



Chester-le-Street
District Council

Report to: Executive Committee

Date of Meeting: November 2008

Report from: Senior Sustainability Officer

Title of Report: A Climate Change Strategy for Chester-le-Street

1. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of the report is to present to Executive for approval the climate change strategy for Chester-le-Street.

2. CONSULTATION

2.1 The consultation process for this strategy has included elected members, service teams across the council including planning, regeneration, environmental services and leisure services.

2.2 External consultation has also taken place through the Environmental, Housing and Planning sub-group of the LSP, The Federation of Environmental Groups, Durham County Council and individual members of the public.

3. CORPORATE PLAN AND PRIORITIES

3.1 The strategy contributes to Priority 4 of the Corporate Plan – regenerating the District, Chester-le-Streets regeneration strategy by ensuring low carbon solutions are included in regeneration projects, the benefits of which are felt by our communities. The strategy also helps to ensure compliance with National Indicators NI185, 186 and 188, the latter two of which are both included in the Local Area Agreement Chester-le-Street District Council also committed itself to writing a climate change strategy after signing up to the Nottingham Declaration on climate change in July 2007

4. IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial & Value for Money

There is no financial implications for Chester-le-Street DC, though the New Unitary Authority for Durham will need to invest in both adaptation measures to lower the impact of severe weather events caused by climate change such as flooding or excessive heat and mitigation measures such as installation of cavity

wall and loft insulations, low carbon technologies such as biomass and renewable technologies and advice provision.

4.2 Legal

This report does not raise any specific legal implications.

4.3 Personnel

A successful Climate Change Strategy will require resources to implement it and these are fully detailed in the action plan, however these are currently being included in the development of a Low Carbon Strategy for County Durham. .

4.4 Other services

Climate Change impacts on the Council ability to deliver its statutory functions including grounds maintenance, refuse collection, access to services etc.

4.5 Diversity

The Strategy has no implicit Diversity implications as it is a cross-cutting issue

4.5 Risk

The strategy is an important step in assessing the long-term risks Climate Change will have on Chester-le-Street. By having a strategy going into the new authority, the requirements of Chester-le-street will receive significant input into it's priority areas as opposed to those areas without a strategy.

4.6 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications in this strategy

4.7 Other implications

There are no other implications arising from this report.

4.8 Data Quality assurance

Every care has been taken in the development of this report to ensure that the information and data used in its preparation are accurate, timely, consistent and comprehensive. The council's Data Quality Policy has been complied with in producing this report.

5. BACKGROUND. POSITION STATEMENT AND OPTION APPRAISAL.

- 5.1 In July 2007, Chester-le-Street District Council became a signatory on the Nottingham Declaration on climate change. The signing of this document committed the Council to developing a climate change strategy.

- 5.2 In April 2008, three new indicators specific to carbon management and climate change were included in the National Indicator performance set; NI185, The CO₂ emissions for Local Authority Operations, NI186, The CO₂ emissions per capita across the Local Authority Area, and NI188 Adaptation to Climate Change. Of these three indicators, NI186 and NI188 are both included in the Local Area Agreement for County Durham and NI186 is currently being introduced into the Multi Area Agreement for the Tyne and Wear City Region which will affect Chester-le-Street.
- 5.3 With the Introduction of these indicators into the LAA, it was agreed that a County Wide approach was required to addressing Climate Change to ensure performance on these indicators and Chester-le-Streets Senior Sustainability Officer has become the lead for this co-ordination under the LGR process. However, due to the diverse nature of County Durham, it has also been agreed that each area needs to have its own action plan to address those issues that are specific only to that area. The development of this Chester-le-Street strategy will ensure that the specific needs of the Chester-le-Street community will be taken into account.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Executive approve the strategy for submission to Full Council.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are no background papers to this report.

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