

Item 5

PROSPEROUS AND ATTRACTIVE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

27 January 2009

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Portfolio: ENVIRONMENT

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

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The SBC Climate Change strategy was approved by cabinet in October 2007. During this period departments have been actively delivering the objectives and actions contained within the strategy. Appendix 1 details how Sedgefield Borough Council are meeting the strategic objectives and moving Sedgefield Borough Council towards fulfilling the agreed aim:

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 15% by 2012, meeting yearly 3% reduction targets, to ensure that dependence on finite fossil fuels is reduced. The Council also aims to fully prepare services for the potential impacts of climate change.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the report be received.

3 THE CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY – 12 MONTH UPDATE

The Actions

- 3.1 Appendix 1 details the progress made towards fulfilling the actions set out within the SBC Climate Change Strategy. The report focuses upon:

- Assessing whether departments are on track to deliver the 'Key Actions' within the Strategy.
- Identifying any barriers and constraints to the successful delivery of actions.
- Identifying any corrective actions that need to be undertaken.

Although there have been gaps in the delivery of some of the actions, due mainly to the LGR process, strong progress in a number of key areas, has still been made.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

- 3.2 Because of the timescales associated with LGR, most sections of the Council have had to re-prioritise their workload. Actions that have long term timescales or those that require substantial capital investment have had to be removed from section work plans as departments rationalise their service delivery.

National Indicator 185 – CO2 emissions from the local authority estate

- 3.3 This new national indicator (NI) will help to ensure that all local authorities monitor emissions across their portfolio. This will help to identify where mitigation measures should be targeted in a co-ordinated approach. Sedgefield Borough Council has been monitoring CO2 emissions for a number of years, however new arrangements for the NI mean that monitoring is conducted over the financial year and not the calendar year as previously conducted. This means that emissions can no longer be compared to previous years and as such no suitable emission figures are available for 2008.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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

5 CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1 Senior Managers from relevant departments within the Authority were invited to a series of internally co-ordinated workshops to discuss and consider the potential impacts of a changing climate on the services delivered by the Council and the community at large.
- 5.2 The key actions, responsibilities and timescales identified within the Strategy Action Plan were developed and agreed in consultation with the senior officers attending the above events.

6 OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Equality and Diversity

The Climate Change Strategy will be made available in alternative languages, Braille or in audio format where requested, and will be placed on the Council's website in pdf format.

6.2 Legal and Constitutional

There are no legal or constitutional constraints associated with the publication of the Strategy.

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 – 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 risks associated with long term variations in the Borough's climate and weather patterns are considered to be substantial¹. Failure to adapt to climate change or to reduce emissions 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.

It is considered that all future strategic risk assessments carried out by business plan holders should have regard to the risks associated with climate change.

6.5 Sustainability

The Strategy by its very nature conforms to the principles of sustainable development.

6.6 Social Inclusion

Social inclusion issues are discussed within the Climate Change Strategy.

7 **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Prosperous and Attractive Borough Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be responsible for monitoring the action plan through six monthly progress reports prepared by the Director of Neighborhood Services.

8 **LIST OF APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – 2008/09 Update Report on Climate Change Actions

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Ward(s): All

Key Decision Validation:

Background Papers:

¹ SUSTAINÉ (2003),

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