



1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The report seeks to advise Councillors of the Local Authority Climate Change declaration initiative, Climate Local, and outline the implications of becoming a signatory.
- 1.2 Indicate whether HBBC is willing to become a signatory.
- 1.3 Seek agreement for progress to the next stage of the process with the objective to set out clear and measurable actions.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.4 That Scrutiny Commission members approve that the report be submitted to Executive with the recommendation that Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council sign up to Climate Local.
- 1.5 That a Climate Local Action Plan be developed and brought back to a future Executive meeting for approval and to indicate HBBC's continued ambition to act on a changing climate.

3. **BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

- 3.1 Climate Local is a refreshed version of the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change which Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council signed in 2004. It reaffirmed its commitment on the 28 November 2006 by signing the Nottingham Declaration 2, requiring the Authority to prepare a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.
- 3.2 The Hinckley and Bosworth Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2008-11 was adopted on 29 April 2009 and a refreshed 2011-14 version has now been implemented.
- 3.3 Climate Local results from the Local Government Group (LGG) and the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which acknowledges the pivotal role of local authorities in reducing carbon emissions. It sets out how DECC and the LG Group proposes to work together to help and encourage all local authorities to take firm actions to reduce their own carbon emissions, reduce emissions in their area and participate in national carbon reduction initiatives at the local level.
- 3.4 The initiative plans to drive, inspire and support councils' efforts both to reduce carbon emissions and also improve their resilience to the effects of a changing climate and extreme weather.
- 3.5 Climate Local will provide web-based resources and it would be expected that the Council will report progress to enable other authorities to benefit from our experiences.
- 3.6 By signing Climate Local HBBC would declare its ongoing commitment to reducing carbon emissions and responding to changes in the climate within our own

operations, services and the local community. It will enable the Authority to seize opportunities and benefits accruing from climate action: savings from lower energy consumption, generating income from renewable energy, potential financing for new jobs, investment in green industries and a reduction in fuel poverty. By becoming adaptable to the changing climate there is less risk from flooding and a greater awareness of the impacts of extreme weather conditions. Our natural environment will also be better protected.

3.7 By signing Climate Local HBBC will commit to:

- Setting out specific, measurable and challenging actions we will take locally to further reduce carbon emissions and to manage climate impacts at a local level as a community leader, service provider and estate manager
- Involving the local community by publishing our commitments, actions and progress for scrutiny
- Sharing the learning from our experiences and achievements with other councils
- Regularly refresh our commitments and actions to ensure they are current and continue to reflect local priorities

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (AG)

4.1 Finance related to any actions will be brought forward for discussion in the next report which will follow consultation across all services of the detailed commitments.

4.2 Resource costs are within the existing Environmental Health budgets dependent upon final commitments.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (AB)

Like its predecessor the Nottingham Declaration the Climate Local Declaration will not be a legally binding document and no legal liability will accrue against the Council for a failure to meet any of the commitments within it.

6. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This report supports the vision “a borough to be proud of” contained in the Corporate Plan 2010 to 2015 and contributes to Cleaner and Greener Neighbourhoods by reducing carbon dioxide emissions and enhancing and protecting the natural environment, contributing to a Thriving Economy by attracting new jobs and investment in “green” industries, reducing fuel poverty and helping to manage the impacts of extreme weather (drought, heat waves) thereby providing a Safer and Healthier Borough, and Providing Strong and Distinctive Communities by supporting more elements of the community through an emphasis on business and enterprise development and volunteering.

7. CONSULTATION

Consultation was carried out with Scrutiny Environment Group and Leicestershire Together Environment Board.

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

It is the Council’s policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer’s opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project

have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

| Management of significant (Net Red) Risks | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Risk Description | Mitigating actions | Owner |
| There will be a risk to the authority's reputation through a lack of commitment to climate change action. | As Climate Local replaces the Nottingham Declaration signing will support HBBC's action on carbon reduction and climate resilience. | Jane Neachell |

9. **KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

No further implications identified in conforming to the EIA carried out for the HBBC Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

10. **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset Management implications
- Human Resources implications
- Planning Implications
- Voluntary Sector

Background papers: Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2011-14

Contact Officer: Jane Neachell Extn: 5968

Executive Member: Cllr. David Gould