

CITY COUNCIL - 9 OCTOBER 2006

REPORT OF DEPUTY LEADER

CLIMATE CHANGE

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out the City Council's broad policies and proposals for mitigating climate change and for adapting to the consequences of climate change.
- 1.2 Appendix A, A Climate Protection Strategy for Nottingham has been circulated separately to Members, and Appendix E will be a summary of the input made by expert speakers, local groups and individuals on the issue of climate change made on the morning of 9 October 2006. A copy of this appendix will be circulated to Members prior to the Council meeting.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

IT IS RECOMMENDED:-

- (1) that this Council welcomes the renewed focus on climate change seen in recent months and agrees to renew its commitment to mitigating, and adapting to, climate change;
- (2) that this Council:-
 - (i) notes, and is proud of, its role in developing environmental policies such as the adoption of the Green Charter in 1990 and most significantly, its initiative in launching British Local Government's commitment on climate change, the "Nottingham Declaration";
 - (ii) agrees the Climate Protection Strategy for Nottingham 2006, presented at Appendix A, as a basis for both renewed action and for further public consultation to reach a revised agreement on how to achieve specific targets for the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions in the city with representatives of business, public agencies and voluntary groups in 2007;

(iii) believes most progress will be made by placing new proposals within the Council's policy framework, and notes the presentation of:-

- the recommendations drawn out from the Climate Protection Strategy for Nottingham 2006; and
- the “dramatic actions” agreed by the Deputy Leader in the response to the Regeneration, Infrastructure and Sustainability Standing Panel;

as detailed in Appendix B to this report against the 5 Corporate Plan themes; and further resolves:-

- (a) to work with business to boost their competitive advantage through environmental initiatives; and to support the work of Science City in developing enviro-technologies for future jobs, products and services (Choose Nottingham);
 - (b) to launch an expanded pledge campaign later this year (Respect for Nottingham);
 - (c) to set more demanding planning targets in the next local development framework (Transforming Nottingham Neighbourhoods);
 - (d) to highlight the public health issue of heatwave (Supporting Nottingham People);
 - (e) to adopt the Eco-Management Audit Scheme as its environmental audit system (Serving Nottingham Better);
- (iv) welcomes the scrutiny of climate change by the Regeneration, Infrastructure and Sustainability Standing Panel and endorses the Deputy Leader's response to the recommendations as detailed in Appendix C to this report;
- (v) notes the findings from recent events reported in Appendix D;
- (vi) welcomes the input to this meeting by expert speakers, local groups and individuals on the issue of climate change and notes the views reported in Appendix E;

(vii) notes that the Regeneration, Infrastructure and Sustainability Standing Panel will be undertaking a further review of all the ideas from the various events as part of their review of progress.

(3) that this Council welcomes the resolution of the British Government to –

- (i) reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60% by 2050;
- (ii) make sure every new home is at least 40% more energy efficient;
- (iii) create at least 100,000 new jobs for British people from energy saving, innovation and green technologies;
- (iv) call on the World Bank and international governments to create, for alternative energy for poorer countries, a \$20 billion global fund.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Scientists around the world concur that human induced climate change from the burning of fossil fuels poses one of the most serious threats to our long term survival.
- 3.2 Adapting to climate change will be hugely expensive for both the public and commerce.
- 3.3 The most significant greenhouse gas carbon dioxide, CO₂, has reached levels of 380 parts per million this year, the highest known for the last 600,000 years.
- 3.4 In recent months, national politicians have given the issue a new prominence.
- 3.5 The City Council has been active on a range of initiatives, over the years and, in particular, in recent weeks.
- 3.6 This Council meeting has been organised to focus entirely on this issue and a range of supporting information has been made available to facilitate consideration of the next steps to take. Some of the information will be findings from the special conference being held immediately before full Council, to hear guest speakers, representatives from local groups and concerned individuals.

- 3.7 The Council's Corporate Plan aims to make Nottingham more sustainable and most progress will be made by working within this framework, with scope for the development of new ideas within each of the Corporate Plan themes as referenced in paragraphs 3.8 to 3.12 below.
- 3.8 On Choose Nottingham, the city has benefited from environmentally attractive initiatives such as the tram, which has boosted the Council's profile as a result. There are opportunities to work with business and universities to boost competitive advantage through environmental technologies and initiatives. The Science City initiative includes developing enviro-technologies for future jobs, products and services as one of its priorities.
- 3.9 On Respect, the Council has launched a "Respect for the Climate" web site, where members of the public can make (and have made) simple pledges to act and seek further information. This campaign is to be expanded in the winter when the "Climate Heroes" initiative begins.
- 3.10 On Transforming Nottingham's Neighbourhoods, there are clear opportunities to set more demanding planning targets within the next planning framework which is to be adopted within the next 2 years.
- 3.11 On Nottingham People, the Council should consider the new concerns for public health posed by Heatwave, highlighted by the serious loss of life in August 2003.
- 3.12 On Serving Nottingham People, the Council is planning to adopt a new environmental audit system.
- 3.13 Many of the new ideas have come from explicit efforts to learn from best practice elsewhere, such as the Sustainability Study tour in the Midlands and in the South-East.
- 3.14 The Regeneration, Infrastructure and Sustainability Standing Panel will be reviewing the progress of the recommendations accepted by the Portfolio Holder in the future and the Panel will conduct a further review of all the ideas from the various events as part of their review of progress.

4 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

None.

5 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

- Climate Change Scrutiny Review, December 2005, Regeneration and Renewal Standing Panel.
- Response to Climate Change Scrutiny Review - Report of the Portfolio Holder for Resource Planning, Performance Management and Sustainable Development dated 11th July 2006.
- CO2 emissions (experimental local and regional dataset) for 2003, published in October 2005 by DTI/DFERA.
- UK Climate Change Programme, April 2006, DEFRA.
- Greater Nottingham Local Transport Plan 2006 - 11, Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council.
- Local Plan, Nottingham City Council.
- (Annual) Housing Strategy, Nottingham City Council.
- UK Climate Impacts Programme website.
- East Midlands Climate Impact Study, 2000, East Midlands Sustainable Development Round Table.
- Nottinghamshire Climate Impacts Study, Dr Brian Waters, October 2004.
- Met Office Hadley Centre website.

- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change website.
- Department of Health website.
- 40% House, University of Oxford, 2005
- Nottingham City Council – Corporate Plan 2006-2011
- One Nottingham – One Plan : Nottingham’s Community and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy

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