



INFRASTRUCTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Committee Report

Public

Date of Meeting: 23rd October 2008

Title: CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

Report of: THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Report reference: CS86 08

Summary:

The report provides Infrastructure Overview & Scrutiny with a Draft Climate Change Strategy and has been prepared in line with the City Council's Environmental Policy and commitment to the Nottingham Declaration. The Draft Strategy outlines aims and objectives for the City Council to tackle Climate Change through its operations, service delivery and work with partners and communities.

Questions for / input required from Scrutiny:

1. Does the strategy address the Committees concerns regarding Climate Change and the role required by the City Council as a Community Leader?
2. Are we moving forward in the right direction?

Recommendations:

The Infrastructure Overview & Scrutiny Committee consider the report

Contact Officer: Rachel Osborn

Ext: 8579

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

PORTFOLIO AREA: Environment & Infrastructure

Date of Meeting: 22nd September 2008

Public

Key Decision: Yes

Recorded in Forward Plan: Yes

Inside Policy Framework

Title: Climate Change Strategy
Report of: Director of Community Services
Report reference: CS 74/08

Summary:

A Draft Climate Change Strategy has been prepared in line with the City Council's Environmental Policy and commitment to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change. The Draft Strategy outlines aims and objectives for the City Council to tackle climate change through its operations, service delivery and work with partners and communities the City Council serves.

Recommendations:

It is RECOMMENDED that:

The report is received and referred to Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny meeting on 23rd October for consideration and the Carlisle Partnership Executive.

Contact Officer: Rachel Osborn

Ext: 8579

1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1.1 In January 2007 the City Council signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change. The Declaration is a statement of commitment supported by organisations like DEFRA, the Local Government Association, the Environment Agency, Carbon Trust and other organisations and now signed by over 200 local authorities. The Declaration means that the City Council recognises that climate change is occurring;

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

that it will have far reaching effects on people, places, the economy, society and the environment and; and that the City Council commits to tackling the causes and effects of a changing climate.

- 1.2 A series of international, national and regional legislative commitments, targets, policies and programmes are in place to address the issue of climate change. Increasingly local authorities are being required to deliver on these commitments. The new performance framework is challenging local authorities to tackle climate change through:
- The management of their own estate (buildings, transport, equipment);
 - Delivery of their services, e.g. planning and development, waste, local transport, and provision of housing;
 - Engaging and mobilising business, industry, communities and individuals to address climate change, by exercising their local leadership and power to promote well-being.
- 1.3 The City Council is making strides to tackle climate change under its priority of a Cleaner, Greener, Safer Carlisle. A Climate Change Strategy serves to draw together our achievements and identify further aims, objectives and milestones to measure our success. The next stage will be to identify actions that can deliver our aims and objectives. This will require consultation with staff, Members, the Carlisle Partnership, and wider community.

2.0 CONCLUSION

- 2.1 This Draft Climate Change Strategy is a statement of intent in delivering leadership on tackling climate change and working in partnership to achieve our aims and objectives.

3.0 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 Consultation to date
Carbon Trust Project Team
- 3.2 Consultation proposed
Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Carlisle Partnership Executive

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is RECOMMENDED that:

The report is received and referred to Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny meeting on 23rd October for consideration and the Carlisle Partnership Executive.

5.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee scrutinises the environmental performance of the Council. Some of the objectives in the draft strategy relate to the Carlisle Partnership.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- Staffing/Resources – Not applicable.
- Financial – The strategy does not outline any financial implications but subsequent more detailed actions will have financial implications. The strategy refers to whole life costing and invest to save procurement/financial practices.
- Legal – The strategy sets out the policy context with reference to the 1997 legally binding Kyoto Agreement signed by the U.K to meet emissions reduction targets of all greenhouse gases by 2012 relative to 1990 levels. Reference is also made to the Climate Change Bill which will create a new approach to managing and responding to climate change in the UK through: setting ambitious targets; taking powers to help achieve them; strengthening the institutional framework; enhancing the UK's ability to adapt to the impact of climate change and establishing clear and regular accountability to the UK, Parliament and devolved legislatures. The Climate Change Bill has now moved to the House of Commons for consideration and the aim is to receive Royal Assent by autumn 2008.
- Corporate – A Climate Change Strategy for the City Council is consistent with the corporate aim of Cleaner, Greener, Safer. Under the new performance framework indicators have been established for: NI185 - CO₂ reduction from local authority operations; NI186 – Per capita reduction in CO₂ emissions in the local authority area; NI187 - Tackling fuel poverty; and NI188 – Planning to adapt to climate change.
- Risk Management – Managing the risks associated with climate change are covered in the Draft Climate Change Strategy. Reference is given to the new performance indicator NI 188 'Planning to Adapt to Climate Change'. The purpose of this indicator is measure local authority preparedness for managing the risks associated with climate change.
- Equality Issues – None identified.
- Environmental – A Climate Change Strategy for the City Council is consistent with the City Council's Cleaner, Greener, Safer priority, Environmental Policy and Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change.
- Crime and Disorder – None identified.
- Impact on Customers – Some objectives outlined in the strategy will have an impact upon customers.

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 What is climate change?
- 1.2 What are the global and local impacts of climate change?

2. POLICY CONTEXT

- 2.1 Why act on climate change?

3. SCOPE OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

- 3.1 What are we already doing to tackle climate change?
- 3.2 Aims and objectives
- 3.3 Implementation, monitoring and review

4. AIM – LEAD BY EXAMPLE ON TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

- 4.1 Strategic Objective - Ensure that our operations and services address the issue of climate change
- 4.2 Strategic Objective – Reduce the City Council’s carbon emissions associated with our operations
- 4.3 Strategic Objective - Ensure that the City Council’s operations and services are adapted to climate change

5. AIM – WORK IN PARTNERSHIP TO HELP ‘CLIMATE PROOF’ CARLISLE

- 5.1 Strategic Objective – Establish climate change as a priority issue for the Carlisle Partnership
- 5.2 Strategic Objective - Develop more environmentally friendly transport choices
- 5.3 Strategic Objective - Make planning an effective tool in the pursuit of a climate proofed Carlisle
- 5.4 Strategic Objective - Support improvement in the energy efficiency of Carlisle’s housing stock

Executive Summary

In January 2007 the City Council signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change. This strategy is part of our commitment to the Nottingham Declaration.

A series of international, national and regional legislative commitments, targets, policies and programmes are in place to address the issue of climate change. Increasingly local authorities are being required to deliver on these commitments particularly through the new performance framework.

The City Council is already making strides to tackle climate change under its priority of a Cleaner, Greener, Safer Carlisle but there is a need for a Climate Change Strategy to draw together these achievements along with aims, objectives and milestones to measure our success. These are as follows:

AIM – LEAD BY EXAMPLE ON TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE - Ensure that our operations and services address the issue of climate change

How we will measure success (milestones)

- Completion of a climate 'proofing' assessment of key Council policies, strategies, action plans and procedures to ensure that they are systematically lowering carbon emissions and ensuring that decisions are resilient to climate change.
- A corporate Climate Change group is established to oversee the implementation of the Climate Change Strategy.
- Staff and Members are aware of the implications of climate change, how it affects our operations and services and receiving training and support where needed.
- Carlisle is achieving targets against our performance indicators on climate change.
- The City Council's partners, businesses and the wider community have developed a Carlisle Climate Change Action Plan

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE - Reduce the City Council's carbon emissions associated with our operations

How we will measure success (milestones)

- By April 2012 Carlisle City Council will have reduced CO₂ emissions from its operations*. An aspirational target of 25% on 2007-08 levels will be aimed for.
- Procurement decisions take a whole life cycle approach that includes associated carbon emissions.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE - Ensure that the City Council's operations and services are adapted to climate change

How we will measure success (milestones)

- All directorates have undertaken a climate change impacts assessment of their operations and services
- By 2012 Carlisle City Council and our key partners will be implementing an adaptation action plan and monitoring progress.

<p>* Operations will also mean assets owned by the City Council but run by organisations like Community Centres and Carlisle Leisure Limited.</p>

AIM – WORK IN PARTERSHIP TO HELP CLIMATE PROOF CARLISLE

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE - Establish climate change as a priority issue for the Carlisle Partnership

How we will measure success (milestones)

- The target of achieving a 3% reduction per annum on CO2 emissions per capita for Carlisle is being achieved.
- Carlisle Partnership members have put in place carbon reduction plans and report their action.
- Carlisle Partnership will have undertaken a local climate change impacts profile for Carlisle using the UKCIP08 data*.
- Carlisle Partnership is playing an active role in helping local communities, businesses and partners to work towards a climate proofed Carlisle.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE - Develop more environmentally friendly transport choices

How we will measure success (milestones)

- The City Council and Carlisle Partnership are engaging with local employers on the potential for partnership working through the development of Green Travel Plans (the percentage of employers in Carlisle with Green Travel Plans)

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE - Make planning an effective tool in the pursuit of a climate proofed Carlisle

How we will measure success (milestones)

- Planning policies include targets and standards for addressing climate change.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE - Support improvement in the energy efficiency of Carlisle's housing stock

How we will measure success (milestones)

- Targets are being met for the Decent Home standard and fuel poverty indicator.

This draft Climate Change Strategy sets out what we want to achieve in the form of aims and objectives. The next stage is to build on our current achievements and identify what we need to do in order to achieve our aims and objectives. This will require us to produce an action plan in consultation with all directorates in the Council, the Carlisle Partnership, and wider community showing how we intend to meet these objectives. The action plan will then be updated on an annual basis and progress against these objectives will be reported.

* The impacts of climate change on the UK and its regions have been modelled by the UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) and based on climate change scenarios from data released in April 2002. These UKCIP02 scenarios have been used in climate change impacts research, providing a common starting point for assessing climate change vulnerability, impacts and adaptation in the UK. The next package of climate change information for the UK, called UKCIP08, is due for release in late 2008.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 What is climate change?

Climate scientists define *climate* as the average weather in a particular location over a thirty year period. And the *weather* is what is happening outside now.

The climate of the Earth is not static, and has changed many times in response to a variety of natural causes. However, average global surface temperatures have risen considerably (by 0.74°C) over the past one hundred years, which cannot be explained by natural climate variations alone. The recent Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) leaves us in no doubt that human activity is the primary driver of the observed changes in climate.

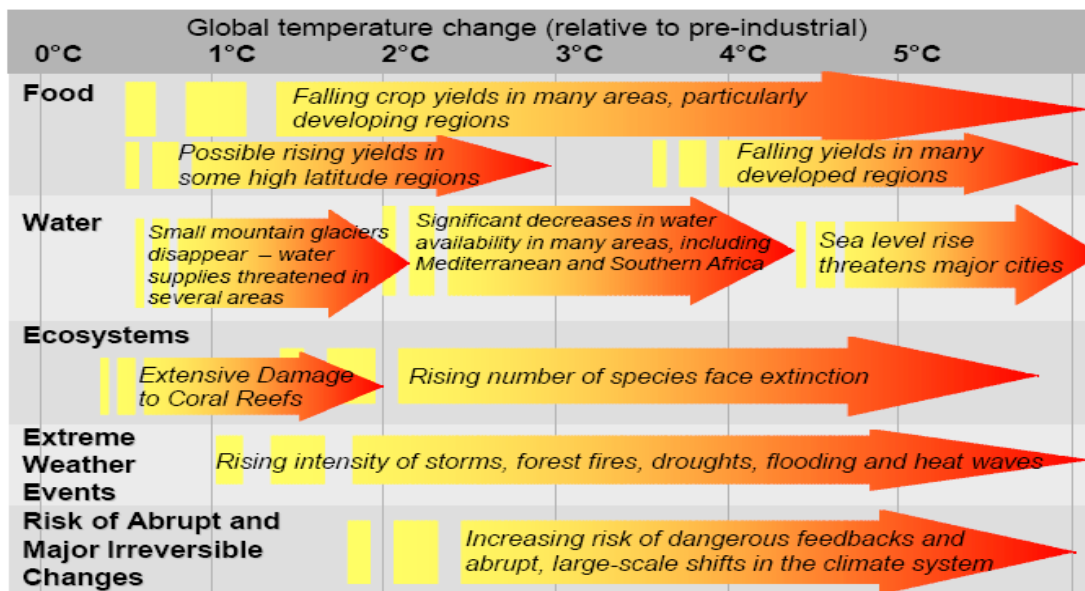
The global climate is affected by greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane. Greenhouse gases act as a blanket around the planet and prevent heat from escaping. Human activity contributes to greenhouse gases, for example the burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas) is responsible for releasing CO₂. The concentrations of greenhouse gases have now reached levels unprecedented for tens of thousands of years. At present, just over 7 billion tonnes of CO₂ is emitted globally each year through fossil fuel use alone. However the loss of rain forests and peat bogs as nature's carbon stores has a double impact on climate change.

In essence, how much our climate changes, depends on how much greenhouse gas is released. However, we are already committed to between 1-2°C of warming due to what we have already released.

1.2 What are the global and local impacts of climate change?

Rising global temperatures will bring changes in weather patterns, rising sea levels and increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather.

According to the AR4 report, mean global temperatures are likely to rise between 1.1 and 6.4°C (with a best estimate of 1.8 to 4°C) above 1990 levels by the end of this century, depending on our emissions. This will result in a further rise in global sea levels of between 20 and 60cm by the end of this century, continued melting of ice caps, glaciers and sea ice, changes in rainfall patterns and intensification of tropical cyclones.



The trend prediction for the UK anticipates warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers with heavy winter rainfall, higher sea levels and an increased flood risk to coastal areas and extreme weather events becoming more frequent.

Specific data for the impacts of climate change on Carlisle are not readily available, but information is available on a regional basis that gives a good indication of the potential impacts. Between now and 2080 if we continue to discharge high amounts of greenhouse gases, Carlisle City Council could expect impacts on operations and service delivery including:

- Longer growing seasons would mean changes to grass cutting regimes.
- More extreme weather conditions causing disruption to front line services like refuse/recycling collections.
- Higher energy costs for buildings and transport as climate change impacts on markets and trade.
- Health related problems for example waterborne diseases like cryptosporidiosis linked to warm weather impacting on environmental health services.
- Drier summers could lead to droughts affecting parks, allotments and nature reserves putting pressure on water resources and local biodiversity.

These are some of the more obvious impacts that climate change will have on the City Council operations and service delivery but climate change has wider impacts affecting local communities. For all these predictions the only thing that is certain is that things will change.

2.0 POLICY CONTEXT

2.1 Why act on climate change?

The scientific case for action on climate change is clear. This, together with increasing concern about the security of our energy supplies makes the case more compelling and urgent.

The UK's Kyoto target is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 12.5 per cent below 1990 levels by 2008-12. The Climate Change Programme (March 2006) states that the UK is on target to achieve this with projected greenhouse gas emissions expected to be 23-25 per cent below 1990 levels. In parallel to the Kyoto target the U.K Government set a further target to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent, below 1990 levels by 2010. At present the projections are that the UK will only achieve 15-18 per cent by 2010.

In addition, the draft Climate Change Bill, published in March 2007, aims to set a statutory carbon reduction target of 60 per cent by 2050 on a 1990 baseline for the UK. In climate and energy policy documents published by the Government, energy efficiency and increased use of renewable energy are seen as central to achieving carbon emissions reduction aims. A specific measure for local authorities under the Bill is to provide a power to pilot local authority incentive schemes for household waste minimisation and recycling.

Government policies relating to climate change include measures to promote energy efficiency in homes and businesses; the introduction of emissions trading to industry; increase the share of electricity generated by renewable resources; encourage the take up of less polluting vehicles; and encourage individuals and communities to consider how to reduce carbon dioxide emissions through for example the Energy Saving Trust.

The UK Climate Change Programme 2006, which sets out the Government's policies and priorities for action in the UK and internationally, identifies local authorities as critical to the achievement of the Government's climate change objectives.

'Strong and prosperous communities', the 2007 Local Government White Paper, stated that local government has a pivotal role in achieving sustainable development and mitigating and adapting to climate change. It identified that there was enormous scope for authorities to take action through:

- The management of their own estate (buildings, transport, equipment);
- Delivery of their services, e.g. planning and development, waste, local transport, and provision of housing;
- Engaging and mobilising business, industry, communities and individuals to address climate change, by exercising their local leadership and their power to promote well-being.

Mitigation – this refers to actions that reduce our contribution to the causes of climate change. This means reducing our emissions of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), through energy efficiency and using alternative forms of transport and energy. Mitigation is important in the long term as it is only by reducing our greenhouse gas emissions that we can hope to minimise human-induced climate change. Many of the measures to help reduce emissions may also have other benefits such as saving money and encouraging a more sustainable society.

Adaptation - addresses the impacts and opportunities resulting from a changing climate. Irrespective of the success of mitigation efforts, there will still be some degree of unavoidable climate change. This stems from our historic greenhouse gas emissions and the persistence of these gases in the atmosphere.

The White Paper also committed the Government to introducing new performance indicators on climate change for local authorities. These are:

NI185 – CO₂ reduction from local authority operations

NI186 – Per capita reduction in CO₂ emissions in the local authority area

NI187 - Tackling fuel poverty

NI188 – Planning to adapt to climate change

NI186 has been adopted as a key indicator in both the 2008 Cumbria Local Area Agreement and Carlisle Community Plan 2008. The Carlisle Partnership will report the percentage change in CO₂ emissions per capita for the district against the 2005 baseline of 9.5 tonnes. The Local Area Agreement 2005 baseline for Cumbria is 11.3 tonnes per capita. The target for both is a 3% reduction per annum.

Rising to the Challenge – A Climate Change Action Plan for England's Northwest 2007 – 2009 was put together by an advisory group of regional partner organisations and experts called the North West Climate Change Partnership. It sets out actions for 2010 and outcomes for the region to be achieved by 2020 including a target of reducing the North West's CO₂ emissions by 30% on 1990 levels. For Cumbria this translates as a reduction of 2 MtCO₂/year. It aims to stimulate and measure the progress of the region towards a low carbon economy but requires national and local action for it to be delivered upon. The North West Regional Assembly has now established a Climate Change Unit and aims to support local authorities.

The Northwest Regional Economic Strategy sets out a low carbon economy as a fundamental aim. As a result the North West Climate Change and Energy Action Plan, accompanied by the North West Sustainable Energy Strategy have been produced.

The Cumbria Strategic Partnership which is representative of public, private, and third sector agencies will present a Climate Change Strategy on the 26th September 2008 to guide policy and action by CSP members on managing climate change. This outlines recommendations energy generation, waste, water resources, procurement, natural environment, housing and buildings, industry and commerce, spatial planning, transport.

3.0 SCOPE OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

3.1 What are we already doing to tackle climate change?

The City Council has already taken a number of steps towards tackling climate change including:

- Along with over 200 other local authorities, Carlisle City Council has signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change. This is a high profile voluntary statement that commits the City Council not only to take action to reduce our own greenhouse gas emissions, but to develop plans with partners and local communities to progressively address the causes and impacts of climate change. The development of this climate change strategy is a key commitment to the Nottingham Declaration.
- In November 2007 the City Council became one of the first participants in the Energy Saving Trust's (EST) one-to-one local authority programme. The EST undertook an 'audit' of the City Council's approach to four key areas – its overall strategy for tackling climate change and using energy sustainably; the council's services such as housing and planning; community leadership; and the council's own estate. The EST made a series of recommendations and then held workshops with key Council Officers and Members to consider emerging priorities and actions. This project has helped to inform this draft Climate Change Strategy.
- A key recommendation of the EST was that the City Council participate in the Carbon Trust's Local Authority Programme. This programme focuses on carbon reduction on a local authority's estate. The City Council joined up to the 2008/09 Local Authority Carbon Management (LACM) Programme.
- The Carbon Trust programme helps to build on the work that the City Council has already been undertaking in terms of establishing the City Council's operational carbon footprint and tackling priority areas, particularly in terms of energy management in our buildings. Since 2006 the City Council has reported on a local performance indicator, LP180, for targeting carbon reductions in CO₂ over three of our major sites – the Civic Centre, Crematorium and Bousteads Grassing.
- Housing energy efficiency targets set for Carlisle have been exceeded with the help of the Cumbria Energy Efficiency Advice Centre that gives advice to householders as well as accessing funding from utility companies and government programmes to subsidise energy efficiency measures. A new Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre (ESTAC) covering Cumbria and Lancashire will be carrying on this work from September 2008.
- A Green Travel Plan was approved in principle by Council in April 2008. The Plan addresses the environmental impact of the City Council's travel and transport related activities. The Green Travel Plan is a statement of intent to be revised every three years and is accompanied by a separate annual action plan with further details of initiatives. The Green Travel Plan sets out a series of targets for staff commuting, business travel, members journeys and fleet transport in terms of behavioural change, carbon reductions, mileage reductions and fuel efficiency reductions.

- Working in partnership with other agencies like the Environment Agency and United Utilities to help improve the Carlisle district's response to flooding and flood defence.

3.2 Aims and objectives

Cleaner, Greener Safer Carlisle is a priority for the City Council. Tackling climate change fits under that priority. This draft Climate Change Strategy sets out aims and strategic objectives for the City Council along with a number of milestones for the City Council to measure its success.

3.3 Implementation, monitoring and review

This draft Climate Change Strategy sets out what we want to achieve in the form of aims and objectives. The next stage is to build on our current achievements and identify what we need to do in order to achieve our aims and objectives. This will require us to produce an action plan in consultation with all directorates in the Council, the Carlisle Partnership, and wider community showing how we intend to meet these objectives. The action plan will then be updated on an annual basis and progress against these objectives will be reported.

4.0 AIM – LEAD BY EXAMPLE ON TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

4.1 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE – Ensure that our operations and services address the issue of climate change

The City Council is well placed to demonstrate leadership in tackling climate change through our democratic mandate, service delivery, regulatory functions, partnership work, place shaping roles and guarding communities against risk.

Strong leadership and commitment is needed to ensure that climate change issues are central to decisions, policies, plans and actions of the Council. Climate change issues needs to be integral to the following City Council policies and strategies:

- Environmental Policy
- Air Quality Management Plan
- Procurement Strategy
- Waste Management Plan
- Medium Term Financial Plan
- Capital Strategy
- Local Planning Framework
- Growing Carlisle – An Economic Strategy
- Development Framework and city-wide Movement Strategy
- Carlisle Community Plan
- Corporate Risk Register
- Housing Strategy
- Asset Management Plan

Milestone – Completion of a climate ‘proofing’ assessment of key Council policies, strategies, action plans and procedures to ensure that they are systematically lowering carbon emissions and ensuring that decisions are resilient to climate change.

It is important that climate change becomes part of the every day language and business for Carlisle City Council. Whether it is financial planning, procurement, performance management, assessing training needs, communication, developing service plans, environmental management system, managing risk, delivering front line services or working in partnership, climate ‘proofing’ has to be integral to the City Council’s thinking.

The City Council is taking steps in the right direction. For example, opportunities for reducing carbon emissions are requested when undertaking a business case for a capital project. Community Services has introduced carbon reduction and energy efficiency as a priority in its staff appraisal process ensuring that staff can identify appropriate training needs. Site specific environmental performance plans or ‘registers’ are reviewed annually and identify carbon saving actions as a matter of priority.

Milestone - A corporate Climate Change group is established to oversee the implementation of the Climate Change Strategy.

The City Council’s participation in the Carbon Trust Local Authority Management programme has required the establishment of a Carbon Trust Team. This team has officer representation from Facilities Management, Property Services, People, Policy and Performance, Finance, Economic, Property and Tourism, Communications and Environmental Performance as well as Director and Member representation. This group’s remit can be widened to include climate change.

Milestone – Staff and Members are aware of the implications of climate change, how it affects our operations and services and receiving training and support where needed.

The issues of climate change cut across the City Council's operations and services whether it is grass cutting or working strategically with other local businesses and organisations. Opportunities for understanding how climate change is relevant to local authorities can be built into current City Council learning programmes whether it is part of induction training, through the annual staff appraisal process or Members personal development reviews.

Support to those local authorities that have identified climate change as a priority in their local area agreement, have been identified for further support in terms of training and advice. This training and advice will be delivered through the Northwest Regional Assembly in collaboration with the North West Regional Improvement and Efficiency Programme beginning in 2009. This will take the form of master classes for officers, members of planning committees and other parties and an advice service/surgeries.

The City Council's Environmental Working Group made up of 'champions' from each directorate has helped to organise and promote a number of initiatives from the development of a Green Travel Plan to the introduction of a green office guide. The group has an important role to play in the context of climate change awareness in the authority. Beginning with a concerted awareness campaign about good energy management at work and at home as part of the Carbon management programme, the group can build on this work to help raise the profile of other issues associated with climate change.

Milestone – Carlisle is achieving targets against our performance indicators on climate change.

As political drive has been crucial to the City Council's success in terms of encouraging householders to reduce waste and increase recycling, the same drive is required for tackling climate change. A political 'champion' for climate change, an ongoing scrutiny role for monitoring progress on action coupled with advice and training on how to deliver the actions are methods for achieving political leadership

Milestone – The City Council's partners, businesses and the wider community have developed a Carlisle Climate Change Action Plan.

In order to achieve the City Council's aims and objectives for tackling climate change, as outlined in this strategy, it is important to develop an action plan. This will require communication with partners, businesses and the wider community.

In 2007 the City Council introduced alternate weekly collections of household waste along with plastic recycling and other kerbside recycling schemes. This has helped to reduce the amount of rubbish sent to landfill, a significant source of greenhouse emissions.
--

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE – Reduce the City Council's carbon emissions associated with our operations

As a community leader, the City Council is in a key position to lead on efforts to reduce CO₂ emissions by setting a behavioural and strategic example to the private sector and the communities it serves.

In accordance with the City Council's Environmental Policy signed in 2006, the principle of getting our own house in order has been given high priority. Since then, work to improve upon our environmental performance includes:

- Developing a Green Travel Plan approved by Council in March 2008. This includes 2006 data for business and fleet travel, fuel consumption, and associated CO₂ emissions informed by an Energy Saving Trust Green Fleet Review in 2007. It also includes percentage targets for commuting travel. The Green Travel Plan outlines a series of initiatives that will be reviewed on an annual basis.
- Ongoing implementation of an environmental management system with support from the Cumbria Business Environment Network. Energy was identified as a priority in the environmental review. Annual site specific environmental performance plans or 'registers' identify carbon saving actions.
- Following a series of energy audits carried out by the Carbon Trust and the City Council's Buildings and Facilities Manager, a range of energy saving measures were identified and a budget allocation of £62,000 in 2006/07. Projects included solar thermal panels and more insulation installed in the homeless hostel, home shares, and two public toilets. Lighting controls installed at five sites and the installation of localised water heaters installed in the Civic Centre. This was complemented with an annual energy efficiency budget for maintenance.
- Refurbishment of Talkin Tarn Country Park to include energy efficient materials, many locally sourced and renewable energy systems.
- The installation of two new energy efficient cremators in November 2007.
- The formation of the Environmental Working Group with representatives from each directorate produced a set of guidance notes on reducing energy, procurement etc.
- Data is collated on energy consumption for buildings and street lighting, transport fuel consumption and mileage has been used to establish the City Council's carbon footprint and help target areas for improvement. Data is regularly communicated to managers.
- Since 2006 the City Council has reported on a local performance indicator, LP180, for targeting carbon reductions in CO₂ over three of our major sites – the Civic Centre, Crematorium and Bousteads Grassing.

Other projects underway include:

- Refurbishment of Belah Community Centre to include external insulation to be completed by mid November 2008.
- Implementation of the ICT Strategy; printer rationalisation and the shared ICT services project with Allerdale that includes further opportunities for saving energy.

Milestone - By April 2012 Carlisle City Council will have reduced CO₂ emissions from its operations. An aspirational target of 25% on 2007-08 levels will be aimed for.

To help the City Council improve upon the work already achieved in lowering carbon emissions from our operations, the City Council has been working with the Carbon Trust to identify opportunities for further improvement.

The Carbon Trust is an independent body set up by government to work with the public and private sector to cut carbon emissions. The purpose of the Local Authority Carbon Management programme (LACM) is to:

- Provide an analysis of the City Council's carbon footprint (this is based upon the NI185 indicator assessment tool) and covers emissions associated with predominantly transport, buildings, and equipment.
- Calculate the value at stake - financial implications of rising energy costs
- Assess the opportunities to manage carbon emissions - feasibility of projects
- Develop and implement action plans for realising carbon savings.

Cumbria County Council, South Lakeland District Council and the Lake District National Park Authority are also participating in the 2008/09 programme and are looking to work together on shared priorities. An action plan will be finalised in March 2009 that will outline targets for reduction and associated costed projects.

Carbon emissions associated with buildings owned by the City Council but run by organisations like the Community Centres and Carlisle Leisure Limited will also be included in the carbon footprint and action plan.

Milestone – Procurement decisions take a whole life cycle approach that includes associated carbon emissions.

Key measures for reducing the City Council's carbon emissions are associated with procurement and specifications for new buildings and refurbishments.

Like other local authorities, the city Council is a major user of goods and services. Procurement is the process of obtaining supplies, services and construction type works spanning the life cycle of the asset or service contract. Carbon management issues need to be integrated into corporate procurement policies, processes and procedures.

The City Council is also a member of Effective Procurement in Cumbria (EPiC). EPiC members includes four other district councils, the County Council and the Lake District National Park Authority who work on joint purchasing arrangements for commodity goods and services. In October 2007 a two-year contract to supply EPiC members with 'green' electricity from renewable sources was agreed.

When opportunities arise to build or refurbish buildings owned by the City Council it is important that carbon reduction is built into the specification – from design, construction to use.

From 1 October 2008 there is a legal requirement for all public sector buildings with a total useful floor area of over 1,000m², to show a Display Energy Certificate (DEC) in a prominent place, clearly visible to the public.

4.3 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE – Ensure that the City Council's operations and services are adapted to climate change.

Milestone – All directorates have undertaken a climate change impacts assessment of their operations and services

The Climate Change Bill places a duty on government to publish an assessment of risk to the UK and its plan to tackle adaptation, and report on progress. A cross-Government Adaptation Policy Framework document is being developed that will identify priority areas

for action, where Government departments need to work closely together to ensure adaptation occurs. It is expected to cover four key themes: people (e.g. health, security), the natural and historic environment (e.g. agriculture), economy (e.g. finance, energy), sustainable communities (e.g. built environment, water). This duty and framework will require local authorities to tackle adaptation.

Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery monitors the status to local wildlife through the biological records database in partnership with the Cumbria Biological Data Network. This database is a valuable tool in assessing the changes that climate change is having on our local flora and fauna.

Managing risk is now an integral part of local government business. Whether it is financial risk, extreme weather events or a flu pandemic, the City Council works in partnership at both a corporate level and operational level to help deal with different scenarios. Under the new Comprehensive Area Assessment a performance indicator has been introduced to test local authorities ability for adapting to climate change. The rationale for NI 188 'Planning to Adapt to Climate Change' is to ensure local authority preparedness to manage risks to service delivery, the public, local communities, local infrastructure, business and the natural environment from a changing climate, and to make the most of new opportunities. The indicator measures progress on assessing and managing climate risks and opportunities, and incorporating appropriate action into local authority and partners' strategic planning.

The City Council owns and/or helps to manage a significant amount of land in both urban and rural areas of the district. The effects of climate change such as wetter winters and drier summers will impact upon how that land is managed. As part of the 2007 Carlisle in Bloom preparations, the City Council's Green Spaces Team planted ornamental grasses more suited to an arid climate meaning they required less watering than more conventional bedding schemes. Excess 'grey water' from the Bitts Park interactive water feature is used for watering the bedding plants.

5.0 AIM – WORK IN PARTERSHIP TO HELP CLIMATE PROOF CARLISLE

5.1 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE – Establish climate change as a priority issue for the Carlisle Partnership

Carlisle's householders, businesses and organisations have the potential to benefit from a low carbon future. A low carbon society will result in increased resource efficiency, leading to competitive and innovative businesses, lower fuel bills, and communities that are affordable and healthy places to live, learn and work.

To tackle the effects of climate change in our local area, it is important that the community work together. The Carlisle Partnership brings together the many organisations that are working to improve quality of life in Carlisle including Carlisle City Council, Cumbria County Council, the Primary Care Trust (PCT), the Police, housing associations, local business, voluntary and community groups.

The Community Plan for Carlisle, produced by the Partnership, contains high level ambitions for our area that all the partners will work together to achieve. The 2008 Community Plan addresses priorities identified in the Cumbria Local Area Agreement (LAA). Minimising the impact on climate change is one of those priorities. The performance indicator NI186 (per capita reduction in CO₂ emissions in the local authority area) has been adopted as a key indicator in both the 2008 Cumbria Local Area Agreement and Carlisle Community Plan. The indicator relies on statistics produced by DEFRA to measure end user CO₂ emissions in the local area from:

- Business and Public Sector,
- Domestic Housing and,
- Road Transport

Carlisle industry and commercial activity produced 480,000 tonnes of CO₂. Domestic energy use in the Carlisle area produced 265,000 tonnes of CO₂. Road transport in the area was responsible for 363,000 tonnes of CO₂. The volume of CO₂ emitted by domestic and road transport emissions in Carlisle in 2005 would fill Wembley Stadium 264 times.

The Carlisle Partnership will report the percentage change in CO₂ emissions per capita for the district against the 2005 baseline of 9.5 tonnes. While a percentage of the 9.5 tonnes will be achieved by policies delivered at a national and regional level, some of which will impact upon the Carlisle Partnership members, there is still work needed to achieve the targets through energy efficiency, changed habits and routines, innovation and adaptation.

Milestone – Carlisle Partnership members have put in place carbon reduction plans and report their action.

Members of the Carlisle Partnership can lead by example in terms of mitigating climate change by setting objectives and targets for getting their house in order, reporting on what has been achieved and sharing best practice. This would mean:

- ensuring procurement policies proactively reduce carbon
- reducing waste, energy, fuel and water consumption
- increasing the use of renewable energy
- review and change transport and travel practices

- taking up advice from the likes of the Cumbria Business Environment Network, Carbon Trust and Energy Saving Trust.

Milestone – Carlisle Partnership has undertaken a local climate change impacts profile for Carlisle using the UKCIP08 data.

The impacts of climate change on Carlisle were touched upon earlier on in this strategy. In order to minimise the impacts of climate change it is necessary to identify those vulnerabilities and opportunities that are significant to Carlisle - the more information, we have about the scenarios, the better equipped we will be for taking action. The next step is to communicate this information to Carlisle's residents, businesses and organisations to increase understanding on how to adapt to climate change impacts.

Working in partnership with other organisations is crucial when planning for extreme events. The floods in 2005 tested multi-agency capabilities for dealing with emergencies. Following the floods, a multi-agency integrated flood response plan led by the Environment Agency was updated. A flood warning service is run by the Environment Agency so that householders can be contacted quickly and a programme of building flood defences for those areas at the highest risk of flooding is well underway. The Cumbria Resilience Forum brings together public sector agencies to oversee emergency planning and management.

United Utilities are investing around £12.4 million on modernising the water supply system in Carlisle. Between 2005 – 2010 they are investing £25.7 million on improving and maintaining wastewater treatment works in Carlisle to deliver cleaner rivers, streams and coastal bathing waters. These include wastewater sites at Brampton, Carlisle, Crosby on Eden, Dalston and Great Orton. A further £300,000 is being spent on preventing sewer flooding to customer properties and sewer overflows into local rivers and streams.

Milestone – Carlisle Partnership is playing an active role in helping local communities, businesses and partners to work towards a climate proofed Carlisle.

A role of the Carlisle Partnership is to raise awareness and understanding of issues that are important to Carlisle's residents, businesses and organisations. How we mitigate and adapt to climate change in Carlisle is one of those important issues, and there is a need to raise awareness of how these different issues whether it is affordable housing or improving health join up. A challenge for the Carlisle Partnership is therefore to agree a joint message and inspire people to make a difference.

The FloodArt community project was a response to the January floods 2005 and included sculptures, paintings, videos, music, photographs and stories all inspired by the floods, alongside a specially commissioned piece of work by professional Carlisle photographer John Darwell.

5.2 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE - Develop more environmentally friendly transport choices

Milestone – The City Council and Carlisle Partnership are engaging with local employers on the potential for partnership working through the development of Green Travel Plans.

DEFRA 2005 figures for Carlisle show that road transport in the Carlisle was responsible for 363,000 tonnes of CO₂. Efficient sustainable transport is needed to improve access to jobs, education, goods and services, to facilitate economic regeneration, improve public health and safety, and tackle climate change.

Achieving a more sustainable transport system for Carlisle's is addressed in a series of strategies including the Local Transport Plan, Development Framework and city-wide Movement Strategy, Air Quality Management Plan and Cycling Development Action Plan.

The City Council is also supporting a number of initiatives to support environmentally friendly transport choices in Carlisle ranging from concessionary travel on local buses for pensioners, the Sustrans Connect 2 north to south cycle Carlisle cycle way, cycling programmes through sport and leisure functions. Local transport implications are a requirement when reviewing all planning applications and Green Travel Plans are requested for developments over a certain size.

Carlisle City Council provides free bus transport for Carlisle residents aged 60 or over and disabled pass holders who are travelling within the Carlisle District. There is also a 60% reduction on county-wide journeys that start or end in Carlisle. This offers more than the national scheme.

The City Council has also produced a Green Travel Plan which sets out targets and initiatives to help address the transport and travel impact of our own operations and services. Other employers in the Carlisle are beginning to realise the benefits of developing Green Travel Plans and there is a need to bring together this experience and work in partnership where possible. There is also the opportunity for businesses to obtain support from organisations like the Energy Saving Trust who offer free advice on green transport and travel.

5.3 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE - Make planning an effective tool in the pursuit of a climate proofed Carlisle

As a planning authority the City Council has as key role to play in how communities function. Planning policy and building regulations can influence where developments are located, the layout, the landscape around the development and what materials are used and how. They can promote access to public transport, energy efficient housing, renewable energy supply, enhance biodiversity and avoid development on land at risk of flooding.

National and regional planning policy is evolving and becoming an important tool in helping communities to mitigate and adapt to climate change for example on flood risk and renewable energy. In December 2007 a Planning Policy Statement on Climate Change was published which will help local authorities to contribute to Government targets to reduce per capita CO₂ emissions.

Building regulations on the energy efficiency of new dwellings will be strengthened in 2010 and 2013.

The Carlisle District 2001 – 2016 Local Plan includes specific policies that take into account the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change, for example encouraging

energy efficient design and renewable energy, protection of groundwater, protecting biodiversity, using sustainable urban drainage systems, integration of public transport, cycling and walking. However targets and/or standards are needed to ensure that the policies move from being encouraging to required.

Local Development Frameworks are replacing development plans and related documents prepared and adopted by Councils. The new regime includes a Local Development Scheme which outlines the programme and milestones for the preparation of the local development documents which are:

- a Statement of Community Involvement;
- Development Plan Documents which details the core strategy and land use allocation and spatial policies;
- and Supplementary Planning Documents providing more detail on policies in the core strategy
- Each of these documents must undergo a sustainability appraisal and a strategic environmental assessment.

This process is now underway and the Carlisle District 2001 – 2016 Plan will be superseded. There is an opportunity to introduce Supplementary Planning Document's with environmental sustainability targets and/or standards that strengthen the core policies.

[Milestone – Targets and standards addressing climate change are adopted in planning policies.](#)

The Housing Green Paper, published by the Department of Communities and Local Government in 2006 set a new target of delivering 3 million new homes by 2020. These are to be achieved through new Growth Point Partnerships. Carlisle was awarded Growth Point status in 2008 and now has the challenge of delivering new affordable housing and infrastructure. Bids had to set out their local and strategic impacts on the environment for example regarding water supply, flooding and sewerage and encourage high quality design and environmental enhancement. The next step is to create a programme of development to deliver the Growth Point targets of 600 new homes per annum up to 2016.

There is an opportunity for the City Council to raise its game in terms of using planning policy as a tool for mitigating and adapting to climate change in Carlisle.

5.4 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE - Support the improvement of energy efficiency in housing stock

DEFRA figures show that in 2005 domestic energy use in the Carlisle area produced 265,000 tonnes of CO₂. Increasing the energy efficiency of existing and new housing stock is an important tool in tackling fuel poverty and climate proofing Carlisle's communities.

The 1995 Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) introduced targets to reduce CO₂ emissions and improve domestic efficiency by 30% by 2010. There are additional Decent Homes standards on effective insulation and efficient heating. Targets set for Carlisle have been exceeded with the help of the Cumbria Energy Efficiency Advice Centre which gives advice to householders as well as accessing funding from utility companies and

government programmes to subsidise energy efficiency measures. A new Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre (ESTAC) covering Cumbria and Lancashire will be carrying on this work from September 2008. It is therefore important that the City Council works in partnership with the ESTAC to continue the good work already achieved, particularly with regards to signposting City Council customers to the new ESTAC.

Milestone - Targets are being met for the Decent Home standard and fuel poverty indicator.

In January 2005 severe flooding occurred within Carlisle and the surrounding area. The Housing and Health Service were involved in the provision of services to those made homeless as a result of the flooding and others in need. The service was involved in these issues for most of 2005.

In April 2005 the Government gave a grant of £1.5 million to the City Council to help deal with the aftermath of the flood in the affected areas. Approximately two thirds of this funding was given to the Housing and Health Service to deliver through five projects. These were a stock condition survey; Decent Homes / group repair pilot; vulnerable / uninsured properties; flood resilience project; and energy efficiency measures in the affected areas.

Where opportunities arise for the Council to be a partner in a housing renewal/regeneration scheme it is essential that the schemes deliver exceptional energy efficiency improvements and potentially renewable energy generation. It is also important that schemes are adapted to climate change. Adaptation measures can range from integrating rainwater harvesting to reduce the need for piped water to applying permeable paving to help reduce flooding risks.

In 2007 the City Council invested in the region of £200,000 to carry out a Group Repair scheme in Denton Holme. Work was done to improve the fabric of up to 30 houses including roofs, windows and external walls.