

URGENT ACTION – RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON THE CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY FOR NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This documents reports back to Committee on the response to consultation on the Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy which was carried out under Urgent Action due to full agenda at the relevant Development Committee (March 2010).

2 Executive Summary

- 2.1 A Request for Urgent Action to comment on the Draft Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy was sought by Officers as full agendas and deadlines meant that it was not possible to bring a report to Committee. The request was granted and a response drafted which was signed off by the Leader and the Mayor.
- 2.2 Once the Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy is finalised it will go to the County Council for adoption, then return to all districts and borough's to be noted/adopted in whichever way. It is anticipated that it will come to the September Development Committee.

3 Appendices

Appendix 1 is the Request for Urgent Action document and a copy of the letter sent in response to consultation.

4. Proposed Action:

- 4.1 **Members are asked to note the comments made by Officers under Urgent Action.**
- 4.2 **Members are asked to note that the finalised Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy will return for Committee consideration.**

5 Background

- 5.1 The Draft Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy 2010-2014 has been developed by the Northamptonshire Climate Change Officers Group (of which officers from this Council are members) and sets out a framework for action by members of the Northamptonshire Partnership to:

1. Raise awareness of the issue of Climate Change and its impact on Northamptonshire
2. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the county
3. Plan for and adapt to the inevitable impacts of Climate Change

5.2 The Draft Strategy utilized existing documents (such as our own Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan) as a basis and will be used to co-ordinate a county-wide action to which each district will (or in our case already is) contributing to.

5.3 A consultation exercise was carried out which ended on the 26th March 2010 The Development Committee meeting on the 16th March was judged to have an already full agenda (the Site Specific Development Plan Document being envisaged as taking up the bulk of the meeting) and so a Request for Urgent Action was made so that a response could be submitted before the deadline.

6 Discussion

6.1 The Draft Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy was judged to contain no elements that a) the Borough Council of Wellingborough was not already actively engaged in and b) anything that bound districts to committing resources. To reinforce this as our standpoint, our response stated that this Council “looks forward to contributing to the actions that arise from [the Climate Change Strategy] over coming years where resources allow.”

6.2 Any activities that may arise will either be incorporated into existing budgets and work programmes or subject to the standard capital bidding or other Committee processes of this Council.

6.3 Once the Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy is finalised it will be brought back to this Committee (as it will to all Districts in the County) for response/adoption as is deemed appropriate.

7 Legal Powers

7.1 Please consult with the Legal Services Manager on major or new proposals.

8 Financial and Value For Money Implications

8.1 Activities that may arise will either be incorporated into existing budgets and work programmes or subject to the standard capital bidding or other Committee processes of this Council.

9 Risk Analysis

Nature of risk	Consequences if realised	Likelihood of occurrence	Control measures
Reluctance to fund schemes	Failure to reduce carbon emissions and increasing costs	Medium	Project Planning process. Cost/benefit analysis.
Failure to adapt services to	Increased risk of injury to employees (heat stroke, injury by flying debris) and	Medium	Project Planning process. Cost/benefit

changes in weather patterns	inability to deliver efficient services)		analysis
Failure to achieve target reduction	Bad publicity. Poor rating from 2010 in terms of energy management. Breach of legislation.	Medium	Project Planning process.

10 Implications for Resources

- 10.1 Activities that may arise will either be incorporated into existing budgets and work programmes or subject to the standard capital bidding or other Committee processes of this Council.

11 Implications for Stronger and Safer Communities

- 11.1 Comments made included reference to the apparent lack of input on health related issues and the role of the Third Sector. This should have positive implications once integrated into the Strategy.

12 Implications for Equalities

- 12.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment on the Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy has been carried out which indicates that a full assessment is not required.

13 Author and Contact Officer

Paul Gosling, Resource Conservation Manager

14 Consultees

Agnes Piatek-Bednarek, Energy Efficiency Officer
Steven Wood, Head of Built Environment
James Wilson, Corporate Director
Paul Thompson, Sustainable Infrastructure Manager
Clive Culling, Housing Renewal Manager

15 Background Papers

None

APPENDIX 1

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH



REQUEST FOR URGENT ACTION

(in accordance with section 7 of Scheme of Delegation to Chief Officers)

REPORTING COMMITTEE	DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
DATE OF NEXT MEETING	16 TH MARCH 2010
PURPOSE OF REPORT	TO SEEK APPROVAL FOR OFFICERS TO SUBMIT COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY ON BEHALF OF MEMBERS.
REASON FOR URGENCY	DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS ON DRAFT IS 26 TH MARCH 2010, BEFORE THE NEXT AVAILABLE COMMITTEE MEETING (THE SITE SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT IS ENVISAGED AS TAKING UP THE BULK OF THE MEETING ON THE 16 TH MARCH, AND THE DRAFT NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY CAME IN AFTER THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING WAS AGREED).
KEY FACTS:	<p>THE DRAFT NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY HAS BEEN DEVELOPED BY THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CLIMATE CHANGE OFFICER'S GROUP (OF WHICH THE RESOURCE CONSERVATION MANAGER AND THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY OFFICER ARE ACTIVE MEMBERS). THE DRAFT STRATEGY HAS UTILISED EXISTING DOCUMENTS (SUCH AS BCW'S CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN) AS A BASIS, AND WILL BE USED TO CO-ORDINATE A COUNTY-WIDE ACTION PLAN, TO WHICH EACH DISTRICT WILL (OR IN OUR CASE ALREADY IS) CONTRIBUTING TO.</p> <p>ONCE THE DOCUMENT IS FINALISED IT WILL RETURN TO DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE FOR FINAL SIGN-OFF IN THE SUMMER.</p>
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	NONE. ANY ACTIVITIES THAT MAY ARISE WILL EITHER BE INCORPORATED INTO EXISTING BUDGETS OR WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE STANDARD CAPITAL BIDDING PROCESS OF THIS COUNCIL.
SIGNATURES - AUTHOR (AND DATE)	<p>Paul Curtis 16/3/10 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i> 16/03/10.</p>
DEPARTMENT	
SIGNATURES - MAYOR (AND DATE)	<p><i>[Signature]</i> CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i> John Chinn of Resources</p>
OR	VICE-CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE
ADDITIONALLY, IF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: SIGNATURE (AND DATE) OF CHAIRMAN OR VICE-CHAIRMAN OF POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE	

Produce 3 copies for signature: Mayor
Chairman of Committee
File – Committee Services

James Wilson

Corporate Director

T: 01933 231984

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Date: 24th March 2010

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Dear Sir,

Draft Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy 2010-2014

The Borough Council of Wellingborough welcomes the principles underlying the Draft Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy and looks forward to contributing to the actions that arise from it over coming years where resources allow.

It recognises that its role is not in isolation, and is dependent on partnership working with a wide variety of organisations within the Borough. To this end the main comment that we have is that the Strategy needs to cast a wider net, especially in terms of engaging the Third Sector and health support services.

We also recognise that national carbon reduction targets are considerably higher than those currently set in the Local Area Agreement. Our ability to influence the direction of travel of these indicators is dependent on resources at our disposal. We therefore feel that a greater emphasis on joined-up working to ensure that effort is not duplicated and that best practice and funding are readily available is key to the success of the strategy.

We have taken the Strategy to the Better Delivery and Healthier Delivery Groups of our Local Strategic Partnership (the Wellingborough Partnership) and their responses will follow in due course.

Yours faithfully,

James Wilson
Corporate Director