

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

1st December 2010

CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Peter Whittaker (BDC) Councillor Brandon Clayton (RBC)
Relevant Head of Service	Hugh Bennett, Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships
Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

To agree a Climate Change Strategy for Bromsgrove District (BDC) and Redditch Borough (RBC) Councils.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That, subject to final Council decisions on the Policy / Budget implications,

- 1) Bromsgrove District Council Cabinet be requested to consider the BDC Overview Board comments and agree / reject / amend the recommendations (contained in Appendix 2 to the report), and note the comments from RBC Overview and Scrutiny Committee;**
- 2) Redditch Borough Council Executive Committee be requested to consider the RBC Overview and Scrutiny Committee comments and agree / reject / amend the recommendations (contained in Appendix 3 to the report), and note the comments from BDC Overview Board;**
- 3) the Cabinet / Executive Committee be requested to RECOMMEND to their respective full Councils adoption of the Climate Change Strategy (attached at Appendix 1 to the report);**
- 4) the Cabinet / Executive Committee be requested to RECOMMEND reinvestment of 100% of the savings from the Salix project into further climate change work until further notice; and**
- 5) the Cabinet / Executive Committee be requested to RECOMMEND that a policy be approved for insertion in both the Planning Core Strategy and Climate Change Strategy whereby:
*“for any new developments that the Council undertakes, for example, building a new public leisure centre, consideration of whole life costs of the building are considered and, as part of this, all new public buildings will aim to exceed the nationally set BREEAM standard”.***

3. BACKGROUND

Because the issues of Climate Change are not geographically specific, a joint strategy for reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change is proposed.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 This strategy sets out the policy framework in which BDC/RBC can meet their corporate objective of tackling climate change,
- 4.2. The strategy also sets out the strategic direction required to meet targets on reducing carbon emissions internally, across the wider community, and how we can adapt to severe weather events and future climatic change.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There is currently no specific budget for climate change activity. This strategy does not ask for additional funding. However, it does require acceptance of potential spend to save activity. Should funding be required, separate capital bids would be submitted. In addition, external funding will be sought wherever possible.
- 5.2. Since the Overview Board, at Bromsgrove an interest free loan of £37,525 has been secured for energy efficiency projects, mainly at Bromsgrove Operational Depot (agreed as Urgent Business). This report asks that once the investment has paid back the loan, that the ongoing savings are reinvested to achieve further savings/undertake other climate change activity, ideally 100% of the saving.
- 5.3. At Redditch, a similar request is made for the recent Salix funding of £13,840, and also that a proportion of the ongoing savings from the original £189,000 funding (once the loan is paid back) are reinvested to achieve further savings/undertake other climate change activity.
- 5.4. This would only apply to this particular Salix funding stream, not to all climate change related efficiency savings. Should this be agreed, this commitment will be added to the final climate change strategy.
- 5.5. Because the Salix savings will not become apparent for a few years, budget bids for climate change activity will be submitted as required.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Climate Change Act 2008 places the Secretary of State under a duty to ensure that the net UK carbon account for the year 2050 is at least 80% lower than the 1990 baseline. There is a possibility that the Government will place statutory targets for carbon reduction onto Local Authorities.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This strategy will set out the strategic framework in which the Councils will tackle one of its corporate priorities of climate change.
- 7.2. Following RBC Overview and Scrutiny Committee, despite having no objection to the anaerobic digestion in principle, Officers have established that it is not possible to include a recommendation specifically on the inclusion of anaerobic digesters in new developments, as it may not be viable in all schemes. In addition, there would be a requirement for a financial viability appraisal of the costs. Planners have also advised that it is not appropriate for the Core Strategy to specify any particular waste management method.
- 7.3. As per recommendation 5; Officers recommend that a policy is approved for insertion in both the Planning Core Strategy and Climate Change Strategy whereby:

“for any new developments that the Council undertakes, for example, building a new public leisure centre, that consideration of whole life costs of the building are considered and as part of this, all new public buildings will exceed the nationally set BREEAM standard”.

8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

As above, Climate Change is a corporate priority in both Authorities.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

There is a risk that without a strategy the Council will not hit its National Indicator nor Local Area Agreement targets.

10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

None.

11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

The strategy has implications for reducing fuel poverty and health inequality.

12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

A large section of this strategy describes how we need to manage our assets in a more efficient way, saving both money and carbon emissions.

13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY

This strategy has significant implications to improve the Council's performance in these areas, especially in terms of reducing carbon emissions.

14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

One of the strategies actions is to review the mileage reimbursement rate as part of the Harmonisation of Terms and Conditions, with a view to reducing overall business mileage.

15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

An annual report will be provided to Cabinet at Bromsgrove and Executive at Redditch detailing progress on the Salix funded projects and proposals for reinvestment of savings once the loans are paid back.

16. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998

None.

17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

17.1 The strategy takes into account its contribution to reducing health inequality.

17.2. In relation to the BDC Overview Board recommendations v) and vi) Officers suggest that any public communication about "switching off" is kept low key and is specifically related to lights and appliances, to avoid confusion and vulnerable residents possibly switching off electric heaters/heating systems which they genuinely need in order to remain healthy – this is especially important during winter months. We can revise this once we know more about the issue through working with the Primary Care Trust.

18. LESSONS LEARNT

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

1st December 2010

None.

19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

A consultation on this report has been carried out with key stakeholders such as the Worcestershire Partnership Climate Change Task Group, Transition Bromsgrove, and members of the public who expressed an interest in being consulted.

20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Chief Executive	Yes
Executive Director (S151 Officer)	Yes
Executive Director – Leisure, Cultural, Environmental and Community Services	Yes
Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	Yes
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	Yes
Head of Service	All
Corporate Procurement Team	No

21. WARDS AFFECTED

All Wards.

22. APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 - Draft Climate Change Strategy [page xx]
- Appendix 2 - Extract of minutes from the BDC Overview Board - 31.8.10 [page xx]
- Appendix 3 - RBC Overview and Scrutiny Committee Referral [page xx]

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

1st December 2010

23. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Climate Change Draft Strategy (Appendix 1).

24. KEY

BREEAM = Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Ceridwen John, Climate Change Manager
E Mail: c.john@bromsgrove.gov.uk
Tel: (01527) 64252 x3700