



## **Draft City-wide Climate Change Strategy**

### **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Throughout the development of the draft city-wide Climate Change Strategy internal and external stakeholders, including organisations represented on the City's Climate Change Alliance have been involved and consulted. A further formal consultation on the draft of Derby's Climate Change Strategy was launched in May. This report summarises the feedback received from the public consultation on the draft city-wide Climate Change Strategy which was carried out in May.
- 1.2 The consultation received limited responses from members of the public and was supported by a number of direct responses from members of organisations such as Derby Climate Coalition, Derby Carbon Initiative and the Climate Change Alliance. The responses to the consultation have been collated and are being taken into consideration in the review and revision of the draft Strategy.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To acknowledge the feedback received during the consultation and approve the proposed response that will be incorporated into the revision of the city-wide Climate Change Strategy.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The Climate Change Team is leading on the development of the Strategy and taking a city partnership approach to gain the buy in and support from the main public, private and voluntary sector organisations throughout the city to develop a number of high profile projects. A key part of this process has been to consult publicly and take the responses into account within the final document.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 4.1 The main area of concern raised through the consultation is that the Strategy lacks specific targets and/or aspirational and ambitious commitments. In particular Nottingham, Leicester and Bristol were cited as best practice examples that Derby should be benchmarked against.

In particular, although there was agreement with the priority themes and they were recognised as 'fine as principles', it was raised that the themes were too non-specific

and come over as a 'wish-list'. Overall there was a request to make these more 'hard hitting'.

Reflecting this, the Derby Climate Coalition has raised a concern over 'bright-siding' within the Strategy. This is seen as a way of responding to the difficulties and threats of climate change by under-playing them and accentuating the benefits. This was also reflected in other comments which raised the need to have greater emphasis on the level of threat and the current emissions scenario's.

At the same time another respondent raised concern that action on this area will not make a difference and will only cost residents more money in paying for services. Another concern raised was around the ability of the Strategy to create change and whether the ownership of the Strategy by the Renaissance Board and Climate Change Alliance would be able to create change. It was suggested this would support the development of more 'talking shops' rather than giving support to existing initiatives.

- 4.2 The consultation sought views on whether additional themes should be included within the Strategy, the responses included:
- More focus on renewable energy
  - Recognition of the impact of climate change on biodiversity
  - Within a thriving sustainable economy, to have more emphasis on the creation of a circular economy.
  - Use of the 12 environmental indicators used on the Green European City criteria; Climate Change, Local Transport, Green urban areas incorporating sustainable land use, nature and biodiversity, quality of local ambient air, quality of the acoustic environment, waste production and management, water consumption, waste water treatment, eco innovation and sustainable employment, environmental management of the local authority and energy performance.
  - The implications of doing nothing.
- 4.3 The consultation included the opportunity to highlight further specific action areas to be covered within the themes.

An overall action that was brought out through the consultation process was the need to ensure political leadership from the council, across all parties, and from as wide a cross section of the community as possible, recognising that this is an issue wider than the Council. Leadership was also highlighted by comments which raised the need for the Strategy (and Derby) to promote best practice within the city (and from elsewhere).

Reflecting the concern that the Strategy is not ambitious in target setting, it was suggested that actions should be set even where there is currently no funding or route to progress them.

Specific actions that were raised included:

- Forest gardens in local schools
- Local food production projects
- Community renewable energy projects.
- Extending bus lanes to multiple occupancy vehicles

#### 4.4 Additional Comments

- Taking action will not make a difference
- Need evidence of greater buy in from business and the wider community
- Greater links to the technology excellence of the city
- Getting the language right to communicate
- Benchmark Derby against other cities
- Greater discussion of the implications of 'do nothing' - more 'hard hitting'

#### 4.4 To respond to the consultation the feedback has been grouped into four key response areas:

1. Improving commitments and setting targets: The aim of the Strategy has been to set high level ambitions which can be agreed and then developed in partnership as such specific targets were deliberately not set. The revision of the Strategy will seek to strengthen the key steps section of the document to reflect specific actions. In addition the Strategy progress will be reviewed against national targets to provide direction. At the same time it needs to be recognised that the Strategy is to be a developing document and (following the adoption of the Strategy) the Council will seek to work with its partners to develop and implement action plans for the priority themes, in the long term turning the themes into outcomes.
2. Strengthening statements on the level of climate change threat: The document has not sought to go into depth about the science and impact of climate change and focussed on the areas for action and therefore a positive approach has been taken. The revision will seek to strengthen section 1 of the document on the climate change impacts and include further information about the negative impacts of climate change and the current emissions scenario's. This will also address the implications of doing nothing and highlight the need for action.
3. Ownership and delivery of the Strategy: The adoption of the final Strategy by the Council, the Renaissance Board and the Climate Change Alliance will be sought. This aims to engage and gain the commitment of a cross section of organisations within the city to ensure that this is a city-wide and not a purely Council document. To progress the Strategy and identify and implement specific actions the Council will work in partnership with these groups. No new groups will be set up and existing mechanisms will be used for implementation of the Strategy.
4. Additional themes: The development of the priority themes has been in consultation and aims to focus on a number of core areas to focus efforts. The themes on energy will be reviewed to look at greater emphasis on renewable energy and the theme on preparing for climate change will seek to address the issues around biodiversity.

The twelve environmental indicators used on the Green European City criteria will be reviewed to identify whether and how these can be incorporated to strengthen the current Strategy priority themes.

#### 4.5 The draft city-wide Climate Change Strategy will be reviewed and revised to take into account the comments received during the feedback. A final draft will then be presented to the Council, Renaissance Board and Climate Change Alliance for approval and adoption.

The proposed timeline is provided below:

Strategy finalised	27 September 2013
Chief Officers Group	w/c 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2013
Cabinet	6 November 2013
Renaissance Board	10 December 2013
Climate Change Alliance	tbc December 2013

## OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Not progressing with a city-wide strategy. This will reduce the ability of the Council and its partners to fully understand the implications and opportunities of climate change.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

<b>Legal officer</b>	N/A
<b>Financial officer</b>	N/A
<b>Human Resources officer</b>	N/A
<b>Estates/Property officer</b>	N/A
<b>Service Director(s)</b>	Paul Clarke, Head of Planning
<b>Other(s)</b>	N/A

  

<b>For more information contact:</b>	Andy Hills, Climate Change Manager, <a href="mailto:andy.hills@derby.gov.uk">andy.hills@derby.gov.uk</a> tel.642014
<b>Background papers:</b>	None
<b>List of appendices:</b>	None

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial and Value for Money**

1.1 None.

**Legal**

2.1 None.

**Personnel**

3.1 The development and co-ordination of the Strategy falls within the remit of the Climate Change Team.

**Equalities Impact**

4.1 None.

**Health and Safety**

5.1 None

**Environmental Sustainability**

6.1 The Strategy will directly contribute to work to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions across the city.

**Property and Asset Management**

7.1 None.

**Risk Management**

8.1 None.

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

9.1 The proposals relate directly to the Derby Plan: Fewer household carbon emissions and fewer emissions from industry and transport.