

Item 4

REPORT TO PROSPEROUS AND ATTRACTIVE BOROUGH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29 APRIL 2008

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Sedgefield Borough Council's Climate Change Strategy – 6 Month Update

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The SBC Climate Change Strategy was examined by Prosperous and Attractive, Overview and Scrutiny Committee in June 2007. It was agreed at that meeting, that a six month update report would be delivered following Cabinet approval. This was achieved in October 2007.
- 1.2 This 6 month update report details how Sedgefield Borough Council are meeting the key actions (detailed within Appendix 1) and are moving towards fulfilling the overall aim of an annual 3% reduction in CO₂ emissions.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the half year report be received and an update report be prepared for consideration at a future meeting

3 THE CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY – 6 MONTH UPDATE

- 3.1 The report focuses upon the steps departments are making to ensure they are on track to deliver the actions within the strategy. It also identifies the barriers and constraints which are preventing the successful delivery of actions and the steps that are in place to achieve the actions in 2008/09.
- 3.2 Although there have been gaps in the delivery of some of the actions, strong progress in a number of key areas have been made during this period. This includes 'Development and Planning' advice, 'Awareness Raising' and improvements within 'Housing'. This is further detailed within Appendix 1.
- 3.3 Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)
Because of the timescales associated with LGR, most sections have had to re-prioritise their workload. This has meant that those actions which have long timescales or those that require substantial capital investment have had to be removed from Section work plans, as departments rationalise their service delivery.
- 3.4 Current Emissions
In 2003 Sedgefield Borough Council emitted 7115 tonnes of CO₂ into the atmosphere as a result of the energy used to service the Council's buildings portfolio, fleet vehicles

and business travel. In 2007, energy consumption was reduced to 6050 tonnes of CO₂; a reduction of 15% from 2003 levels and 5.8% from 2006 levels, which exceeds the 3% annual reduction target. This large decrease in consumption is down to the achievement of the actions detailed within Appendix 1.

The Next 6 Months

3.5 This level of investment and awareness must be maintained over the next year to ensure that we lead by example and take this good practice forward into the new authority.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Any specific proposals developed to drive forward identified actions, along with associated financial implications, will be the subject of future reports to Management Team.

5 CONSULTATIONS

5.1 Appendix 1 was completed by the departments and lead officers responsible for their specific action.

6 OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Equality and Diversity

The update report will be made available in alternative languages, Braille or in audio format where requested.

6.2 Legal and Constitutional

This report meets the requirement within the Nottingham Declaration, to report on the progress of the agreed actions.

6.3 Links to Community Strategy / Corporate Plan

Corporate Ambition	Community Outcome	Delivery Plan Aims 2006/07 - 2008/09
Attractive Borough	Ensuring a cleaner greener environment	<i>Aim A1</i> – Monitor and improve local environmental conditions
	Reducing waste and managing natural resources	<i>Aim A6</i> - Raise awareness of sustainability issues within the Council and external organisations
Corporate Values	Be responsible with and accountable for public finances	<i>Aim C7</i> – Identify year-on-year efficiency gains from the conception, procurement, and delivery of goods, services and works

6.4 Risk Management

The Council must continue to work towards the achievement of the strategy aim and objectives in the coming year. Failure to do so will have substantial negative effects for the Borough, including:

- Higher energy and building maintenance costs;
- Greater potential for adverse health effects, including; skin cancer, heat related deaths, food poisoning, vector borne diseases and impacts from severe storms and floods;
- A decrease in native biodiversity; and
- Disruption to businesses and services affected by extreme weather events.

7 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Prosperous and Attractive Borough Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be updated on the progress of the strategy actions in October 2008.

8 LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1: 6 Month Update Report

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Background Papers:

Sedgefield Borough Council Climate Change Strategy 2007 - 2012

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