



## **Responding to Climate Change**

### **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The phenomenon of climate change has become a mainstream political issue for nation states which have started to 'wake up' to the potential consequences that a changing climate could have on the overall social, economic and environmental stability of the planet.
- 1.2 At a local level the Council has a major role to play in reducing the green house gas emissions from its own activities, educating and motivating local people about this issue and setting an example for other organisations to follow. It has acknowledged its responsibilities in this area through its revised Environmental Policy and by signing the Derby Declaration on Climate Change – see Appendix 2. To further demonstrate its commitment I have recently signed a petition from the Derby Campaign Against Climate Change group committing the authority to reduce its carbon emissions by 25% over the next 5 years.
- 1.3 In order to meet this challenging target the production of a corporate climate change action programme is required adopting the rigours of a project management methodology. This will help break down this enormous project into a series of manageable steps leading to carbon reduction measure that can be accurately assessed and costed.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

2. To approve the development of a corporate climate change action programme as outlined in sections 1.8 – 1.13.

### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

3. The development of a corporate climate change action programme will ensure that the carbon emissions across all the Council's main activities are taken into account and rigorously assessed. The programme will also include a comprehensive package of support to help 'win the hearts and minds' of our 13,000 employees who all have a very important role to play in helping the council meet its 25% carbon reduction target. The development of the programme is also in keeping with the various commitments outlined in the Derby Declaration on Climate Change that was signed by the Council earlier this year.



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### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

#### **1.1 Introduction**

The latest scientific predictions on climate change indicate that:

- 40 % of the world's species would face extinction if temperatures rose by 2C.
- 200 million people are at risk of being driven from their homes by flood or drought by 2050.
- 4 billion people could suffer from water shortage if temperatures rise by 2C.

At a local level the Council has a major role to play in reducing the carbon emissions from its own activities, educating and motivating local people and setting an example for other organisations to follow. The Leader has recently signed a petition from the Derby Campaign Against Climate Change group committing the authority to reduce its carbon emissions by 25% over the next 5 years. This figure is a very challenging target that brings the authority into line with the following recent developments:

#### **1.2 Stern Review**

The Treasury published the Stern Review on 30 October to consider the economic costs of climate change in terms of the effects on basic human needs i.e. access to clean water, food and health issues. The report concluded that by delaying our actions the effects of climate change would be 'equivalent to losing at least 5% of global GDP each year, now and forever'. The overwhelming economic advice to address this issue is to act now.

#### **1.3 Climate Change Bill**

In the Queens Speech on the 15 November 2006, the Governments Climate Change Bill was announced. The Bill will strive to deliver a 60% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions on 1990 levels by 2050. This is a very challenging target that reflects the severity of the issue at large. It is inevitable that local authorities will have to play a big role in helping to achieve this national target.

## **1.4 Local Government White Paper - Strong and Prosperous Communities**

The White Paper contains an annex on climate change setting out LA's leadership on climate change and amplifying councils' pivotal role. Measures to promote further action focus on the performance framework to be introduced when CPA ends in 08/09. It also makes reference to the development of Energy Services Companies (ESCOs') within the core cities.

- 1.5 An ESCo can take the form of a public/private partnership giving local authorities the freedom to work with any private sector partner. The purpose of an ESCo is to provide local energy services rather than energy itself. It can be the most effective way to raise the necessary finance to invest in local energy schemes. Unlike a local authority operating under public sector borrowing constraints an ESCo has the capacity to borrow money to make the initial investments in Combined Heat and Power (CHP) schemes and/or energy efficiency measures.

## **1.6 New UK Emissions Trading Scheme**

DEFRA have recently produced a consultation document on this scheme to apply to energy use emissions from large, non-energy intensive organisations. The scheme is likely to cover those organisations whose electricity bills are above £250,000 a year at current energy prices. The Council will fall into this category.

The consultation is asking for views on the most cost-effective measures to reduce emissions from this sector by 1.2 million tonnes of carbon a year by 2020. Two options are considered in detail: an Energy Performance Commitment and a voluntary system of reporting and benchmarking.

## **1.7 5 Current Activities**

To help meet the 25% target the Council is by no means starting from scratch and has implemented over the last few years a number of key initiatives to help facilitate the achievement of this target including:

- signing the Derby Declaration on Climate Change earlier this year which provides a strategic framework to address this issue;
- the council is a participant of the Local Authority Carbon Management programme. The aim of this very exercise is to set an implementation plan to reduce the carbon emissions across all Council services. Once the implementation plan has been worked up and agreed, which is likely to be in the spring of 2007, a challenging but realistic carbon reduction target will be set. (It is envisaged that this exercise will go a long way to achieve the desired 25% target);
- the Council is also committed to raising awareness of climate change throughout Derby City Partnership and the local business community. Derby's 7Cs project has the overall aim of changing the attitudes of employees towards climate change in seven of Derby's largest organisations including Bombardier, Rolls-Royce, Egg, Derby College, Derby University, Derbyshire Building Society and the City Council.

This is by no means an exhaustive list but does highlight some of the key developments in this area.

## 1.8 **Proposed way forward**

Clearly there is a great deal of work to do to meet the 25% target requiring the commitment of all council departments, Cabinet Members and employees. Our approach needs to be:

- effective – it has to lead to some significant carbon emission savings that can be accurately accounted for and monitored;
- innovative – we need to try out different approaches/techniques to make the necessary carbon savings within a culture that welcomes experimentation;
- engaging – we need to develop a strategy that is ‘living and breathing’ and excites everyone who is involved in its development and execution.
- manageable – we need to prioritise which areas we need to focus on first and make sure we have the necessary resources.

1.9 All of this will take the form of a climate change action programme that will build on the good work that is already taking place and will look for carbon savings across all our activities - waste, transport, managing our own buildings, procurement etc. The development of such a programme is one of the key commitments outlined in the Derby Declaration on Climate Change:

‘Within the next two years develop plans with our partners including Derby City Partnership and with our local communities, to progressively address the causes and impacts of climate change according to local need’.

1.10 Clearly the Council needs to develop its own plans within its role as a service provider and estate manager before it facilitates this process with others. The Council has, however, started to raise the profile of climate change within the new structures of Derby City Partnership where it will be championed through City Growth.

1.11 In developing a climate change action programme, carbon savings can be achieved by adopting relatively simple ‘good housekeeping’ measures, like switching off lights and electrical equipment when not in use. Other savings could come about by investing in more efficient plant and equipment. Some issues will clearly require tough decisions to be made. This point is also acknowledged in the Derby Declaration that states:

‘Tough decisions will need to be taken at the international, national and local level to readdress the balance between economic activity and a deteriorating environment’.

1.12 The development of a corporate climate change action programme is a major project in its own right and may require the appointment of a dedicated officer. The officer will not only develop the programme but will also be responsible for monitoring the various actions and working with departments to identify and test out new initiatives to reduce the councils carbon footprint. The Environmental Co-ordination Team will initially take the lead on this within the limited resources available. But an action plan can only be developed with the necessary commitment of time and resources from officers in all departments. Appendix 3 contains a number of possible project areas that could form part of our programme, some of which are already underway.

1.13 I would suggest the following approach to undertake this significant piece of work.

1. Scope the likely contents and provisions of a climate change action programme, assess resource requirements and establish project management arrangements and responsibilities.
2. Prepare and cost action programme.
3. Approve.
4. Commence implementation.
5. Monitor and review.

#### OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2. The all encompassing, multifaceted nature of climate change lends itself to the development of a corporate climate change action programme to ensure that we build on the good work we are already doing in this area and look at all the councils activities in a logical and rigorous way. Adopting a piece meal approach to try and achieve the 25% target would run the danger of reinventing the wheel and potentially overlooking key areas where significant carbon reduction savings can be made with very little investment.

**For more information contact:**  
**Background papers:**  
**List of appendices:**

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 None  
 Appendix 2 – The Derby Declaration on Climate Change  
 Appendix 3 – Possible project areas to include in the Council's Climate Change Programme

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial**

1. The adoption of a corporate climate change action programme as outlined in section 4.6 will have financial implications. Detailed costings will be brought back to Cabinet when the programme is at a more advanced stage. It should also be pointed out that certain aspects of the programme could result in cost savings in the form of adopting better energy saving measures and practices.

**Legal**

2. None at the present time but this situation might significantly change with the arrival of the Climate Change Bill.

**Personnel**

3. The development and ongoing monitoring of the programme is a major piece of work requiring a dedicated project officer. The Environmental Co-ordination Team will initially take the lead within the limited resources available. The Corporate Director of Regeneration and Community will prepare a more detailed report on the staffing implications of this work to both develop and help deliver the action programme. This will also identify the corporate contributions that will be required from all departments.

**Equalities impact**

4. None.

**Corporate Priorities**

5. The all-encompassing nature of climate change has the potential to effect and significantly influence all of the Council's strategic objectives.