

CITY COUNCIL – 8 DECEMBER 2008

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

COVENANT OF MAYORS

1 SUMMARY

This report provides information on the European Commission Covenant of Mayors.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

IT IS RECOMMENDED that the City Council supports the signing of the Covenant of Mayors.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Covenant of Mayors is a formal statement of intent by European Commission Cities to go beyond the objectives of the EU commitment of a 20% reduction in CO₂ through energy demand and renewable energy actions.

3.2 By signing the Covenant we endorse:

- The European Commission's commitment to implement and fund a structure of support which includes, technical, promotional, evaluation, monitoring and best practice;
- The European Commission's commitment to facilitate information exchange and best practice;
- The European Commission's promotion and publicity of participating Cities.

3.3 By signing the Covenant this will directly support our commitment to National Indicator (NI) 186 adopted through the Local Area Agreement, per Capita CO₂ Emissions in the Local Authority area, where we have a target of 12.6% reduction by 2010-11.

3.4 Interested local authorities have until the 15 January 2009 to sign the Covenant, with the formal signature ceremony taking place during February 2009 to coincide with the EU Sustainable Energy Week.

3.5 The Sustainable Energy Action Plan will help frame out long term delivery after our initial reduction commitment by 2010-11, and build on a number of projects already underway, that now need to be set in the context of NI 186, these include:

- Nottingham Carbon Club – this will provide a focus on how Nottingham’s major employers can contribute towards to reducing CO₂;
- Anaerobic Digestion as a source of fuel and power;
- refresh of climate change strategy;
- Carbon Management Plan (NI 185 CO₂ reduction from Local Authority operations);
- Meadows Neighbourhood Plan – Meadows Partnership trust in process of creating an ESCO to move forward with the Wind turbine proposals of the Ozone bid;
- transport related activities to reduce carbon emissions;
- existing and new plans to reduce domestic emissions.

4 PROPOSALS

4.1 The statement of intent commits Cities to signing the Covenant before the 15th January 2009, and to:

- prepare baseline of emissions;
- submit a Sustainable Energy Action Plan within a year of formally signing;
- involve residents and stakeholders in developing an action plan;
- submit an periodic report on progress of the action plan for evaluation, monitoring and verification;
- share experiences and best practice with other European Cities;
- organise Energy Days in co-operation with the European Commission and stakeholders, to promote to residents opportunities and advantages from intelligent and sustainable use of energy;

- to regularly inform local media on the progress and development of the action plan;
- influence other Cities to sign the commitment;
- attend the annual EU Conference of Mayors.

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

None.

6 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

None.

**COUNCILLOR BULL
PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE
CHANGE**