



Derby City Council

**CORPORATE SCRUTINY AND CLIMATE
CHANGE BOARD
19 November 2012**

Report of the Strategic Director of
Neighbourhoods

ITEM 11

Review of Climate Change Strategy and Project Update

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The main aim of this report is to inform the Board how we intend to undertake the review of the Council's Climate Change Strategy to become a more outward facing and strategic document.
- 1.2 This will be a major piece of work for the Climate Change Team over the next six months and will require buy in and support from the main public, private and voluntary sector organisations throughout the city. The views of the Board on the review are sought.
- 1.3 The report also updates the Board about three specific Climate Change issues that it requested information on at previous meetings: the Derwent hydro and other potential schemes; the Plugged in Midlands electric vehicles project and the Council's current performance in reducing its own carbon emissions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note the principles underpinning the current review of the Council's Climate Change Strategy.
- 2.2 To comment on the main priorities for the revised Strategy as outlined in section 4.5 and Appendix 2.
- 2.3 To note the updates on specific climate change issues requested by the Board.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The views of the Board at this stage will be very helpful in taking forward the review of the Council's Climate Change Strategy.

Climate Change Strategy Review

- 4.1 The Council's Climate Change Strategy was adopted in January 2010. A considerable amount of progress has been made over the last few years, however, a number of significant challenges remain. The local, regional and national agenda has also significantly changed over this time which presents a good opportunity to review and reposition the document.
- 4.2 The 2012/13 Planning and Facilities Management Business Plan identifies 'Review and Restate the Council's Climate Change Strategy' as a key objective. A related task is to review partnership arrangements, which have recently been reconfigured in the form of the City's Climate Change Alliance.
- 4.3 The aim is to reposition the current Climate Change Strategy as an outward facing partnership document, led by the Council under the auspices of the Derby Plan. This will need to be carefully managed to try to ensure that the Council can play more of a facilitating, rather than a 'doing', role.
- 4.4 To aid the process a consultation document has been produced, which is attached as Appendix 2. This explains the local and national drivers behind the need to review and reposition the strategy, reviews progress and achievements and considers the key areas and topics that could be the basis of the revised strategy. It includes a series of focused questions to help tease out some of the main issues and aspirations to help construct a draft strategy.
- 4.5 The consultation document identifies the following main priority areas for attention:
- **Low carbon economy** - how we can work with our strategic partners to ensure that the city takes advantage of opportunities that arise through the emerging low carbon economy
 - **Decentralised/low carbon energy** - identifying opportunities to increase the city's energy mix and reduced dependency on fossil fuels by looking at CHP/district heating and other suitable technologies
 - **Climate adaptation** - raising the profile of how to future proof the city's services and infrastructure to better cope with more severe weather events and long term climate trends
 - **Sustainable transport** – acknowledging the important role that a sustainable transport system can play in reducing the city's carbon footprint
 - **Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation** – identifying the opportunities that this new national funding might offer to both reduce the carbon footprint of local residents and small businesses and to support the growing number of people and families who are in fuel poverty.

- 4.6 The views of the Board on the consultation document and the issues highlighted above would be very helpful in moving forward the review.
- 4.7 The Climate Change Team is developing a draft revised Strategy for completion in the next few months. This will take into account the views of various internal and external stakeholders, including the new Climate Change Alliance. The draft Strategy will then be subject to a wider consultation exercise so that the final document can take full account of views across the City.

Updates on Specific Issues

- 4.9 The following updates are provided in response to previous requests for information expressed by Board members.
- 4.10 **Derwent Hydro** - the Council's hydro station has been commissioned and is now fully operational. It was agreed at the Climate Change Board in March 2012 not to commission a study to look into other potential hydro sites along the Derwent because all such sites are more marginal and higher risk. The £36000 previously provisionally earmarked for this study will now fund other projects, including a feasibility report looking into the potential for district heating across the city.
- 4.11 **Plugged in Midlands** – the aim of this Government funded project is to increase the number of charging points to help stimulate the market for electric vehicles. The programme offers a 40% grant for any company wanting to install a charging point. The uptake of the grant has been very disappointing mainly due to the fact that it is very difficult to make a sound business case for installing a charging point(s) and switching to this technology. However, the Council will be installing a number of charging points in the Council House and will be purchasing three electric vehicles. An application has been submitted to hopefully recover 40% of the purchasing and installation costs of the charging points amounting to some £15,000. The Council's Climate Change Team is also promoting this opportunity as part of its BESPOKE project which could effectively provide local businesses with 100% of the costs to install a charging point(s).
- 4.12 **The Council's carbon emissions** - the latest data shows a continued decline in CO₂ levels each year since 2008/2009. This has led to the lowest recorded annual CO₂ levels in 2011/2012 with a decline of 29% from the baseline level of 42904 tonnes of CO₂e in 2008/2009 to 30608 tonnes of CO₂e in 2011/2012. Of this total, 82% of the total emissions were from gas and electricity use, 10.7% from waste, 6.6% from transport and the remaining 0.7% from outsourced services and business travel.
- 4.13 It should be noted that there was a large decrease this year in the emissions generated from gas and electricity use, mainly due to a change in how electricity used by streetlights was reported. Street lights were transferred from a 'dynamic' metered status, reportable under CRC, to a 'passive' status, which is exempt from reporting. This is only valid until the end of CRC phase 2014/2015. It should also be noted that some errors have been reported in the 2010/2011 energy data and this has led to an adjustment of -3288 tonnes of CO₂. There has been no requirement to amend the 2010/2011 figures to include this adjustment.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Not to review the Climate Change Strategy. This was discounted because the current document is not fit for purpose and has been overtaken by a number of local/ national policy developments as outlined in Appendix 2.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Christine Durrant Director Of Planning and Facilities Management Rob Salmon
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For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Andy Hills 01332 25 5569 e-mail andy.hills @derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 - Derby's Climate Change Strategy Review - Initial consultation on key issues and way forward
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IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 None that are directly associated with the review/consultation process.

Legal

- 2.1 None directly arising.

Personnel

- 3.1 The revision of the Climate Change Strategy is one of the main tasks for the Climate Change Team over the next 6 months.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 None directly arising

Health and Safety

- 5.1 None directly arising

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 The Climate Change Strategy will be a strategic document setting out the City's aims and aspirations in this area and identifying those opportunities where a collective partnership approach is needed.

Asset Management

- 7.1 None directly arising

Risk Management

- 8.1 None directly arising

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 9.1 The Climate Change Strategy links directly to the Derby Plan - fewer carbon emissions from Industry and Transport; fewer household carbon emissions.

Derby's Climate Change Strategy Review - Initial consultation on key issues and way forward

Purpose and scope

The Council adopted its Climate Change Strategy in January 2010 to set out how it will address this issue across its main services and activities to both reduce its carbon footprint and to prepare for the extremes that a changing climate will bring. A considerable amount of progress has been made over the last two years, however, a number of significant challenges still remain. The local, regional and national agenda has also significantly changed over this time which presents a good opportunity to review and reflect on the progress we have made so far. We also need to think about what more we can do as a city to reduce our carbon footprint and to prepare for more extreme weather events.

The aim of this document is to provide some useful background information to help make the case for reviewing the Council's current Climate Change Strategy to help reposition this issue at the very heart of the city. Each section will have a list of focused questions to help you and your group/organisation think about what role you want to play in the emerging document and what focus you would like it to have. This exercise will help us put together a draft document that articulates our concerns and aspirations.

Why do we need to review our Climate Change Strategy?

The need to revise the Strategy has come about for the following main reasons:

- The policy context and profile of climate change at a national level has significantly changed over the last couple of years. The national indicators on climate change that were introduced by the previous government have now been abandoned. National indicators 185 (*Percentage CO2 reduction from local authority (LA) operations*); 186 (*Per capita CO2 emissions in the LA area*) and 188 (*Planning to adapt to climate change*) all played a major part in structuring the current document. The removal of the national indicators has resulted in a policy vacuum where local authorities are struggling to make the connections with the UK's national climate change ambitions set out within the Climate Change Act.

Climate Local (CL) has now been introduced to replace both the National Indicators and the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change. This new has been designed to be operated by local authorities rather than central government. It has been designed to offer local authorities a framework for supporting efforts to reduce carbon emissions and to improve resilience to the anticipated changes in the climate. This framework includes;

- ✚ **A Climate Local Commitment** – for councils to sign to demonstrate their commitment to addressing climate change and to challenge themselves to build on their existing achievements.
- ✚ **A new online community for councils** to share ideas and case studies and to seek the opinions of others.

✚ **A set of topic-based guides and supporting resources** to help guide councils in setting local commitments and milestones and reaching their ambitions.

✚ **A Climate Local Steering Group** – bringing together nominated members of the LGA's Environment and Housing Board, council representatives and national partners.

CL is a support network and therefore does not have predetermined templates for councils to use, nor regulations that need to be followed. CL relies on a networking and information sharing system between local authorities to provide the information which will allow them to implement what they feel is the best option, based on the knowledge and experience of others.

- The current Strategy document was predominately inward facing i.e. addressing the Council's main responsibilities in this area. At the time this approach was understandable with the introduction of carbon base lining methodologies and the onset of the CRC, however, this focus has considerably changed over the last 2-3 years. Council's are now expected to play more of an enabling role identifying the issues and aspirations of local communities, businesses and the voluntary sector.
- The CRC regulations have now been fully implemented and the first annual league table launched in November 2011. This forms the main driver for the Council to reduce its carbon emissions and is now well prescribed and managed. It could be argued that the detailed actions that lie beneath the Council's ongoing participation in the CRC could now be removed from the ambitions of the revised Strategy.
- The local profile and positioning of this agenda has changed considerably over the last 2-3 years and at a city wide level climate change is acknowledged in the city plan through two main high level indicators: Less carbon emissions from business and transport; Less household carbon emissions. Within the Council this issue is now embedded within a number of key documents including the City's Economic Strategy and Draft Core Strategy. The revised document needs to acknowledge the importance of delivering its aims and objectives through such an association/relationship as opposed to developing a stand alone approach.

Questions:

1. Out of the four main reasons identified above, which do you think is the most important in making the case to revise/reposition the Climate Change Strategy as a city-wide document?
2. Can you think of any additional reasons to undertake this review?

Progress & Achievements

A review document has been prepared to outline the progress that has been made through the Strategy over the last 2-3 years – please see the attached document. The headline developments include the:

- establishment of a high level Climate Change Board;

- establishment of a city-wide partnership on climate change;
- establishment of a monitoring and reporting framework to meet the requirements of the CRC;
- Installation of Automatic Meter Reading to enable accurate energy data collection and monitoring;
- completion of a domestic demonstration property which has been renovated with renewable energy and energy efficient technologies;
- delivery of a tailored scheme to support schools with energy advice and guidance;
- implementation of a carbon reduction toolkit to help educate and support managers;
- construction of a hydro scheme on the River Derwent;
- Delivery of the Warm and Well Project.

One of the biggest challenges outlined in the Strategy is to reduce the Council's carbon footprint by 25% by 2014 against a 2008/9 baseline. Progress in this area has been difficult for a variety of reasons but the Council will continue to work hard to reduce its carbon footprint as an integral part of the revised Strategy.

Questions:

1. What do you think are the best achievements out of those raised?
2. How can we ensure that the positive work undertaken by the Council and its partners is fed out to businesses and the general public? Are we doing enough to share this information?

What areas/topics will the Strategy cover?

The Derby Plan 2011 – 2026 is the city's long-term plan to improve the quality of life for everyone in Derby both now and for future generations. It already provides us with some high level indicators to guide what we do in this area:

- Less carbon emissions from business and transport
- Less household carbon emissions

Under the general direction of the Derby Plan the revised strategy will need to focus on a small number of priority areas/topics. It is important that we identify and focus on areas/topics that:

2. have the potential to make a big difference by saving carbon and/or helping the city to adapt to more extreme weather events;
3. have the potential to engage a wide variety of partners where the sum of all our efforts is greater than anyone organisation working on its own.

Outlined below are some proposed areas/topics that could form the basis of the revised Strategy;

- **Low carbon economy** - how we can work with our strategic partners to ensure that the city takes advantage of opportunities that arise through the emerging low carbon economy;

- **Decentralised/low carbon energy** - identifying opportunities to increase the city's energy mix and reduced dependency on fossil fuels by looking at CHP/district heating and other suitable technologies;
- **Climate adaptation** - raising the profile of future proofing the city's services and infrastructure to better cope with more severe weather events and long term climate trends;
- **Sustainable transport** – acknowledging the important role that a sustainable transport system can play in reducing the city's carbon footprint;
- **Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation** – identifying the opportunities that this new national funding might offer to both reduce the carbon footprint of local residents and small businesses and to support the growing number of people and families who are in fuel poverty.

Questions

1. Out of all the five areas which do you think should be included in the revised climate strategy?
2. Are there any additional areas/topics that you think we have missed?
3. How do we get organisations across the city to reduce their carbon footprint as an integral part of their business practices on an ongoing basis?

Working together

It would be relatively easy to develop a high level Climate Change Strategy that says the right things and looks the part without having the essential buy in and support of the wider community. We need to make this a living/breathing document that fosters productive partnership working across the various sectors with the common goal of reducing the City's carbon footprint and/or making the city more resilient to extreme weather conditions.

The real challenge will be in identifying an agenda which is common to a wide range of different interests along with developing a delivery mechanism that turns project ideas into reality on the ground. The City's Climate Change Alliance will provide one of the main forums to help shape this dialogue, but this issue also needs to be on the agenda of other networks and groups across the city that deal with economic development, housing, education and transportation.

Questions:

1. What ideas do you have to help us translate the aims/objectives of the new Strategy into practical projects on the ground?
2. What role do you see the Climate Change Alliance having in this process?
3. What other groups/organisations for we need to get on board to make things happen?

The way forward

Over the next few months we intend to consult with a number of local groups/organisations about the City's Climate Change Strategy. We plan to have a draft document ready in late

autumn 2012 that we can put back to you for some further comments/input. Following this we will develop a final draft document for endorsement by Derby City Partnership. This will be the first stage of our ambitious journey together.

Questions:

1. How would you like to be 'engaged' with in the future and what level of involvement would you like?