sustainability Appraisal	2006/07	Green	Climate change factors included into sustainability appraisal of the Local Development Framework
DP5	Science Park to incorporate sustainable design measures	2006	Green	Design measures included within DPD 3.31 – 3.37
DP6	Implement "long life" design criteria for all new and improved Public Buildings	Ongoing	Green	Forms part of guidance and framework for development
DP7	Develop local award scheme that recognises and promotes developments that have incorporated the principles of sustainable design	2006	Green	Sustainable design assessment included within the Biannual Design Awards run by Conservation and Landscaping
DP8	Ensure that where ever possible council owned land which is sold under the Disposal Policy for development has a requirement for developments and developers to meet BREEAM 'excellent' or 'very good' standard	2006	Green	Stipulated and encouraged within the Council's Asset Disposal Strategy 2008

Biodiversity and Open Space

Obj	Actions to mitigate impact of climate change on biodiversity	Timescale	Progress	Additional Comment
BOS1	Consider the impact of climate change in the Biodiversity Action Plan Process.	2006	Amber	Charnwood Borough Council's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is now delivered through the county BAP
BOS2	Include adaptation to climate change in the management objectives of open space and of / around nature conservation areas.	2008	Green	Green flag sites have a management plan that outlines actions for addressing climate change.
BOS3	Develop strategies to manage the uncertainties created by climate change by focusing on ecosystem functionality across the landscape and achieving connectivity among habitats.	2007	Green	Incorporated within the LDF
BOS4	Make better use of knowledge and information to identify the susceptibility of biodiversity to climate change.	Ongoing	Green	Risk assessment of biodiversity and open spaces carried out to assess vulnerability to climate change and identify priority actions. Informal monitoring of council owned sites is ongoing. Consequently the unknown bacterial disease attacking Oaks within Charnwood is under investigation by Forestry Commission. Climate change has been cited as a cause of stress and therefore susceptibility to infection
BOS5	Share information with government agencies, nature conservation organisations, research institutions and communities on potential and observed climate change impacts on biodiversity.	2007	Green	Information sharing with Leicestershire County, Wildlife Trust, National Forest and Forestry Commission as well as other organisations

Adaptation

Obj	Action/Actions to reduce Climate Change	Timescale	Progress	Additional Comment
A1	Improve awareness on flood warnings in conjunction with the Environment Agency	2006	Green	Charnwood is engaged in a programme to upgrade its flood monitoring, communicating with the public and response to flood incidents by expanding the Flood Warden monitoring scheme into a Community Warden scheme
A2	Fully integrate climate change issues into the Emergency Plan	2005	Green	Emergency Planning procedures include a continual risk assessment process by the LRF (reviewed monthly). Severe weather incidents resulting from climate change is always in the top 5 potential risks
A3	Develop improvement plans for relief of particular flood areas	2007	Green	Increased monitoring of Ordinary watercourses and subsequently enhanced enforcement of Bye Laws. (proactive rather than reactive). Production of Hydraulic Models for all major watercourses within the borough to predict effects of climate change. Increased frequency of maintenance inspections to compensate for increased rainfall predicted by climate change
A4	Encourage grey water recycling schemes in all major developments	2005	Green	Grey water recycling is encouraged through the Leading In Design SPD
A5	Develop Home Water Butt Scheme for domestic rainwater harvesting	2006	Red	No scheme has been developed, however CBC direct enquiries on the subject to Severn Trent who provide discounted water butts.
A6	Seek funding for activities within the Climate Change Strategy	Ongoing	Green	Leicestershire councils have secured over £165,000 to use for wattage dimming, Big Switch Off campaign and community campaigns of which CBC will share. There are also talks to secure a Leicestershire wide Salix Fund.
A7	Work with Leicestershire Local Authorities to plan together for climate change impacts	2007	Green	Working through the Leicestershire Environment Partnership (ENABLE).
A8	Develop accurate baseline data for Charnwood's greenhouse gas emissions	2006	Green	Emissions of greenhouse gases broken down in to local authority area are provided by DEFRA. EMRA have also carried out a carbon foot printing exercise for the East Midlands

Awareness raising and promotion

Obj	Action/Actions to reduce Climate Change	Timescale	Progress	Additional Comment
AR1	Raising awareness with the Council's 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	Ongoing	Green	Regular articles in Charnwood News on climate change and steps that can be taken.
AR2	Raising awareness amongst Council staff and members	Ongoing	Green	Big Switch off Leicestershire wide campaign occurred during September 2008; Green Office pages on the intranet offer advice on energy efficiency.
AR3	Raising awareness and seeking commitment from Council's partners to implement improvements in their contribution to climate change	Ongoing	Green	Commitment sought through the Charnwood Declaration on Climate Change through the Local Strategic Partnership
AR4	Awareness raising events on renewable energy; the ability to choose suppliers who provide electricity from renewable sources and renewable energy for domestic properties.	Ongoing	Green	Information on renewable energy released through Charnwood news. Working with Energy Saving Trust to attend community events to advise general public and businesses on energy efficiency.