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|  | AGENDA ITEM NO. |
| Report Cover Sheet | |
| Name of Meeting: | Executive |
| Date of Meeting: | 22 October 2007 |
| Report Title: | Climate Change Strategy |
| Summary of report: | The report reaffirms a Corporate Commitment to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change and proposes consultation on proposals for Carbon Emissions Reduction Plans |
| For Further Information Please Contact (report author): | Craig Anderson |
| Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Policy Framework: | No |
| Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budgetary framework: | No |
| Wards of the District directly affected by this decision: | Yes |
| Key Decision? | Yes |
| Included within the Forward Plan? | Yes |
| Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006? | No |
| Date and name of meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number: | N/A |
| Background Papers: | BACKGROUND PAPERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change • Report on Environmental Priorities to Executive 17th September 2001 • Report on Making a Corporate Commitment to the Nottingham Declaration and Climate Change to Executive 11th November 2002. • Outline of the Warwickshire Climate Change and Environment Partnership – Terms of reference 2006 (signed by the Leader) • Report on Warwickshire Local Area Agreement – Final Draft to Executive 12th |

February 2007 (Delivery Plan relating to Climate Change & Environment Block)

Consultation Undertaken

Below is a table of the Council’s regular consultees. However not all have to be consulted on every matter and if there was no obligation to consult with a specific consultee they will be marked as n/a.

| Consultees | Yes/ No | Who |
|---|----------------|--|
| Other Committees | Not yet | EEPC |
| Ward Councillors | N/a | |
| Portfolio Holders | Not Yet | Cllr Michael Kinson |
| Other Councillors | Not Yet | P.Holders for Development & Housing |
| Warwick District Council recognised Trades Unions | Not Yet | Re Staff Travel Plans |
| Other Warwick District Council Service Areas | Yes | Via Officer Climate Change Working Group comprising : Planning, Engineering , Env.Health , Housing, Property, Policy, plus Action 21 |
| Project partners | In future | Environment Group of LSP as part of new Sustainable Community Plan |
| Parish/Town Council | N/a | |
| Highways Authority | TBC | As part of Air Quality Monitoring Action Plan |
| Residents | N/a | |
| Citizens Panel | N/a | |
| Other consultees | N/a | |

Officer Approval

With regard to officer approval all reports must be approved by the report authors relevant director, Finance Services and Legal Services.

| Officer Approval | Date | Name |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Relevant Director(s) | | CMT |
| Chief Executive | | |
| CMT | | |
| Section 151 Officer | | Mary Hawkins |
| Legal | Yes | Simon Best |
| Finance | Yes | Mike Snow |

Final Decision? Yes

Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Executive reaffirms the Council's commitment to reducing CO2 emissions from Council buildings by continuing to implement the provisions of the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change as the Council's Climate Change Strategy, as detailed at Appendix 1
- 1.2 That Executive approves, for consultation purposes, the attached report which details the Baseline Carbon Footprint for the District and draft proposals for Emissions Reduction Plans as set out in Appendix 3.
- 1.3 That as this work affects several service areas it be taken forward by the Climate Change Officer Group (CCOG), chaired by the Strategic Director (Environment), reporting the results of consultation on the draft proposals back to Executive.
- 1.4 That Executive requests the CC Officer Group to consult with Environment Theme Group of the Local Strategic Partnership and thereafter make recommendations on a Warwick District Carbon Reduction Action Plan as part of the Sustainable Communities Strategy, to guide the actions of each organization.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 The Council signed a commitment to the Nottingham Declaration in November 2002. The origins of this go back to the Kyoto Climate Change Treaty whereby the UK Government signed up to reducing British CO2 emissions by 12.5% by 2008-2012. To achieve this target the Government prepared a Climate Change Strategy which included an expectation that all public sector organizations would work progressively to reduce CO2 emissions.
- 2.2 The Community Plan at that time included an action to encourage large organizations in the District to commit to reducing their CO2 emissions. To support this, the District Council undertook to lead by example by making a commitment itself.
- 2.3 The Council had previously agreed a number of key environmental priorities through an assessment scheme called EMAS (report to Executive 29 May 2001 refers). One of these included a target to reduce CO2 emissions from Council buildings. However no target was set at the time as data resulting from the move to Riverside House had not been collated. However, with the subsequent move, it became possible to establish a well-founded baseline and enabled a clear target to be set.

- 2.4 The Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change (Appendix 1) was developed in 2000 at a national conference for local authorities on Climate Change. The 'Declaration' ,as it is known, is aimed specifically at local authorities. It involves making a commitment to reducing CO2 emissions and leading locally to encourage others. It involves a commitment to tackle climate change by seeking reductions in our 'carbon footprint' in the following areas:
- Energy measures, including lower carbon generating sources and selection of energy efficient plant and materials
 - Travel and Transport measures, including Green Travel Plans to encourage car sharing and use of pool cars.
 - Waste production, covering disposal and minimization
 - Purchasing policy, to specify local sourcing where possible
 - By encouraging local communities to reduce unnecessary consumption of energy and materials
 - By actively encouraging the market for renewable energy
- 2.5 All the commitments within the Declaration were consistent with the community plan which existed at that time (which already provided the framework for working with partners on climate change issues) and EMAS, the comprehensive environmental assessment framework , (which required us to develop an annual improvement plan).
- 2.6 It subsequently transpired that the EMAS framework was too complicated and could not readily be translated into affordable actions. As a result, work concentrated on cost effective aspects such as buildings energy work and upgrading of heating and cooling plant. This was progressed together with a series of District Council grant-aided partnership initiatives worked up with Local Action 21. These projects are now progressed on the basis of an annual service-level- agreement with LA21.
- 2.7 The Council undertook to reducing CO2 emissions from Council buildings by 30% between 2000/2001 (the first year after moving in to Riverside House) and 2010. This was considered feasible through switching to Green Electricity for the main Council buildings, by energy conservation measures involving investment from the existing energy management budget and by increasing the awareness and commitment of staff to play their part.
- 2.8 A recent review of this work has been undertaken. This establishes a Baseline Carbon Footprint for the District and provides ideas for Emissions Reduction Plans. (see Appendix 2). Highlights of the review include:
- On average, each household in the District accounts for 23.2 tonnes of CO2 production each year, of which typically 1.2 tonnes could be due to a single holiday flight for 4 people
 - WDC as an authority has a relatively small carbon footprint which accounts for only one fifth of 1% of all CO2 emissions produced in the District (2700 tonnes of CO2 versus 1.3 million tonnes total estimated

CO2 emissions)

- Within that context, WDC has already met and exceeded the LAA target of a 15-18% CO2 reduction by 2010 (22% actual reduction to 2700 tonnes of CO2) primarily from gas heating of our buildings and via purchasing energy from 'green' sources .
- Discounting purchase of green energy, the WDC direct performance would be a more modest 6% reduction
- Potential future problems could exist therefore if procurement of green energy is discounted from reaching CO2 targets
- However, WDC exerts direct or strong influence over 4% of all carbon emissions (2700 tonnes direct and 45,000 tonnes where WDC could exert strong influence over consumer choices ie waste management and social housing).
- Transport consumption from all domestic and commercial sources within the District accounts for a staggering 430,000 tonnes of CO2 and is scheduled to grow.
- While WCC exerts most influence by direct spend on transport measures, WDC has a strong influence as a regulatory body in requiring measures to improve NO2 levels via Air Quality Management Action plans (the subject of a separate report on the Executive agenda)
- Model shift from use of cars to buses and trains offers considerable scope for CO2 reductions – eg the subsidized national bus and taxi scheme for the elderly is assisting in this process.
- The review highlights progress with projects (section 6) and gives examples of best practice from other authorities (section 7)
- Opportunities to accelerate progress are identified (section 8). Suggestions include: a) a structured brainstorm to help prioritize project and policy areas, b) maintain a focused cross-service officer group, c) integrate carbon management into the forthcoming procurement strategy, d) consider scope for staff travel plans, e) some (limited) scope for reductions arising from mobile working , f) undertaking further assessment of building stock , g) stimulating the local market to build low-carbon housing, and, h) examine scope for an energy services company.
- Appendix 3 summarises, current and proposed project areas, including where those measures address Local Area Agreement performance targets. This will act as a guide to work which will now be progressed via the service planning and budgeting processes, with further reports brought forward from individual services.

2.9 Other policy work in this area has included the production of a Warwickshire Climate Change Strategy produced by WCC , supported in principle in 2006. The relevant carbon reduction measures have been included in the Warwickshire Local Area Agreement approved by the Executive earlier this year. A Delivery Action Plan for the LAA Climate Change Block is currently being progressed between partners via the Climate Change & Environment Board, currently represented by the Strategic Director (Environment).

- 2.10 The relevance of carbon reduction measures has been highlighted by the Stern Review for the Treasury on tackling Climate Change and more recently by this Summer's record levels in the incidence and intensity of rainfall, with consequential flooding. As a result, major strategies and initiatives will now routinely require to specifically address climate change measures. Planning Legislation in particular will play an increasing role.
- 2.11 Consultation on a supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS1): Delivering Sustainable Communities entitled 'Planning and Climate Change' is currently the subject of consultation. This encourages regional planning bodies to produce regional targets for the expected carbon performance of new residential and commercial development. Planning authorities are therefore expected to contribute to reducing emissions and stabilizing climate change (by mitigation measures) and to take into account the unavoidable consequences (by adaptation measures ,such as flood alleviation).
- 2.12 Over the next year, this Authority will take part in a Strategic Flood Risk assessment aimed at introducing appropriate flood alleviation measures and ensuring that new development is sited accordingly. This work will dovetail with the new Regional Spatial Strategy (for land-use growth in the period 2011-2026) translated into site-specific development locations as part of the consultation on the Core Strategy during Spring 2008.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 3.1 The Council is not obliged to continue a commitment to the Nottingham Declaration. However, the Council is required to demonstrate continued performance in helping to meet the performance targets on CO2 reduction set by the Government and therefore requires a clear strategic framework.
- 3.2 The Council could use the Warwickshire Climate Change Strategy as a framework for activities and projects together with the LAA Delivery Plan on Climate Change. However, those documents are primarily designed to co-ordinate tasks between organisations where partnership action is sought over a wider area than the District.
- 3.2 On balance, it is considered that it is still valid to use the Nottingham Declaration as the core strategy on Climate Change and for a Warwick District Climate Change Action Plan to be prepared, reflecting local priorities. This does not preclude contributions to and from the work of the Warwickshire Climate Change Delivery Groups where this complements progress on delivering District priorities.

4 BUDGET FRAMEWORK

- 4.1 Individual services will progress their service plans to develop projects and activities to help deliver further carbon reduction measures. These will be developed within the context of the proposed Warwick District Carbon Reduction Action Plan, including consideration of cost/benefit analysis and other budgetary implications.

- 4.2 There are no financial implications arising directly as a result of this report which seeks simply to reaffirm the Council's commitment to the Declaration as the Council's Climate Change Strategy and take steps towards prioritizing work on climate change initiatives and projects within the corporate budget setting process.

5 POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 5.1 The proposals are entirely consistent with the existing Community Plan and proposed new version, the Sustainable Communities Plan. The proposals will be aligned to suit the priorities arising from the Council's Corporate Strategy and Corporate Objectives which are currently being formulated.

For further information about this report please contact:

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Climate Change Strategy & Carbon Reduction Measures

Summary of Existing WDC Strategies, Policies and Projects

Details of policies and service plans of Warwick District Council and its partners which can contribute to a structured approach to tackling climate change.

| Policy / Lead Officer | Scope / reach | Recommendations for review / implementation |
|--|---|--|
| WDC Environmental Policy SD(E) | Provides a broad framework for a more detailed Warwick District Carbon Reduction Action Plan. | Existing Environmental Policy is now outdated (1999) Consider updating. |
| Warwick District Local Plan HoP&E | Adopted local plan includes significant measures to address carbon reduction (eg Merton Rule requiring 10% renewables generated on-site). LAA action (15% target) Influences new build more than existing development. | Potential to increase influence over carbon reduction as part of the new local plan (Core Strategy). Encourage Zero-energy development Encourage Carbon Offsetting by planting/biodiversity Planning to minimise unnecessary car commuting and maximise use of public transport |
| Warwickshire Waste Strategy and Recycling Targets. Waste Manager | Current targets aim to increase recycling rates to 40 – 45% by 2010. LAA action | Increasing these reduction targets will reduce carbon emissions Support for education around recycling and resource conservation can stimulate a reduction in waste produced and increase in the amount of waste recycled. Continued / increased support for waste minimisation schemes (Potential new project area) |
| Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) C.Ex via LA21 | Community partnership document setting out where 'the community' of Warwick District sees itself aspirationally by 2020. | Community plan targets could place a large emphasis on reducing carbon emissions through innovative partnership schemes relating to health promotion, housing, faiths and |

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| | <p>Potential for influencing partner organisations through a broad range of projects.</p> <p>Specific targets will be set against work areas.</p> | <p>culture etc.</p> <p>The SCS's potential for carbon reduction should be maximised as the plan is still under development.</p> <p>(Potential new project areas)</p> |
| <p>Procurement Strategy SD(CR)</p> | <p>Procurement officer to come into post shortly</p> <p>Procurement policy in place. (LAA action)</p> | <p>Significant potential to reduce carbon emissions (and cost savings) through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local purchasing policy • Corp Business Travel • environmentally friendly purchasing policy (e.g. buying recycled goods) • environmental requirements for suppliers. |
| <p>HECA SD(CR)</p> | <p>Already works to agreed SLA LAA action</p> | <p>Consider expanding advisory role (Potential additional project area)</p> |
| <p>Air Quality management Area Action Plan HoEH</p> | <p>Mandatory duty for WDC</p> | <p>WDC has agreed for WCC consultation report on future AQMs (see LTP below)</p> |
| <p>Annual Service Assurance Efficiency Statements SD(CR)</p> | <p>Self certification by Services</p> | <p>Carbon reduction measures to be specified in Service Plans (current or proposed projects)</p> |
| <p>Mobile Working SD(CIA)</p> | <p>Scope to increase remote working</p> | <p>Encourage gradual implementation</p> |
| <p>Housing & Hsg Strategy HoH HoHS</p> | <p>Covers Social rented sector and general housing needs</p> | <p>Existing energy efficiency programme including work of HECA could be broadened.(see above)</p> <p>Self-financing district heating and CHP schemes such as Radcliffe Gardens/Christine Ledger Square and The Crest could be developed. (Programmed capital investment schemes)</p> <p>For new build developments planning could be used to help incentivise private funding of some types of scheme. (Potential future schemes – linked to affordable housing)</p> |

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| <p>Local Transport Plan HoEH</p> | <p>Does not attempt to quantify the impact of the proposals in the Plan on carbon emissions in the District.</p> <p>LAA target for WCC The LTP does include a short section on Climate Change and the contribution of transport to CO2 emissions.</p> <p>Transport emissions account for 430,000 tonnes of CO2 in the District. This compares with 2700 tonnes of CO2 directly produced by the activities of WDC. There is therefore huge scope to influence CO2 reduction measures</p> | <p>Even though the LTP is the responsibility of the County Council , WDC regulates air quality and therefore can directly influence measures for carbon reduction.</p> <p>The LTP proposals (particularly those related to public transport, walking and cycling) aim to reduce overall carbon emissions in the District by making alternatives to the private car more attractive.</p> <p>This is particularly important given that the Warwick/Leamington Spa area has the lowest peak hour journey speeds and highest levels of congestion in the County.</p> |
| <p>HoP&E</p> | <p>Scope for Green Travel Travel Passes</p> <p>PP – Green Travel Plans</p> | <p>Potential future projects</p> |
| <p>SD(CIA)</p> | <p>Car Sharing</p> | |
| <p>SD(CIA)</p> | <p>Pool Cars</p> | |
| <p>SD(CIA)</p> | <p>Increase Cycle Trips</p> | |

Monitoring

The council carries out monitoring of various relevant baseline data and some of this is useful for informing progress against a carbon reduction strategy. The following indicators are listed in appendix 2 of the Annual Monitoring Report for the Local Plan and are of relevance to climate change and carbon reduction:

- Proportion of total trips taken on foot (WCC LTP Annual Progress Report)
- Proportion of total trips taken by cycle in Warwick, Leamington and Kenilworth (WCC LTP Annual Progress Report)
- Amount of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, hospital, primary school, secondary school, areas of employment, and a major retail centre. (AMR 19)

- Amount of waste produced across the district per head of population (WCC Quality of Life Report)
- Percentage of waste composted per head across the District. (WCC Quality of Life Report)
- Renewable Energy installed by type (AMR 24)
- Total domestic energy efficiency improvement 1996 – present (WEEAC WCC QoLR)
- Change in areas and populations of biodiversity importance (AMR 28)
NB This will affect climate change in some cases but not all.
- Number of days per year when air pollution is moderate or high.
NB This indicator assumes a correlation between levels of CO2 emissions and air pollution levels.
- Net additional dwellings for the current year.
Since planning policies principally affect new build, this indicator could be used to demonstrate the impact these policies are having on new development. This could be directly translated into tonnes of CO2 if an approximate figure was calculated for the tonnes of CO2 released per year from each new dwelling.

Environmental Policy

Warwick District Council has an environmental policy in place which provides a broad framework for a detailed carbon reduction plan. The policy states a full commitment to improving the local and global environment, played out through improving its own environmental performance, as well as WDC exercising its role as an influencer locally to create an environment which it will be proud to hand on to future generations.

The policy was last reviewed and revised in 1999, and although somewhat out of date it does contain specific commitments which provide a good basis for action on carbon reduction. Key policy aims which relate to carbon reduction include:

- Minimising waste production, recycling and reusing materials
- Purchasing more sustainable goods and services,
- Investing in energy and water saving projects
- Encouraging the development of renewable energy
- Managing council buildings in a way which minimises negative impacts on the environment and promotes environmental benefits (including council housing).
- Resisting over-development of the district by adopting planning policies that ensure long term environmental protection, whilst providing for legitimate development needs and employment opportunities.
- Encourage investment in and use of public and community transport and facilities for cyclists and pedestrians
- Monitor and improve air, soil and water quality.
- Satisfy our needs using a greater proportion of local produce, materials and expertise.

Local Plan

The adopted Warwick District Local Plan sets out policies which govern the development of the built and natural environment within the district up to 2011. The local plan influences all aspects of local development and there are many policies within it which also influence the impact which that development will have on future carbon emissions.

A full sustainability appraisal of the local plan has been carried out already, and a more concise overview of the plan's climate impact it is appropriate here.

Two of the key aims of the core strategy of the Local Plan are "effective protection of the environment" and "prudent use of natural resources". Within this the plan states a number of objectives, for example: to reduce the need to travel, to promote more sustainable travel options, to ensure the prudent use of scarce resources to limit impact on climate change, to reduce the generation and disposal of waste, to protect and enhance the natural environment, etc. All the policies of the local plan then seek to meet these objectives. The plan is monitored annually through the annual monitoring report.

All the elements of the Local Plan should work together to reduce the District's carbon footprint. For example the plan seeks to provide enough houses to meet local needs whilst aiming to protect town centres and allow people to meet their shopping needs locally, rather than having to travel. The Annual Monitoring report for the Local Plan provides detailed information on progress.

The factors which will influence the development of the next Local Plan to promote development which reduces carbon emissions are very broad. They include Government planning policy and guidance (e.g. PPSs) including the impact of the climate change bill, plus other national policies that may impact on planning through a wide range of local and national stakeholders. Key local factors will be the new corporate strategy, the LAA, and possibly also local documents such as Parish Plans.

Warwickshire Waste Strategy

Promoting waste minimization, re-use, recycling and composting as alternatives to using virgin materials will have a strong positive impact on reducing carbon emissions. As the waste collection authority for the district, WDC has a strong influence over these factors and the Warwickshire Waste Strategy is therefore relevant.

Warwick District Council is an active partner in the Warwickshire Waste Strategy which has set the challenging target of recycling 40 – 45% of waste by 2010. As set out in the waste strategy, the development of waste management policy and practice will adhere to the principles of the waste hierarchy, the proximity principle and regional self sufficiency. All these principles are highly consistent with good practice in carbon reduction.

The Council's decision to go for alternate weekly waste collection should reduce the number of collections from most households within the District from four every two weeks to three. Experience from other areas shows that alternative weekly collection has a strong impact on recycling rates and recycling participation rates.

Additional key drivers for an increase in recycling and waste minimization include the EU Landfill Directive, UK Waste Strategy 2000, Waste Emissions Trading Act 2003, Household Waste Recycling Act.