

Report of	Meeting	Date
Corporate Director (Business) Assistant Chief Executive (Business Transformation) Introduced by the Executive Member (Business)	Executive Cabinet	29 May 2008

DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY AND ASSOCIATED SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT POLICY

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. For Members to be aware of, and to approve the attached draft Climate Change Strategy and associated Actions. This policy document will influence all Council's activities and raise the profile of Climate Change issues within the Council and the Borough.
2. For Members to be aware of, and to approve the associated Sustainable Procurement Policy.

RECOMMENDATION

3. To adopt the Climate Change Strategy and to implement the related Actions.
4. To adopt the Sustainable Procurement Policy and to implement the Actions contained in the Flexible Framework Action Plan to be contained as an Appendix to the Climate Change Strategy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

5. The report sets out why the Council needs to produce a Climate Change Strategy and puts forward a number of costed actions. It also stresses the "cultural changes" that are required to ensure that Climate Change is considered in all the Council's work. It also sets out how the related Sustainable Procurement Strategy will make a positive impact.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

(If the recommendations are accepted)

6. Climate change is the biggest threat facing mankind. Chorley's Climate Change Strategy and associated actions will be the public commitment that the Council takes its responsibilities seriously to mitigate and adapt to climate change. These can be undertaken through its role as an Organisation, Community Leader and as a Service provider.
7. The Sustainable Procurement Policy is vital for the Council to formalise good practice and to provide value for money on a whole life basis, including environmental and socio-economic benefits.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

8. None. The production of a Climate Change Strategy is a Key Project within the Corporate Plan.
9. The production of a Sustainable Procurement Policy is vital to support the Council's Climate Change Strategy and the national targets set out in the National Action Plan Flexible Framework relating to Sustainable Procurement.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

10. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the Central Lancashire sub-region	X	Develop local solutions to climate change.	X
Improving equality of opportunity and life chances		Develop the Character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	X
Involving people in their communities		Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a performing organisation	X

BACKGROUND

Why have a Climate Change Strategy.

11. Global and international agreements and treaties; national legislation, such as the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006 and the draft Climate Change Bill; regional indicators set by the North West Regional Assembly; Local Area Agreements relating to the mitigation and adaptation to Climate Change all support the Council's commitment to produce a Climate Change Strategy set out in its Corporate Strategy.
12. Some Members and Senior Management recently attended a training session and workshop on Climate Change relating to its impact on the ground, long term trends and gave examples of good practice from other similar sized authorities. This was well received.
13. It reinforced the message that climate change is a reality and that it will have impacts on Chorley and that the Council is in a position to make a difference. Best practice is to embed Climate Change as a consideration in all the Council's activities. The Climate Change Strategy will help to do this.

Summary of the Strategy and Actions

14. This draft Climate Change Strategy and associated actions (Appendix 1), sets out how the Council can reduce carbon emissions. Examples are; within its own Organisation through recycling its own office waste; as a Service Provider through developing stringent planning requirements relating to carbon emissions and in its role as a Community Leader by working with suppliers to ensure that the Council procures sustainably.
25. It also sets out in detail the possible impacts of forecast climate change on the Borough, such as rises in sea level leading areas of Chorley being underwater, and increased severe weather with consequences to the Council's Emergency Planning function. No service area would be immune to the effects of Climate Change. This will affect the way the Council operates with subsequent costs and negative impacts on its service to its customers.

26. The Climate Change Strategy brings together in a coherent and consistent way current good practice. Its main objective is that adapting to and mitigating Climate Change is embedded in all the Council's work, such as a Climate Change criterion in any grant funding, or considering long term impacts of climate change on parks and open spaces. It should not be seen as an optional "green" extra. This makes sound financial sense as it is generally accepted that the cost of addressing climate change now will be considerably less than if the threat of climate change is not contained, or at best, ameliorated.
17. The majority of the actions that the Council can take are cultural and will have marginal costs, which should in fact lead to efficiency benefits, and costs savings. For example, through the increasing the use of conference calls instead of travelling to meetings, or reducing the amount of waste the council produces internally. Other proposals such as rationalising the use of water coolers, and linking the availability of lease cars to models that fall within a low company car tax threshold may prove controversial and will require liaison with the unions.
18. The reduction in energy usage from the Council's own buildings is being addressed through an Energy Management Plan formulated by Liberata. Evidently, there is an overlap between this and the Climate Change Strategy.
19. Potential specific actions include:
 - Training for managers to embed climate change into the culture of the organisation.
 - Enhanced cycle path sweeping in difficult areas to encourage more cycle use.
 - In conjunction with the LSP, supporting businesses to address climate change.
 - Reducing emissions from homes by assisting more domestic properties not on mains gas to use other low carbon technologies.
 - Greening Chorley Markets additional work to make Chorley Markets more energy efficient, particularly with regard to water use.

These actions will be developed further before being presented to Members.

20. These targeted actions are considered to be cost effective ways of reducing the Council's carbon emissions, often saving money and ensuring that the Council is promoting good practice in relation to Climate Change and providing community leadership.
21. The Climate Change Strategy will be monitored and updated annually to ensure that Climate Change considerations are being taken on board throughout the Council's activities.
22. Why have a Sustainable Procurement Policy and Flexible Framework Action Plan?
23. Sustainable Procurement is a process whereby organisations meet their needs for goods, services, works and utilities in a way that achieves value for money on a whole life basis in terms of generating benefits to society and the economy, whilst minimising damage to the environment.
24. The Council recognises it has a vital role in furthering sustainable development, through its procurement of buildings, goods, works and services. Procurement decisions have a major socio-economic and environmental implication, both locally and globally, now and for future generations.
25. The Council is taking steps to ensure that sustainable procurement principles are becoming embedded in how we conduct our business. Appendix 2 sets out examples of good practice already in place and our Sustainable Procurement Policy and Action Plan brings together our future plans and actions, particularly around engaging more effectively with our key partners, suppliers and staff to ensure that sustainable procurement principles and good practice make a real difference to the community we serve. The Policy and Action Plan relates to nationally set targets and therefore we require to reflect this locally.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

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

Finance	X	Customer Services	
Human Resources	X	Equality and Diversity	
Legal		No significant implications in this area	

COMMENTS OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR (HUMAN RESOURCES).

27. The strategy outlines our commitment as both an employer and service provider to reduce our impact on global warming. Training is scheduled on environmental awareness to educate and inform staff on the implications and environmental issues in relation to their work and personal life. Recommendations within the strategy that affect employees terms and conditions of employment i.e. car lease scheme, will be consulted via the Councils normal communication channels of staff matters forum and the Joint Consultative Committee to seek agreement.

COMMENTS OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION).

28. The report identifies a number of potential actions the Council could take to achieve the key aims of the strategy. The Council in its budget for 2008/09 set aside a sum of £180k in its capital programme 2008/09 – 2010/11 to support the programme of work that will be required. As the report suggests further work is now necessary to ensure the Council maximises the impact from the budgets it has set aside.

In addition to the above the Council has also earmarked funds for making its buildings more energy efficient. Many of the other actions required are to raise awareness of the changes in behaviour that will ultimately impact on the climate.

The Sustainable Procurement Policy is one of those areas where a change in the Council's approach to procurement can ultimately reduce the Council's carbon footprint.

JANE MEEK
CORPORATE DIRECTOR BUSINESS

GARY HALL
ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION)

Background Papers			
Document	Date	File	Place of Inspection
Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Louise Nurser	5281	9 May 2008	Louise/reports/climate change strategy exec report May 08 Thursday