

**ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE & COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL**  
**22 SEPTEMBER 2008**

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**CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRESS REPORT**  
**Director of Environment, Culture and Communities**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In February 2007, the Leader and Chief Executive signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change. A draft Climate Change Action Plan, presented to Members in April 2008, was published for public comment until 12<sup>th</sup> September 2008. From May 2008 the Council has been participating in the Carbon Trust's LA Carbon Management Programme. The purpose of this report is to update Members on progress to date and to outline the case for action resulting from the LA Carbon Management Programme. An accompanying presentation will provide additional detailed actions.

**2 SUGGESTED ACTION**

- 2.1 Note the current policy drivers for climate change and carbon management in local authorities.
- 2.2 Note the value at stake of carbon management in excess of £4 million over the next five years plus an annual Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) bonus or penalty, commencing April 2010 and rising to £195,840 p.a. in five years time.
- 2.3 Support the Climate Change Action Plan and Carbon Management Plan as the Council's response to these challenges.

**3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Current policy framework for Local Authorities

- 3.1 Climate Change Bill (2008) – UK statutory commitment to cut carbon dioxide emissions by at least 60% by 2050 and at least 26% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline. Local authorities are seen as a key player in meeting these objectives.
- 3.2 Local Authority Performance Framework - 198 national indicators introduced April 2008, including:
- NI185 CO<sub>2</sub> (Carbon dioxide) reduction from LA operations (included in LAA)
  - NI186 Per capita reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the LA area
  - NI188 Planning to adapt to climate change
  - NI189 Flood and coastal erosion risk management
  - NI194 Air quality - % reduction in NO<sub>x</sub> (Mono nitrogen oxides) and PM<sub>10</sub> (particles less than 10 micrometers) emissions from LA estate and operations
- 3.3 Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) – Replaces Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) under the new Local Authority performance framework. Climate change and carbon management will become increasingly important under this inspection regime.

- 3.4 European Union (EU) Energy Performance of Buildings Directive – From 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008 all public buildings with a useful floor area over 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> must have a Display Energy Certificate (DEC). The DEC shows the energy consumption of the building and must be displayed at all times, clearly visible to the public. DECs are accompanied by an advisory report, both of which are issued by an accredited energy assessor. DECs are valid for one year and advisory reports are valid for seven years.
- 3.5 Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) – A mandatory “cap and trade” scheme applicable to all organisations with half-hourly metering consuming over 6,000 MWh metered electricity from Jan-Dec 2008. When scheme starts in 2010, emissions from all energy sources, excluding transport, will be included. From 2010-2013 allowances will be sold to participants at £12 per tonne CO<sub>2</sub> and refunded six months after the year end with a performance penalty or bonus rising from 10% to 50% over five years. From April 2013 allowances will be auctioned by sealed bid.

#### Climate Change Action Plan

- 3.6 The Climate Change Action Plan, presented to Members in April 2008, was developed by the Council’s Climate Change Working Group under the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change. The Working Group is Chaired by the Director of Environment, Culture and Communities and is corporate in its membership. The draft Action Plan was distributed to members of the Bracknell Forest (BF) Partnership and published on the Council web site for public comment, ending 12<sup>th</sup> September 2008. The few comments received were generally supportive of the Action Plan and specific queries are being dealt with. Executive will be asked to formally adopt the Action Plan in October 2008.

#### LA Carbon Management Programme

- 3.7 The Climate Change Action Plan does not include specific CO<sub>2</sub> reduction targets but includes participation in the Carbon Trust’s Local Authority Carbon Management Programme (LACMP). The aims of the LACMP are to:
- I. establish a CO<sub>2</sub> baseline for Council operations
  - II. calculate the value at stake for taking action
  - III. identify opportunities to reduce CO<sub>2</sub>
  - IV. develop action plans for CO<sub>2</sub> and financial savings
- 3.8 Bracknell Forest Council is participating in the sixth LACMP from May 2008 to March 2009. The Climate Change Working Group has been expanded to also form the LACMP project team and a Project Board has been established to provide oversight of the project. The timing is ideal as the Carbon Trust has aligned the 2008 LACMP to NI185 and is using an extended version of the carbon assessment tool, which will be used for NI185 reporting to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in 2009. Cllr Mrs Hayes is the identified political champion with Cllr Brunel-Walker as her deputy, the Director is the lead officer supported by Colin Griffin, Community and Environmental Development Team Leader.
- 3.9 Provisional figures from the LACMP show that the council’s CO<sub>2</sub> emission baseline is in excess of 18,000 tonnes p.a. (2007). The value at stake is the difference between the Council’s predicted energy expenditure to 2012 on a “business as usual” trajectory verses the implementation of a carbon management plan to achieve its CO<sub>2</sub> reduction target. The LACMP Project Board set an aspirational target of 30%

emissions reduction against the 2007 baseline by 2012. On this basis value at stake to the council is in excess of £4 million over five years.

#### Display Energy Certificates

- 3.10 The council own 54 buildings, including schools, with over 1,000 M<sub>2</sub> of useful floor area, requiring DECs and advisory reports from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008. Our Energy Manager has attended accreditation training in July 2008 and will issue some DECs in-house and appoint external consultants to meet the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008 deadline. Although advisory reports are superficial, adding little to our knowledge about the energy performance of our buildings, DECs will raise awareness of all concerned, increasing the pressure for improved performance.

#### Carbon Reduction Commitment

- 3.11 In 2007, the Council's half-hourly metered electricity consumption was 7,383 Megawatt Hours (MWh), including 1,921 MWh consumed by schools. This is not expected to change materially during 2008 and exceeds the 6,000 MWh threshold for participation in the scheme.
- 3.12 In 2007, the Council's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from energy sources, excluding transport, were approximately 17,000 tonnes. This figure is forecast to reduce by 4% to 16,320 tonnes by April 2010 and a further 6% to 15,300 tonnes by April 2011 in accordance with the Council's Local Area Agreement target for NI185 - CO<sub>2</sub> reduction from LA operations. It should be noted that these targets are significantly less than the 30% aspirational LACMP target by 2012.
- 3.13 Based on the 2010 emission forecast of 16,320 tonnes, the cost of CRC allowances at £12 per tonne will equate to £195,840. Taking this as our baseline figure, the net cost in five years time (+/- 50%) could be £97,920 - £293,760 depending on our position on the league table. When the capped phase starts in 2013, the cost of allowances is likely to rise.
- 3.14 **Summary:** The Council has made various commitments to take action on Climate Change and to date excellent progress is being made at both a strategic and practical level.

#### Background Papers

Draft Climate Change Action Plan, Local Authority Carbon Management Action Plan

#### Contact for further information

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