

Report of	Meeting	Date
Corporate Director (Business)	Executive Cabinet	15 November 2007
Introduced by the Executive Member for Economic Development and Regeneration.	Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel	22 November 2007

CHORLEY COUNCIL'S ACTIONS TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS AND IMPACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To up-date Members on the work that the Council is currently undertaking to reduce its carbon emissions through its own activities and its influence on others through its policies, and future proposals.

RECOMMENDATION

- To note the existing work and to support future actions set out in the report.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objective:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the central Lancashire sub region		Develop local solutions to climate change.	*
Improving equality of opportunity and life chances		Develop the character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	
Involving People in their Communities		Ensure Chorley is a performing Organisation	

BACKGROUND

- Climate Change and the reduction in carbon emissions are pressing issues that the Council needs to address in its own work and its influence on others.

EXTERNAL INFLUENCES

- Sustainability and Climate Change issues have moved up the agenda. The Stern Review makes clear that Climate Change is a threat and there is only a small time period in which to react. Recent research suggests that the previously accepted requirement to reduce emissions by 60% by 2050 is too low and to avert unacceptable climate change this figure needs to be raised to at least 80%. Global warming is now a priority for the Chorley Partnership. "Developing Local Solutions to Global Climate Change", is a new priority within the recent refresh of the Community Strategy.
- The Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006 requires Local Authorities to fulfil their responsibilities in relation to energy efficiency, increasing the use of micro

generation, reducing carbon emissions and the reduction in the numbers of households in fuel poverty. The White Paper requires that local government provide leadership in combating climate change.

7. Current BVPIs do not relate to carbon emissions, although Local Area Agreement Indicators relate to energy efficiency of homes and a reduction in carbon emissions as a result of the installation of domestic micro generation and insulation measures. Climate change measures are to be included in the 2009/10 indicators although it is unclear whether they will be the responsibility of the County or districts.
8. From 2010 the Carbon Reduction Commitment will impact on organisations in the public and private sectors with electricity bills of over £500 000 or electricity consumption of over 6000 MWH. This will require a mandatory reduction in carbon emissions. At the moment smaller organisations such as Chorley Council fall outside this requirement, however, this could change in the future.

PAST ACTIVITY

9. Chorley has signed the Nottingham declaration committing the Council to developing plans with partners to address the causes and impacts of climate change with its partners.
10. In 2005 it undertook the Opportunities for Renewable Energy Study in Chorley, in partnership with Renewables North West and Sustainability North West funded by the Government Office for the North West. This study set out a number of recommendations many of which have been acted upon.
11. The Council has won a number of Green Apple awards for environmental best practice. Most recently for its community skip initiative. This resulted in over 85% of waste being recycled that would otherwise be sent to landfill.

CURRENT ACTIVITY

12. **The Council and Community Leadership.**
13. **Leading by example-** Given the Council's requirement to provide leadership in combating climate change it is important that its own house is in order and climate change is set out as an explicit corporate priority. This has been done. A number of work streams flow from this requirement to, "*Develop Local Solutions to Climate Change*". Some of which, will of necessity, have financial implications but also have considerable potential to make financial savings.
 - Jane Meek (Corporate Director) Business has formed The Climate Change Task Group, made up of heads of service. It is an overarching group cross cutting into all areas of the Council's activities. Its remit is to ensure that the Council undertakes its responsibilities regarding Climate Change, including a reduction in the Council's environmental footprint and an improved local environment. Cllr Malpas is the Member leading on Climate Change. A Climate Change Strategy is to be produced for the Council within the next 6 months. This will consider all aspects of the Council's activities.
 - The Council has joined the Local Government Information Unit Carbon Trading Pilot Project. Its aim is to prepare larger authorities and organisations for the mandatory Carbon Reduction Commitment and to give smaller authorities the opportunity to join a scheme that will act as an external discipline to reduce its carbon emissions. The Council is able to display the logo demonstrating its commitment to addressing climate change.

- Liberata have been instructed to provide baseline information on the energy consumption of the Council's operational property with a view to reducing carbon emissions and making financial savings. A report has recently been received. With commitment it is considered that the Council's target of a 10% reduction in energy usage by 2010 will be easily achieved.
- The Council has a sustainable procurement policy. For example, all the fleet vehicles run on bio-diesel, all paper is recycled and all the Council's electricity is from renewable energy. The decision to replace existing computers with a rolling programme of "thin clients" (just a screen) will make considerable emission and energy savings.
- The Local Strategic Partnership has global warming as one of its top priorities. "Developing Local Solutions to Global Climate Change", has been added as a new priority within the proposed refresh of the Community Strategy. The Council will help its partners to meet the specific targets relating to Climate Change.

14. **Promotional Activity-** The Council has considerable opportunity to publicise the potential impact of climate change in all its activities and to positively promote ways of reducing carbon emissions acting as a facilitator.

- "Trucking with Climate Change", an interactive climate change activity aimed at primary schools came to Chorley in early October. Over 100 children enjoyed learning about climate change and left with an idea of how they could make a difference. Educational work with children will continue.
- Applications for Council funding aimed at community groups for capital works will require consideration of climate change.
- The Economic Development team are working with local businesses and the Groundwork Trust and Envirolink in encouraging businesses to embrace the green agenda whilst becoming more competitive.
- The Council's website has links to sources of grant funding and information on climate change.

15. **Operational and Statutory Functions-**

16. The Council has a statutory duty to reduce fuel poverty as well as operational and statutory functions that have a direct impact on carbon emissions.

- It already exceeds its statutory target for recycling and composting waste. Its target is that by March 2010 at least 50% of household waste should be either recycled or composted.
- The Council is committed to stopping over 1000 tonnes of carbon dioxide being emitted by 2010. This will be done through increasing the amount of grants to vulnerable households to improve the energy efficiency of homes via the local Home Improvement Agency.
- Planning can reduce carbon emissions by influencing the location and design of developments, as well as, via policy development insisting on new developments including renewables.

FUTURE ACTION

17. The current activities outlined above are likely to continue and form part of the wider Climate Change Strategy. This will be the subject of a further report and will include further detailed programmed actions. Some of these actions are likely to have some cost, which although these may be recouped in the future will require prioritisation by Members.
18. In order to ensure that all Chief Officers, Directors and Portfolio holders are fully aware of the full impact of climate change and the responsibilities and opportunities for action, they will be invited to attend a free two hour tailored briefing sessions on climate change. This is being run as part of the NW Climate Change Action Plan (Produced by NWRA, GONW, NWDA and other stakeholders) by Quantum Strategy & Technology.
19. Other Council staff and Members should be included in further small scale training sessions. This is vital to ensure that everyone is aware that all aspects of the Council's work have an impact on Climate Change and that it cannot be seen as a self-contained activity.
20. The public, including businesses, should continue to be included in a wider promotion of the potential impacts of climate change on them and on Chorley and how to mitigate against it.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

21. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance	*	Customer Services	
Human Resources	*	Equality and Diversity	
Legal			

COMMENTS OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION AND IMPROVEMENT)

22. This paper forms part of the thinking in relation to the Council's approach to tackling climate change. Detailed business cases are currently being produced to identify what the financial implications are likely to be. The results of this analysis will be fed into the 2008/09 budget cycle for consideration by Members.

COMMENTS OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

23. Climate Change and the reduction in carbon emissions is something that everyone needs to understand both as an employee of the Council and as a citizen within the Community. The activities highlighted within the report will ensure our employees are aware of their own and the Council's responsibility in relation to this agenda. The impact this currently has on Climate Change and also what changes will be made in the future.

CHIEF OFFICER NAME – JANE E. MEEK

CHIEF OFFICER DESIGNATION – CORPORATE DIRECTOR (BUSINESS)

Background Papers			
Document	Date	File	Place of Inspection
N/A	-	-	-

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Louise Nurser	5281	26 October 2007	Louise/reports/ Final Exec cabinet report October 2007