

Item 5

REPORT TO COUNCIL

DATE: 29th June 2007

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Corporate Ambition: ATTRACTIVE BOROUGH
Portfolio: ENVIRONMENT

Proposal to Sign the 'Nottingham Declaration' on Climate Change

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The 'Nottingham Declaration' is a voluntary pledge to address the issues of climate change and it represents a high-level, broad statement of commitment. It acknowledges the increasing impact that climate change will have on our communities during the 21st century and commits SBC to tackling the causes and effects of a changing climate on our Borough.

2 RECOMENDATION

- 2.1 That Council endorses the signing of the Nottingham Declaration by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive.

3 The Nottingham Declaration

- 3.1 The Nottingham Declaration was originally launched in October 2000 and has now over 200 Local Government signatories and is supported by DEFRA, IDeA, LGA and the Environment Agency. In signing the Declaration, Sedgefield Borough Council will acknowledge that:

- Climate change is occurring; and
- Climate change will have far reaching effects on the UK's people, society, economy and environment.

- 3.2 It will also commit the Council to:

- Help deliver the UK Climate Change Programme and associated carbon dioxide reduction targets.
- Participate in local and regional networks.
- Within two years develop plans with partners and the local community to address the causes and impacts of climate change.
- Publicly declare, with plans and strategies, our commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our own operations.
- Assess the risk associated with climate change and the implications for our services and communities and adapt accordingly.
- Encourage all sectors within the community to adapt to the impacts of climate change and to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions.
- To monitor publicly the progress of our plans and strategies.

- 3.3 The commitments made by signing the declaration will, in part, be met by the forthcoming SBC Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. The Strategy, developed in consultation with senior managers, is based on the Council's current activities and service areas and is reflective of the Council's desire to make climate change a central theme in all future policies, strategies and activities. The Strategy and Action Plan will be submitted to Cabinet in August 2007 for consideration.
- 3.4 A presentation on the development of the SBC Climate Change Strategy was given to Development Control Committee in January 2007. There is to be a follow-up report and presentation to the 'Prosperous and Attractive Borough Overview and Scrutiny Committee' on the 10th July. This will outline the background to the Strategy and detail the aims, objectives and targets for the Action Plan.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There will be no direct resource implications involved in signing the Declaration.

5 CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1 There has been no direct consultation on signing the Nottingham Declaration. However, consultation is currently underway in respect of implementing the commitments within the Declaration, with regard to developing the SBC Climate Change Strategy.

6 OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Equality and Diversity

N/A

6.2 Legal and Constitutional

N/A

6.3 Links to Community Strategy / Corporate Plan

Corporate Ambition	Community Outcome	2006 Aim
Attractive Borough	Ensuring a cleaner greener environment	<i>Aim A1 – Monitor and improve local environmental conditions</i>
	Reducing waste and managing natural resources	<i>Aim A6 - Raise awareness of sustainability issues within the Council and external organisations</i>
Corporate Values	Be responsible with and accountable for public finances	<i>Aim C7 – Identify year-on-year efficiency gains from the conception, procurement, and delivery of goods, services and works</i>

6.4 Risk Management

The Declaration is a voluntary pledge and therefore has minimal risk implications.

6.5 Sustainability

The Declaration supports the economic, social and environmental aspirations of the Council.

6.6 Social Inclusion

N/A

7 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 N/A

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Ward(s): All

Key Decision Validation: N/A

Background Papers: N/A

Examination by Statutory Officers

	Yes	Not Applicable
1. The report has been examined by the Councils Head of the Paid Service or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The content has been examined by the Councils S.151 Officer or his representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. The content has been examined by the Council's Monitoring Officer or his representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. The report has been approved by Management Team	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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