

CABINET

Climate Change Strategy Update 10th November 2009

Report of Corporate Director (Finance & Performance)

PURPOSE OF REPORT			
To seek Cabinet's approval of an updated version of the Council's 2008-13 Climate Change Strategy.			
Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Non-Key Decision	Referral from Cabinet Member
Date Included in Forward Plan	November 2009		
This report is public			

RECOMMENDATIONS OF COUNCILLOR JON BARRY

- (1) That the updated 2008-13 Climate Change Strategy attached as Appendix A be approved
- (2) That Cabinet notes the progress made in delivering the actions for 2008/9 as set out in Appendix 1 of the Climate Change Strategy
- (3) That the resource implications for delivering the Strategy and its related action plans as set out in Appendix 3 of the Strategy, be considered as part of this year's budget exercise.
- (4) That the Council's Corporate Plan and Service Business Plans be updated and amended accordingly to ensure that the council is clear about how it will deliver the strategy's actions and targets within the agreed timescales.
- (5) To note that the Council's community enabling and leadership role on climate change will also be delivered through its contribution to the Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership
- (6) To note that the Strategy is a working document and that members and officers will continue to pursue opportunities for further improvements and for attracting external funding.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At its meeting in February 2008, Cabinet approved a five year Climate Change Strategy, minute 121 refers. Since then, Climate Change has steadily increased in importance world wide, nationally, regionally, and not least, locally. This updated version of the council's strategy reflects this changing picture and specifically outlines the targets, actions, and resource requirements that the council will pursue in the immediate future to meet the challenges presented by climate change.
- 1.2 The strategy also highlights the benefits to be achieved from the proposed actions and endorses the council's approach to work with our partners, in particular, the Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership, to promote and champion climate change initiatives throughout the district.
- 1.3 It is important to note that as things are changing and developing all the time, this strategy is not encased in stone and will need to be flexible enough to reflect this changing position. Indeed, at the time of writing this refresh, the council are currently working in partnership with the Energy Savings Trust (EST). This piece of work is a 2 year, One-to-One, Support programme and the results from the EST's initial review are currently awaited. The outcome from the review will be a set of recommendations that will allow the council to further develop its preferred approach to tackling climate change and may well result in the need to further update this strategy. Working closely with the EST will also open up for the council opportunities to draw in external funding from a range of sources. Officers will pursue these opportunities as and when they arise.

2.0 Proposal

- 2.1 The Strategy, attached as Appendix A, is structured as follows :-

Glossary

This provides information on various terms and abbreviations used in the strategy

Policy Statement

This sets out what the City Council will do to tackle climate change

Introduction

This section provides key information about climate change generally, International and National Policy, further detail about the role of the council and the statutory targets it has to meet for reducing carbon emissions, and lastly a summary of the resources currently approved to deliver the strategy.

Cutting Carbon Emissions

This section specifically identifies the carbon reduction targets for the City Council for 2009/10

Action Plans

This section is split into 8 specific climate change categories and sets out the key issues surrounding each and the proposed actions for the City Council over the period of the strategy. the 8 categories are :-

- Energy
- Transport
- Waste

- Planning
- Sustainable Procurement
- Council & Strategic Housing
- Adaption (Planning to Adapt to Climate Change)
- Raising Education & Awareness

Appendices

There are 4 appendices to the strategy that provide information on:-

- Progress on achieving the actions set for 2008/9 (Appendix 1)
- How the strategy meets corporate priorities (Appendix 2)
- The resources required and savings to be achieved by delivering the strategy (Appendix 3)
- The estimated City Council carbon reduction targets for 2010/11 (Appendix 4)

2.2 This strategy is primarily about what this Council will do to meet the challenges of climate change. In addition to committing to deliver this strategy, the Council will also work closely with partners and other organisations to assist in the delivery of the aspirations set out within the LDLSP's Sustainable Community Strategy for tackling the impact of climate change across the Lancaster district.

2.3 At present the council has limited resources to deliver the actions included in the proposed Strategy. Many of the actions rely on services committing officer time to deliver specific service related targets and actions. It is therefore important that the council not only ensures that service business plans adequately reflect this commitment, but also that there is the capacity and skills available in services to meet the council aspirations for tackling the challenges of climate change highlighted in this strategy.

Secondly the council only has limited general fund financial resources currently allocated to deliver this strategy. The table below illustrates this.

BUDGET	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
	£	£	£	£
Revenue:-				
- Climate Change Implementation	20,000	20,000	Nil	Nil
- Energy Conservation	<u>8,800</u>	<u>8,800</u>	<u>8,800</u>	<u>8,800</u>
Total Revenue	<u>28,800</u>	<u>28,800</u>	<u>8,800</u>	<u>8,800</u>
Capital :-				
- Energy Efficiency Schemes	<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
Total Capital	<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>

The revenue funding stream for implementing this 5 year strategy runs out in 2010/11 (apart from the limited monies included for energy conservation initiatives). If this strategy is approved, the council only has the financial resource to deliver its agreed actions for the 2 years up to 31st March 2011. Consequently, Cabinet are being asked as part of the budget exercise to support additional monies for the delivery of the proposed actions for the remainder of this strategy. This would initially mean a further revenue contribution of £20,000 in both 2011/12 and 2012/13. Future budget exercises would also need to consider on a rolling basis how the council were to continue to meet the challenges from climate change, and this will

also include future consideration of extending the capital provision for invest to save initiatives beyond 2012/13.

In addition to the above, the current 5 year Council Housing capital programme has provision to deliver the projects in respect of the council's housing stock.

Whilst the 2 year work programme with the Energy Savings Trust may bring opportunities for generating external resources, it is likely that this will only be in support of implementing the recommendations resulting from their review and not this strategy.

3.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

Option 1

To approve the updated Climate Change Strategy for 2008-13 and to consider the resource implications of delivering the proposed action plans as part of the council's budget process

Option 2

To approve an amended version of the proposed strategy and to consider the resource implications of delivering the amended action plans as part of the council's budget process

4.0 Officer Preferred Option (and comments)

4.1 Option 1 is the preferred option as it will allow the council to have a clear strategy in place that meets its statutory responsibilities for climate change and ensures that the resource implications are fully considered as part of the budget exercise.

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 The proposed updated strategy outlines how the council will meet its statutory and corporate plan obligations in respect of tackling the challenges of climate change. The Council is committed to developing local responses to climate change as set out in the Corporate Plan (Clean & Green Places – Objective 3) and more specifically in key action 3.2 :- “to implement the council's in-house climate change strategy.” This strategy provides a clear commitment on how the council will meet its own climate change obligations and how it will contribute through the LDLSP to the wider district agenda.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

The council's Corporate Plan includes the following key reference to climate change :-

Priority 2 – Clean and Green Places Objective 3 is :- to develop local responses to climate change

Key action 3.2 under this objective is :- to implement the council's in-house climate change strategy

Also within this Corporate Plan objective are :-

3.1 to deliver the council's actions in the LDLSP's environment thematic group [in respect of climate change].

Priority 1 is:- to reduce our impact on and adapt to the consequences of climate change

Priority 3 is:- to promote & enhance sustainable forms of transport & reduce private car use in urban areas across the district.

3.3 Promote energy efficiency initiatives for local homeowners

3.4 Improve the energy efficiency of our public buildings

3.5 Improve the energy efficiency of our council housing stock

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

This strategy contributes to delivering improved Sustainability in respect of reducing the council's carbon footprint and the wider climate change challenges facing the Lancaster district.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications where they are known are highlighted throughout the strategy and in particular in Appendix 3. the table in section 2.3 of the report also highlights the current budget position. The financial implications, both costs and savings, of implementing the actions proposed for the current year and 2010/11 are already provided for in the current 3 year revenue budget and 5 year capital programme. However, to deliver the proposed actions as set out in the strategy will require additional budget growth of approximately £20,000pa for both 2011/12 and 2012/13.

Whilst the work programme with the Energy Savings Trust (EST) may offer opportunities for new sources of external funding, it is likely that these will be ringfenced to delivering the recommendations from the EST's review.

The Strategy's action plans have clear staffing implications for a number of services and it will be necessary to ensure that there is sufficient capacity and the skills available in those services to deliver those actions. Where there is a gap, this will need to be identified and any financial implications considered as part of the budget exercise.

There will be financial and resource implications of some of the actions included for future years in the strategy that are at this stage unknown. It is proposed that these will be developed over time and reported back for consideration and approval as part of the annual budget exercise.

Funding in respect of the projects and actions proposed for the council housing stock are currently included in the HRA 5 year capital programme.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The proposals would allow the financial implications to be considered alongside other growth bids, and in context of the council's priorities and its financial prospects.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Legal Services have been consulted and have no comments to add

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no comments to add

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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