

Agenda Item No:

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny (Resources)

Date of Meeting: 11th March 2010

Report Title: Policy Review of the Climate Change Policy Action Plan Update

Report By: Jane Hartnell
Head of Policy & Performance

Purpose of Report

To provide Members with a progress report against recommendations made in the Policy Review of the Climate Change Policy Action Plan.

Recommendation(s)

- 1. That Members note the progress made in implementing the Scrutiny Review recommendations.**

Reasons for Recommendations

To acknowledge work completed against the recommendations since the Scrutiny Review.

Background

1. A Scrutiny Review of the Climate Change Policy Action Plan was included in the 2008/09 Scrutiny Work Programme.
2. The final report of the Scrutiny Review Team was presented to Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 9th March 2009. At that meeting the Committee resolved unanimously to approve the report and action plan subject to amendments made in the [Management Response](#). The Cabinet approved the final report and recommendations at its meeting on 27th April 2009.
3. Progress made since that time against the key recommendations is summarised below.

Policy Review of the Climate Change Policy Action Plan Update Key recommendations:

A revised and updated climate change policy and action plan is drafted to reflect current policy drivers during 2009/10

4. Work to revise the policy and action plan is underway and is taking account of the Low Carbon Transition Plan, and the policy developments post-Copenhagen. Council wide staff workshops were held in autumn 2009 to both raise the profile and capture examples of how we are addressing these issues as a council. Work is expected to be completed by May, and has been partially delayed due to the need to divert resources to prepare evidence to inform the Audit Commission's assessment of our Use of Natural Resources (as part of Comprehensive Area Assessment).
5. The Cabinet on 29th March will be asked to agree a refreshed Environmental Policy Statement which reflects the significant development in national and local environmental priorities and legislation since the Council agreed its first Policy in 2004. This Policy Statement will provide the strategic framework for drawing together all of the Councils environmental policies, action plans, activities and initiatives. It is the intention that the following approval of the Policy Statement that a high level action plan be brought forward which pulls together the wide range of environmental activity undertaken across HBC and with our partners. This pulling together of activity will help demonstrate the totality of the Council's efforts and the revised Climate Change Policy Action Plan will form a key supporting pillar of this Action Plan.

The draft Sustainable Community Strategy calls for action for all partners of the LSP to work together and share experiences to tackle climate change.

6. The Hastings and St Leonards refreshed Sustainable Community Strategy was agreed in July 2009. The refreshed Strategy contains a new dedicated chapter 'A Town Where We Protect Our Environment and Respond to the Challenges of Climate Change' setting out our key challenges and vision for work across Hastings and our partnerships. The refreshed Strategy now also includes an environmental Key Target - National Indicator 186 'Reduce the per capita CO2 emissions in the local area'.
7. Work is also underway across East Sussex to address the targets included in the East Sussex Local Area Agreement - these relate to National Indicators 186 and 188 - reduction of per capita Carbon Dioxide emissions in the LA area and planning to adapt to climate change.
8. Several county-wide events have taken place or are planned, funded by Progress through Partnerships which bring together LSPs across East Sussex to work together to address concerns about Climate Change. Our own Local Strategic Partnership will be holding its own event later this summer following on from the successful discussions at the Town Conference in February 2009 where partner sought to maximise the green economy potential and enthusiasm in Hastings.

The information on the Council's website regarding climate change will be developed further.

9. New content has been added <http://www.hastings.gov.uk/generationgreen/seminar.aspx> including two videos, slide presentations and a seminar report from the event 'Facing up to Climate Change' held in September 2009, as part of the Future Cities: Urban networks to face climate change project and a presentation as part of Energise Hastings. This is work in progress and other methods of communication are being tested such using Twitter. <http://www.hastings.gov.uk/generationgreen/default.aspx>

Clarify advice to householders regarding type of plastic that can be recycled via the doorstep collection scheme

10. Pictorial based recycling leaflets are distributed with all appropriate correspondence and at Road Shows, Community Events etc. A sticker detailing what can be recycled is distributed with new or replacement Green bins. There are also new stickers at the Bring Sites.
11. New Pink recycling bags are in circulation for bottles only. An extensive article produced in the December About magazine detailing recycling via the door step collection scheme. Further 'plastics education' is included as part of the two year marketing plan currently under development.

12. The Council's website has been updated to reflect latest advice see:
<http://www.hastings.gov.uk/recycle/recycle.aspx>

Continue to promote free home energy check and other energy efficiency and renewable opportunities more widely.

13. Under the East Sussex Energy Partnership Scheme we have supplied the following measures since March 2009

Cavity wall insulation	422
Loft insulation	389
Solar thermal panels	30
Solar PV	3

14. Under the government Warm Front scheme the following measures have been supplied since March 2009

Boiler replacement	92
Cavity wall insulation	29
Loft insulation	62
Electric Storage Heating	29
Provision of full gas central heating	23

15. The energy efficiency officer has attended the Play in the Park events (x 5) in the summer, Landlords Forum, WRVS event, Hastings Pensioners and had a stall in Priory Meadow.
16. Re: free home energy checks, we used to ask people to complete these surveys and the data was recorded by the Energy Saving Trust but these forms are no longer in use, although the Energy Saving Trust carry out their own surveys.

Continue to support the Quality Bus Partnership, and work in partnership to achieve the targets set out in the QBP action plan

17. There has been a 26.2% increase in the number of bus passenger journeys made annually since 2002. This equates to nearly a million more journeys being made than seven years ago. The QBP target is set to increase this by 3% each year, but achieved +5% during 2008-9 with a total of 4.42m journeys made. The QBP will be refreshing its Action Plan in March 2010 and will be agreeing a 2010/11 milestone for inclusion in the Sustainable Community Strategy

Develop a climate change communications plan and further develop information to householders, businesses and organisations relating to climate change.

18. A range of events have targeted buildings and planning professionals, homeowners and local businesses through Energise Hastings and Future Cities. Two

guided tours have taken place of the eco-retrofit project in Cambridge Gardens, a guided tour of the new College sites in Station Plaza and Ore Valley have taken place as part of Energise and the Facing up to Climate Change seminar was attended by over 70 participants. Hastings will take the lead partner role of the awareness-raising strand of the Future Cities project later this year. Communications about climate change and wider environmental issues will be an integral part of the process to agree the Council's Environmental Policy Statement Action Plan.

19. A community energy efficiency pilot with Zap Carbon was undertaken in early 2010 and evaluation is currently underway.

Other key climate change activities:

20. In November 2009 the Cabinet signed up to the 10:10 campaign to reduce its CO2 emissions by 10% during 2010/11 and encourages partners, local organisations and local residents to do the same.
21. Cabinet in November 2009 agreed for the Borough Council to act as the Lead Body for an Interreg application for the Answers in the Carbon Economy (ACE) project. This funding bid (if successful) will enable carbon reduction measures to be put into the industrial stock and a pilot refurbishment of one of our industrial buildings. The Cabinet approved use of £200,000 of Area Based Grant and up to £190,500 of LAA Reward Grant (the balance of £54,500 being in attributed staff time) in the bid as the Council's 50% contribution.
22. The Council has obtained a thermal imaging camera, funded via the Future Cities project to assist with our energy reduction activity. A demonstration can be made available for Members!
23. As part of the Future Cities Project, a Climate Change Project Officer was appointed at the end of July 2009. The role includes raising awareness about climate change, and supporting the delivery of the transnational objectives of the project.
24. In December 2009, the Council in partnership with Hastings Fisherman Protection Society achieved Pathfinder status for a Coastal Change Adaptation Project. The pathfinder project is funded by DEFRA (£115,625) to work with the local fishing fleet to understand the impacts of historic and current coastal change (specifically the build up of shingle) and explore options for future adaptation.

Wards Affected

Ashdown, Baird, Braybrooke, Castle, Central St. Leonards, Conquest, Gensing, Hollington, Maze Hill, Old Hastings, Ore, Silverhill, St. Helens, Tressell, West St. Leonards, Wishing Tree

Area(s) Affected

Central Hastings, East Hastings, North St. Leonards, South St. Leonards

Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	Yes
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No
Risk Management	Yes
Environmental Issues	Yes
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	Yes

Background Information

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