

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE – 29 OCTOBER 2014

CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2014-17

REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (COMMUNITY DIRECTION)

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the approval of the Executive to the proposed actions contained in the draft Climate Change Strategy and Action 2014-17 in order that the Borough of Hinckley and Bosworth continues to reduce greenhouse gas emission levels in the next three years.
- 1.2 To advise that the Climate Change Action Plan 2014-17 has been realigned to reflect HBBC's commitments through Climate Local by setting out commitments, specific actions, measures to fulfil the actions and timescales set.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Members approve and support the draft Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2014-17.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council has made a commitment to reduce its carbon footprint through policies and programmes such as the Community Plan, Corporate Plan, Local Development Framework and Environmental Policy.
- 3.2 Climate change continues to be a national issue and local authorities have a key role in promoting actions to reduce the likelihood of significant changes in climate through reducing the impacts of their activities. HBBC needs to continue to plan ahead to minimise the effects any changes in climate will have on its operations and the community. Not only must there be continuous progress in reducing emissions but actions should be in place to support communities in adapting to a changing climate and improving the long-term resilience of new and existing infrastructure.
- 3.3 The Council signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change in 2004 and its update NDCC 2 was signed in 2008. This required the authority to prepare a climate change strategy and action plan which was adopted by Council in April 2009.
- 3.4 NDCC has been succeeded by Climate Local, an Local Government Association initiative which supports councils in achieving their aims providing a framework that reflects local priorities and opportunities for action addressing climate change including all HBBC's plans and activities. HBBC joined Climate Local in February 2013. The commitments HBBC adopted are a compilation of current and future actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and will build resilience to climate change. The commitments have formed the basis of the HBBC Climate Change Action Plan and progress will be reported annually to Climate Local.
- 3.5 The main objectives of the Climate Change Strategy are maintained:
 - Raise awareness of the potential impact of climate change across the Borough
 - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy conservation and use of renewable energy and to reduce water usage in the Council's own activities

- Propose measures to help prevent the causes of climate change by aiming to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from activities in the Borough using the Council's power and influence with other organisations
- Encourage everyone in the Borough, individuals, organisations and businesses to take measures to adapt to the predicted effects of climate change
- Reduce CO₂ emissions as a result of energy efficiency measures implemented to alleviate fuel poverty within the Borough.

3.6 The Climate Change Action Plan is now aligned with our Climate Local commitments and actions are contained within six objectives:

- Mainstreaming climate change: to demonstrate political commitment to acting on climate change, improve the awareness, engagement and knowledge of our staff and reduce the carbon dioxide emissions from all our activities by 20% by 2014 (from a 2008/09 baseline)
- Energy: reduce carbon emissions and improve affordable warmth in our housing stock, promotion of householder and community action on reducing carbon emissions and fuel poverty in the Borough, apply planning regulations to promote energy efficiency and low carbon buildings and promote sustainable procurement within the council
- Transport: work with local organisations and businesses to promote sustainable transport and identify opportunities to reduce the carbon emissions from our transport fleet
- Waste: improve levels of recycling and reduce waste in council buildings and services and reduce the amount of household waste which goes to landfill
- Resilience: improve the resilience of our communities to future climate impacts through our Climate Ready Plan
- Natural environment: work in partnership with other agencies and the community to maintain and enhance a distinctive and outstanding natural environment and protect and enhance the resilience of the Borough's biodiversity to the projected effects of climate change.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [SJE]

4.1 Any costs associated with the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2014 -17 are expected to be funded within existing budgets and so there are no additional financial implications resulting from this report at this stage.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (MR)

5.1 Set out in the report.

6. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

6.1 This report supports the vision "a borough to be proud of" contained in the Corporate Plan 2010 to 2015 and contributes to all the priorities referred to in "Creating a Vibrant Place to Work and Live" by reducing carbon dioxide emissions, enhancing and protecting the natural environment and sustaining economic growth by attracting new jobs and investment in "green" industries. It will also play a part in reducing fuel poverty by supporting more elements of the community through an emphasis on business and enterprise development and volunteering.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 Staff, Members, young people, businesses, local residents, hard to reach groups, voluntary sector, the Local Strategic Partnership, and general public through the internet and other media and hard copy (easy read). There were two responses both of which were relevant and have been incorporated into the document.

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

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

8.2 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.

8.3 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 and failure to meet the Council's target for reducing greenhouse gases.	Implement the Action Plan to maintain progress in minimising greenhouse gas emissions	Rob Parkinson

9. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The identification of possible future impacts from climate change identified by the Planning to Adapt exercise in 2009 indicates that the elderly, young, disabled and those living in rural areas will be significantly affected more than the general population from issues relating to inclement weather such as excess heat and cold, and snow storms due to climate change. Rural areas of the borough are particularly affected by river flooding and interruption in transport/mobility due to adverse weather.

10. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 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: Hinckley & Bosworth Climate Change Strategy and Action Plans (2008-11) and (2011-14)
Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change
Hinckley and Bosworth Climate Local commitments
Hinckley & Bosworth Community Plan

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Corporate Plan

Contact Officer: Jane Neachell Extn 5947
Executive Member: Cllr David Gould