

CABINET MEETING – 5 NOVEMBER 2008

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN FOR SUNDERLAND AND ASSOCIATED STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PLAN PROJECTS

Author(s):

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

Purpose of Report:

This report seeks:

- approval to adopt a city-wide Climate Change Action Plan for Sunderland, which sets out a framework for reducing the city's greenhouse gas emissions between 2008 and 2022;
- endorsement of the Council's adoption of the EUROCITIES Declaration on Climate Change;
- seeks approval to release funding from the Strategic Investment Plan, to support specific projects engaging the public, commercial and voluntary sectors in climate change work.

Description of Decision: Cabinet is recommended to:

- adopt the Climate Change Action Plan,
- endorse the Council's adoption of the EUROCITIES Declaration on Climate Change
- release £20,000 of Strategic Investment Plan funding, to support projects within the Sustainable City programme.

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework?

Yes

If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework**Suggested reason(s) for Decision:**

A Climate Change Action Plan is required to implement further the commitment the City made in 2001, by signing the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change, and the proposed commitment to the EUROCITIES Declaration on Climate Change.

A Climate Change Action Plan also demonstrates how the Council will work towards NI 186, as adopted within the Tyne and Wear City Region Multi Area Agreement.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

The Council decides not to adopt the Action Plan. In doing so, the City would fail to uphold its commitment to the Nottingham Declaration, and would not be able to set targets for meeting NI 186, for central government or the Multi Area Agreement.

Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution?

Yes

Relevant Review Committee:

Environment and Planning Review Committee

Is it included in the Forward Plan?

Yes

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN FOR SUNDERLAND AND ASSOCIATED STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PLAN PROJECTS

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

1 Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report seeks:

- approval to adopt a city-wide Climate Change Action Plan for Sunderland, which sets out a framework for reducing the city's greenhouse gas emissions between 2008 to 2022;
- endorsement of the Council's adoption of the EUROCITIES Declaration on Climate Change.
- approval for the release of funding from the Strategic Investment Plan, to support specific projects engaging the public, commercial and voluntary sectors in climate change work.

2 Description of Decision

2.1 Cabinet is recommended to

- i) adopt the Climate Change Action Plan,
- ii) endorse the Council's adoption of the EUROCITIES Declaration on Climate Change
- iii) release £20,000 of Strategic Investment Plan funding, to support projects within the Sustainable City programme.

3 Background

- 3.1 The Council's aim is for Sunderland to become a clean, green city with a strong culture of sustainability, which is one of the five main aims within the Sunderland Strategy. Within this aim, the partners to the strategy have a specific commitment to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions.
- 3.2 This commitment can be evidenced further by the Council and Sunderland Partnership becoming joint signatories to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change in 2001.
- 3.3 Cabinet approved a consultation paper for a Climate Change Action Plan in July 2007, with consultation running from July to September 2007, in conjunction with an awareness campaign funded by the Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

3.4 Progress on climate change initiatives has continued at national and regional level:

- The Government's Climate Change Bill will be enacted by Autumn 2008, setting legal targets for the reduction of the UK's carbon dioxide emissions.
- Through the new National Indicator (NI) Set, Local Authorities will, for the first, time be required to report carbon dioxide emissions per capita, through NI 186.
- The Tyne and Wear City Region Multi Area Agreement includes targets to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, measured through NI186.

4 Progress since July 2007

Consultation on the Climate Change Action Plan

- 4.1 The consultation received 44 responses, comprising both written responses and responses arising from residents participating in 3 area focus groups (organised through the Council's citizens panel Community Spirit).
- 4.2 100% support for the 8 key options was received, with a preference for energy efficiency measures first (home insulation, domestic boiler improvement, reducing business energy consumption).
- 4.3 Regarding renewable energy, preferences were for wind energy, either located offshore or on brownfield sites, but not rural sites. Support existed for Energy-from-Waste facilities as long as plants were clean, and provided local benefit. (34 out of the 37 responses supported an option on Energy from Waste).

Climate Change Campaign, "Bringing Emissions Home to Sunderland"

- 4.4 A diverse campaign was delivered with a central "balloon" motif, to make carbon emissions visible to residents. The campaign included 6 weeks of street advertising, 5,000 information packs, 5,000 balloon packs, a photo competition, a website, and community TV advertisement, which was also shown in cinemas.
- 4.5 Circulation estimates of the advertising materials used suggest that the campaign reached 150,000 of the 281,000 residents in Sunderland. A survey of 400 residents confirms this by showing 66% of respondents had seen the campaign.
- 4.6 Pre- and post-campaign surveys show that the number of residents believing climate change is caused by human behaviour increased by 22%. Understanding of the exact causes of climate change, and people's belief that their efforts can help climate change, also increased by 5% each.
- 4.7 One 15 year old entrant to the photo competition, Jack White from Newbottle, was inspired to apply to be DEFRA's North East Climate Change Champion. Jack won and was named North East Climate champion on 20th February when he met the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street. Jack's duties since have

included visiting the British Embassy in Romania, and introducing a climate change theme into Sunderland Live, the music event at Cliffe Park, Roker, on August Bank Holiday.

- 4.8 The campaign successes have been included in a submission to the Local Government Chronicle Sustainable Communities Award, for Tackling Climate Change, submitted on 17th October 2008.

5 Summary of the Climate Change Action Plan

- 5.1 The Climate Change Action Plan is the first step towards a long term target of reducing Sunderland's greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050. The Action Plan adopts targets to reduce the following two key greenhouse gases:

- Reducing carbon dioxide emissions from housing, public and commercial organisations and transport, by at least 26% between 1990 and 2022.
- Reducing methane emissions from the disposal of domestic waste, by at least 75% between 2001 and 2022.

- 5.2 To show how Sunderland can work towards meeting these targets, the Action Plan reports past trends in these greenhouse gas emissions, future trends under "business as usual" scenario, plus the impact of actions to reduce emissions. The key points are as follows:

- Currently Sunderland produces about 2,120,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year: 31% from housing, 40% from public and commercial organisations, 20% from road transport, and 9% from waste.
- Carbon emissions between 2001 and 2006 have risen and fallen during that time, but overall remain at 2001 levels. Methane emissions from landfilling of domestic waste have dropped by 17%, due to increased recycling.
- Under a "business as usual" scenario, with no action plan, Sunderland's carbon emissions could increase by a further 9% between 2007 and 2022, from building more houses, creating new employment sites and increasing traffic levels.
- By 2022, actions reported here could reduce carbon emissions by:
 - 11.5% below 1990 levels, if all existing targets of city partners are achieved.
 - 19.7% below 1990 levels, if new, ambitious initiatives are developed by city partners.

- City targets on waste and recycling should reduce methane emissions by 90% by 2022.
- Future revisions to the Action Plan in 2013 and 2018 must develop further projects to cut carbon emissions by another 7% at least if Sunderland is to meet its commitment of a 26% reduction by 2022.

5.3 Significant reductions in carbon emissions could be achieved from the following actions:

Housing sector

- A citywide home insulation programme, to improve insulation in over 50,000 homes in 15 years.
- Householders replacing domestic boilers with efficient condensing boilers.
- Other carbon reductions will come from energy efficiency improvements in Gentoo's housing stock, and the impact of Building Regulations and Planning Policies that require new homes to be built to the "Code for Sustainable Homes" standards.

Public and Commercial sector

- Encouraging all organisations to reduce carbon emissions by 20% in 15 years.
- Other carbon reductions will come from wind turbine developments at Nissan, local heat and power networks within large, mixed use regeneration schemes (for example, Sunderland ARC sites, Cherry Knowles Hospital site and housing development).

Transport sector

- Private car owners gradually replacing vehicles with more efficient models, as manufacturers improve the fuel efficiency of new vehicles.
- Introducing up to 10% biofuels in all road transport.
- Other carbon reductions will come from the development of workplace travel plans, and campaigns to promote sustainable transport across Tyne and Wear through the "Smarter Choices" project, but these cannot be quantified yet.

Waste sector

- Landfill gas capture equipment installed at Houghton Quarry in 2006 means that 75% of all future landfill emissions will be collected and combusted to generate electricity, greatly reducing the methane emissions arising from domestic waste disposal (25% of methane emissions escape prior to the landfill site being capped).

- Increasing recycling rates to 45% by 2014/15 and 50% by 2020.
- Creating new strategic waste treatment facilities by 2015, to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill further.
- The Action Plan no longer refers to the option of developing an Energy from Waste plant in Sunderland, or assumes any greenhouse gas savings from this. Were one to be developed, it could reduce emissions by 77,000 tonnes, or 3% of the city's total emissions. Once strategic waste treatment facilities are confirmed, their contribution will be included in future revisions to the Action Plan.

5.4 The actions referred to continue to require support and intervention to succeed. Some already have commitment and funding, but others represent ambitious opportunities that could be established and developed.

5.5 This Action Plan will be reviewed and refreshed every 5 years (e.g. in 2013 and 2018), to provide detailed action plan for the subsequent 5 year period, and indicative actions for the following 10 years. In this way, a 15 year rolling action plan will always exist. In addition, annual progress reports will be produced to update actions, and carbon emission monitoring.

6 EUROCITIES Declaration on Climate Change.

6.1 Sunderland joined EUROCITIES, the network of major European cities, in November 2007 as a means to continue to build on its engagement in European matters. EUROCITIES provides a strong platform through which to influence EU policy and legislation, exchange knowledge and experience, and develop best practice through dialogue with European Union institutions and fellow cities within the network. In areas where Sunderland has particular strengths, it also provides opportunities to raise the city's profile.

6.2 The EUROCITIES Declaration on Climate Change reiterates that the local level has an essential role to play in the fight against climate change and therefore cities are crucial partners, in co-ordination with the European Union institutions and the Member States.

6.3 To support the City's international aspiration, the Council has adopted and signed the EUROCITIES Declaration on Climate Change, which allows Sunderland's efforts and commitment on tackling Climate Change to be recognised and acknowledged at an international level.

6.4 The EUROCITIES Declaration on Climate Change is not a prescriptive agenda, but offers guidelines that can be used to implement policies at a local authority level to reach the targeted reductions in greenhouse gases.

6.5 Through the Climate Change Action Plan and other strategies of the Council and City partners, Sunderland can demonstrate that it currently meets 80% of the commitments within the EUROCITIES Declaration of Climate Change, and is committed to addressing the remainder.

7 Strategic Investment Plan projects

7.1 In March 2008, £20,000 from the Strategic Investment Plan was allocated towards a £40,000 project within the Sustainable City programme, to support the Climate Change Action Plan, by:

- encouraging medium to large businesses to commit to reducing energy use and carbon emissions;
- supporting job creation in environmental businesses, that can tackle both worklessness and climate change together.

7.2 Two projects are proposed to meet these aims:

Carbon Commitment Campaign.

7.3 Aim: to recognise those organisations that have already saved more than 10% of their carbon emissions – or are committed to saving 10% in the next 5 years.

7.4 Target: to receive carbon commitments covering over 50% of employers (by employee number) by the end of the year long campaign.

7.5 The campaign is proposed to be launched in January 2009, with a first event in March 2009, followed by a year long campaign of advertising and press articles that showcase the activities of carbon champions, and encourage other businesses to register their carbon commitments with the Council, to be shown on a campaign totaliser.

7.6 Funding would be sourced at £1,000 from each of 10 carbon champion organisations, with the remaining £10,000 from the Strategic Investment Plan. The campaign will be championed by the Sunderland Partnership, and managed and delivered by the Development and Regeneration Directorate.

7.7 Organisations currently committed to being carbon champions include: Sunderland City Council, City Hospital Sunderland NHS Trust, Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Trust, Sunderland Teaching and Primary Care Trust, City of Sunderland College, University of Sunderland, Gentoo. At present, other organisations that have expressed an interest, but are waiting management approval include Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service, Nissan Motors UK Ltd, and Sunderland AFC,

Small Environmental Business Project

7.8 Aim: to stimulate employment through environmental business creation.

7.9 Target: to support 12 green businesses start-ups, and at least 1 bespoke social enterprise.

7.10 Activities to be delivered include:

- Top-up grants (£750 each) to 12 green business start ups, and environmental grants (£200 each) to 28 existing businesses, to help businesses reduce their own environmental impact;
- Developing an outline business case for at least 1 possible community enterprise to meet this need, for example, a computer recycling service, or a one-stop recycling service.

7.11 The necessary funding is estimated at £20,000, with £10,000 to be requested from the Working Neighbourhood Fund, and £10,000 from the Strategic Investment Plan. The project will be managed by Sunderland North Community Business Centre, with support from the Development and Regeneration Directorate, as an extension to the existing business start-up scheme currently running on behalf of the Council.

8 Project Management

8.1 The ongoing management and reporting on the Climate Change Action Plan will remain the responsibility of the Sustainability Team in the Development and Regeneration Directorate, which will produce annual progress reports, and revise the Action Plan every 5 years.

8.2 Progress will be reported to Cabinet and the Sunderland Partnership annually, for monitoring against the Sunderland Strategy's carbon reduction targets, and central government targets for NI 186.

8.3 Management of specific actions within the Action Plan will be the responsibility of relevant Council services or partner organisations, as detailed in the Action Plan

9 Financial implications

9.1 Other than the funding already committed through the Strategic Investment Plan, and match funding detailed above, the Climate Change Action Plan does not in itself require funding. Any funding or resources needed for further initiatives will be considered and brought forward on a case-by-case basis.

10 Legal Implications

10.1 While national carbon emissions targets are to be enacted in statute, through the Climate Change Bill, Sunderland's carbon emission targets, at a local authority level, are not legally binding. However, these targets will contribute to performance indicators linked to carbon emissions (NI185 and NI186), that are to be monitored by central government and taken into account in the forthcoming Comprehensive Area Assessment.

10.2 The EUROCITIES Declaration of Climate Change has no legal status, and by adopting the declaration, the City makes no binding commitment other than to accept the reputational risk if the City could not be seen to uphold the declaration. The Climate Change Action Plan provides evidence that the City will meet the terms of the declaration.

11 Contribution to Corporate Objectives

11.1 The Climate Change Action Plan, and associated actions:

- Support Aim 5 of the Sunderland Strategy “.To ensure that Sunderland becomes a clean, green city with a strong culture of sustainability”, as well as providing the framework to achieve the Sunderland Strategy objective of reducing carbon emissions by 26% by 2025.
- Support Sunderland in progressing towards NI186 targets, both locally and towards the Tyne and Wear City Region Multi Area Agreement targets.
- Support a range of sustainability objectives within the Sunderland Strategy and Local Area Agreement, as evidenced through a Sustainability Appraisal of the action plan.

12 Consultation

12.1 Consultation has been carried out with the following groups:

- Sunderland Partnership Board, and Management Group, as well as thematic partnerships (Attractive and Inclusive, Prosperity and Housing).
- Professional partners, through direct mailing during July to September 2007 and through the Energy Summit in March 2007.
- Residents and other interested parties through letters to community spirit members, holding area focus groups, display stands in community venues and the Council’s website
- All relevant Council Services (Transport and Engineering, Environmental Services, Housing Strategy, Planning and Environment)

13 Next steps

13.1 The following table highlights milestones in the first 5 year reporting period for the Climate Change Action Plan.

Date	Action
5 Nov 2008	Cabinet considers and adopts Climate Change Action Plan
18 Nov 2008	Sunderland Partnership considers and adopts Climate Change Action Plan
Jan 2009	Carbon Commitment Campaign and Small Environmental Business project launched
March 2009	Carbon Commitment event hosted First NI186 submission to central government

Dec 2009	First annual monitoring report on Climate Change Action Plan, reporting figures from 2007 (and every December thereafter)
March 2010	Carbon Commitment awards and celebration event hosted
Jan 2012	Begin drafting first revision to Climate Change Action Plan
Jan 2013	Publish revised Climate Change Action Plan

14 Reason for Decision

- 14.1 A Climate Change Action Plan is required to meet the commitment the City made in 2001, by signing the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change, and the proposed commitment to the EUROCITIES Declaration on Climate Change.
- 14.2 A Climate Change Action Plan also demonstrates how the Council will address NI 186, as adopted within the Tyne and Wear City Region Multi Area Agreement.

15 Alternative Options

- 15.1 The Council decides not to adopt the Action Plan. In doing so, the City would fail to uphold its commitment to the Nottingham Declaration, and would not be able to set targets for meeting NI 186, for central government or the Multi Area Agreement.

16 Background Papers

- 16.1 The following papers are included with this report:
- Climate Change Action Plan for Sunderland (attached)
- 16.2 The following papers were used in developing this report, and can be supplied by the Director of Development and Regeneration.
- Appendix 1. Proposal to adopt the EUROCITIES Declaration on Climate Change
 - Appendix 2. Developing a climate change action plan for Sunderland: Consultation results
 - Appendix 3. Cutting our carbon emissions together (campaign brief)
 - Appendix 4. Proposal for Small Environmental Business Project brief