



**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**  
**Fire & Rescue Service**  
*Creating Safer Communities*

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham  
Fire and Rescue Authority

# NOTTINGHAM DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

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**Agenda Item No:**

**Date:** 22 February 2008

**Purpose of Report:**

To propose that the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority signs up to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change.

## CONTACT OFFICER

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## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 In 2001, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said that it was "likely" that human activities lay behind the trends observed at various parts of the planet.
- 1.2 The IPCC's most recent report (November 2007) was produced by a team tasked with assessing the science of climate change, and is intended to be the definitive summary of climatic shifts facing the world in the coming years. The Panel concluded that it was at least 90% certain that human emissions of greenhouse gases rather than natural variations are warming the planet's surface. It considers that changes in global warming are down to human activities and judges that human activities are responsible for about 13 times as much of the warming we see as changes in the Sun's output.

## **2. REPORT**

### **The Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change**

- 2.1 The Nottingham Declaration is a voluntary pledge to address the issues of climate change. It represents a high-level, broad statement of commitment that any Authority can make to its own community. The Declaration was originally launched in October 2000 at a conference in Nottingham attended by Leaders, Chief Executives and senior managers of UK local government. On its fifth anniversary at the Second National Councils Climate Conference (2005), the declaration was amended to better reflect thinking at that time. The process of revising and re-launching the declaration was undertaken by a steering group that included all the main national agencies concerned with the different aspects of climate change along with IDeA, LGA, Nottingham City Council and ICLEI, the worldwide association of local governments concerned with sustainability. The next conference will be in 2010.
- 2.2 The Declaration is voluntary and can be amended by the signing Authority. It is a public declaration, attached as an Appendix and there is direct relevance to the objectives, strategies and purposes of the Fire Authority.
- 2.3 Members may be aware that sustainability is one of the themes in the developing Local Area Agreements for the County and the City. It is believed that Nottinghamshire would be the first English Fire and Rescue Authority to sign the declaration.

### **Why sign the Nottingham Declaration?**

- 2.4 Signing the declaration will have two main purposes for the Authority:
  - i) To add our support to climate change initiatives, alongside the County Council, Nottingham City Council, all of the District Councils of Nottinghamshire and over 200 other Local Authority signatories

ii) As a driver for business improvement

2.5 Our public support for the Declaration (Nottingham City Council, the County Council and all of our District Councils are signatories) would be an important, if small, additional public voice on the issue of Global Warming. However, in addition to the wider moral and ethical reasons, there are a number of practical reasons directly related to the purposes and needs of the Fire Authority. For example;

i) Climate Change itself; the associated variability and extremes that have been witnessed by the Service in the last 12 months have a direct impact on the Service through;

a) an increase in hot dry weather (increase in number and severity of grass and woodland fires, bonfires, barbecues, increased alcohol consumption),

b) cold wet weather (ice, snow and poor driving conditions)

c) rainfall (the resultant floods in Nottinghamshire and elsewhere in the Country where we have detached our expertise and crews)

ii) The Carbon Footprint of the Service (an Audit of our Environmental Impact has been commissioned and a report should be completed for the Fire Authority for 1 April 2008) and how, by our behaviour and purchasing decisions, we can reduce the impact of the Service on the Environment. This can range from simple issues and actions such as reducing the amount of Gas, Electricity and Paper used, to more complex purchasing and resource usage decisions. Some of these may result in an immediate reduced cost to the Authority whilst others will give rise to a more complex business case and decision making.

iii) Climate Change awareness and the action packs associated with the Nottingham Declaration provide an additional framework and impetus to support our internal Business Improvement agenda, and to engage our Service agenda with partners in the LAA's and elsewhere.

2.6 Openly signing the Declaration and embracing the climate change agenda will not be a distraction for the Service but will be used, on a business case basis, to pursue our core agenda, whilst acknowledging this wider framework and circumstance also in supporting our partners who have greater powers and resources to change public and business behaviours.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications arising from this report. However, the climate change agenda will provide an additional framework to pursue our drive for greater effective and efficient use of our resources.

#### **4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no human resources or learning and development implications arising from this report.

#### **5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

An initial equality impact assessment is attached at Appendix B.

#### **6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

#### **7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no risk management implications arising from this report.

#### **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 That the Chair and the Chief Fire Officer sign the Nottingham Declaration on behalf of the Fire and Rescue Authority and the Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service.
- 8.2 That the result of the audit on the environmental impact of the Service be brought before the Authority when complete.
- 8.3 That the Authority receives an annual report on the impact of work linked to the climate change agenda, to include our environmental impact and internal Service impact.

#### **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)**

None.

Frank Swann  
**CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**

# The Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change

## We acknowledge that

- Evidence shows that climate change is occurring.
- Climate change will continue to have far reaching effects on the UK's people and places, economy, society and environment.

## We welcome the

- Social, economic and environmental benefits which come from combating climate change.
- Emissions targets agreed by central government and the programme for delivering change, as set out in the UK Climate Change Programme.
- Opportunity for local government to lead the response at a local level, encouraging and helping local residents, local businesses and other organisations - to reduce their energy costs, to reduce congestion, to adapt to the impacts of climate change, to improve the local environment and to deal with fuel poverty in our communities.
- Endorsement of this declaration by central government.

## We commit our Council from this date \_\_\_\_\_ to

- Work with central government to contribute, at a local level, to the delivery of the UK Climate Change Programme, the Kyoto Protocol and the target for carbon dioxide reduction by 2010.
- Participate in local and regional networks for support.
- Within the next two years develop plans with our partners and local communities to progressively address the causes and the impacts of climate change, according to our local priorities, securing maximum benefit for our communities.
- Publicly declare, within appropriate plans and strategies, the commitment to achieve a significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from our own authority's operations, especially energy sourcing and use, travel and transport, waste production and disposal and the purchasing of goods and services.
- Assess the risk associated with climate change and the implications for our services and our communities of climate change impacts and adapt accordingly.
- Encourage all sectors in our local community to take the opportunity to adapt to the impacts of climate change, to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions and to make public their commitment to action.
- Monitor the progress of our plans against the actions needed and publish the result.

\_\_\_\_\_ Council  
acknowledges the increasing impact that climate change will have on our community during the 21st century and commits to tackling the causes and effects of a changing climate on our city/county/borough/district.

			
Leader of the Council	Chief Executive	Ian Pearson, Minister of State for Climate Change and the Environment, DEFRA	Baroness Andrews OBE - Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, DCLG

## INITIAL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

<i>Section</i>	<i>Manager</i>	<i>Date of Assessment</i>	<i>New or Existing</i>
Corporate Services	J Lodge	8/2/2008	New
Name of Report to be assessed		Nottingham Declaration	
1. Briefly describe the aims, objectives and purpose of the report.		To sign up to the Nottingham Declaration on climate change	
2. Who is intended to benefit from this report and what are the outcomes?		Community at large as the outcomes will result in a commitment to reducing environmental impacts	
3. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the report?		Everyone	
4. Who implements and who is responsible for the report?		Corporate Services (Risk Management)	

5. Please identify the differential impact in the terms of the six strands below. Please tick yes if you have identified any differential impacts. Please state evidence of negative or positive impacts below.

<i>STRAND</i>	Y	N	<i>NEGATIVE IMPACT</i>	<i>POSITIVE IMPACT</i>				
Race		N						
Gender		N						
Disability		N						
Religion or Belief		N						
Sexuality		N						
Age		N						
6. Can this adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group?			Y	N	7. Should the policy/service proceed to a full impact assessment?		Y	N
								N

**I am satisfied that this policy has been successfully impact assessed. I understand the impact assessment of this policy is a statutory obligation and that, as owners of this policy, we take responsibility for the completion and quality of this process.**

Signed (completing person).....Neil TImms.....

Date 8/2/2008.....