

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	15 January 2009
Subject:	Draft Climate Change Strategy
Key Decision:	Yes
Responsible Officer:	John Edwards, Divisional Director Environment Services
Portfolio Holder:	Susan Hall, Deputy Leader and Portfolio holder for Environment Services and Community Safety Marilyn Ashton, Portfolio holder for Planning, Development and Enterprise
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Appendix A – Draft Climate Change Strategy

## Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the background to and the reasons why a Climate Change Strategy is required and sets out the proposed methods of public consultation

**Recommendation:**

That officers be authorised to submit the Climate Change Strategy to public consultation.

**Reason:**

The Climate Change Strategy will help enable the council to meet its Carbon Reduction commitment, reduce its energy costs and inform the development of the Local Development Framework (LDF).

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **Introductory paragraph**

1. Climate change is a significant challenge. We need to meet the challenge to ensure that development is sustainable and the well-being of future generations is safeguarded. The environmental, social and economic impacts of climate change are already measurable and these are predicted to continue and to grow in severity.
2. This draft strategy sets out how Harrow as a council and community can take action on climate change. Addressing climate change requires all of us to work together to make changes to the way we live as individuals and communities so that the well-being of future generations is secured.
3. The Nottingham Declaration was signed by the council on 25 July 2007. One of the key commitments is: “Within the next two years to 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.” This draft Strategy is part of this process.
4. The proposed Climate Change Strategy will help the council deliver its corporate priorities: -
  - Cleaner and safer streets
  - Improve support for vulnerable people
  - Build stronger communities
5. As part of its Local Area Agreement (LAA) the council has agreed a target to reduce the per capita carbon footprint by 11.5% by 2011.

### **Options considered**

6. The draft strategy sets out a range of actions which the council is proposing to promote and deliver the necessary change. At present it is not a specific programme and will need to be developed into a series of annual Action Plans to ensure that its objectives are delivered.
7. The Strategy will be subjected to public consultation for a period of eight weeks (From Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009 to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2009.)  
Proposed consultees are:
  - Citizens Panel
  - Greener Harrow
  - Harrow Agenda 21
  - Members
  - Harrow in Business
  - Harrow Council’s business partners (Kier, EnterpriseMouchel etc.)
  - Planning list of residents associations etc.

## **Background**

8. The council is already taking action to address climate change, through a number of activities such as increasing recycling, developing the Local Development Framework, the sustainable schools building programme and transport policy (to encourage walking and cycling). This strategy will result in these policies being better coordinated and lead to a reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. It will also address how we can mitigate and adapt to the changes that are inevitable.
9. Delivering the council's LAA and climate change targets will form an important part of the council's ambition to become one of the top-performing councils in London, and will be monitored by the Audit Commission when it is assessing the performance of the council.

## **Why a change is needed**

10. The new Climate Change Act sets a target to reduce national CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 80% by 2050 – compared to a 1990 baseline. This excludes emissions from international shipping and aviation. All local authorities will be expected to meet targets for their own emissions under the Carbon Reduction Commitment. This commitment will be led by the newly established Department of Climate Change and Energy.
11. The Mayor for London has also issued a Climate Change Strategy to address this issue. The Climate Change Action Plan sets a target for London to limit its total carbon dioxide emissions to 600 million tonnes between now and 2025 – a reduction of 4% per annum. In addition to large scale changes to the way we meet our energy demands, such as using Combined Heat and Power (CHP), it also highlights the significant amount of CO<sub>2</sub> that can be saved by making small changes such as cavity wall and loft insulation and energy audits (by the public sector and businesses).
12. The strategy will also feed in to the council's Local Development Framework.

## **Financial Implications**

13. Delivering the strategy will require investment by the council to reduce its emissions and use of fossil fuels. In total the council spends £6m annually on gas and electricity. The proposed target of a 4% reduction in carbon footprint would produce an annual reduction of £240k in energy costs.
14. The council also spends over £0.5m annually on water. The strategy proposes an annual target of a 2.5% reduction in potable water consumption leading to an annual saving of £12.5k.
15. Both energy costs and water costs are expected to increase faster than general inflation as a result of global demand for fossil fuels, the decarbonising of electricity production and higher environmental standards.
16. Carbon trading will also lead to additional costs for the council. The recent "First Report of the Committee on Climate Change" – published in December 2008 – predicts a long term price of £40 per tonne of carbon.

The council currently produces 26,500 tonnes of carbon from the consumption of gas and electricity so this represents a significant potential cost increase for the future. The cost of carbon on the council's transport operations will also increase costs but the scale of this is not yet known as consumption in this area has not been measured accurately.

17. The impact of increased water and energy costs will be also felt by our residents, businesses and partners. The climate change strategy will address this issue and work to support our residents.
18. There is a need for Capital and Revenue investment to be made which will be self financing and this will be reported in future reports.

## Legal Implications

19. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

## Performance Issues

20. The new National Indicators include a basket of environmental indicators. These are shown below. Those shown below are the ones that the climate change strategy will most closely address:

NI	Description	2008/9 targets
185	CO <sub>2</sub> reduction from local authority operations	2% reduction
186	Per capita CO <sub>2</sub> emissions in the LA area	3.5% reduction
187	Tackling fuel poverty – people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating	The target for this indicator is still being determined by the audit commission
188	Adapting to climate change	The target for this indicator is still being determined by the audit commission
189	Flood and coastal erosion risk management	The target for this indicator is still being determined by the audit commission
191	Residual household waste	260 (kg per head)
192	Household waste recycled and composted	42%
193	Municipal waste land-filled	n/a (WDA indicator)
194	Level of air quality – reduction of NO <sub>x</sub> and PM <sub>10</sub> emissions through local authority's estate and operations	The target for this indicator is still being determined by the audit commission
198	Children travelling to school – mode of transport usually used	37% by car

21. Three of the above indicators are part of Harrow's Local Area Agreement, as follows: -

NI	Description	2010/11 (LAA) Target
186	Per capita CO <sub>2</sub> emissions in the LA area	11.5% reduction
192	Household waste recycled and composted	50%
198	Children travelling to school – mode of transport usually used	35% by car

22. Delivering the council's Local Area Agreement (LAA) and Climate Change targets will form an important part of the council's ambition to become one of the top-performing councils in the country, and will be monitored by the Audit Commission when it is assessing the performance of the council.

23. This proposal will therefore contribute to improving the Councils' Use of Resources Score under CAA - in particular

**KLOE 1.2** The organisation plans its finances effectively to deliver its strategic priorities; and

**KLOE 3.1** The organisation is making effective use of natural resources.

### Risk Management Implications

24. Adoption of a Climate Change strategy will enable the council to demonstrate that it has a future direction for reducing its carbon emissions and adapting to the impact of climate change. This will feed into the evidence base for its Local Development Framework.

### Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Sheela Thakkrar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 22 December 2008		

Name: Stephen Dorrian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 18 December 2008		

### Section 4 – Performance Officer Clearance

Name: Tom Whiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	On Behalf of Divisional Director (Strategy and Improvement)
Date: 22 December 2008		

## **Section 5 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

### **Contact:**

John Edwards, Divisional Director Environment Services, 020 8736 6799

Andrew Baker, Senior Professional – Public Realm Services, 020 8424 1779

Gemma Moore, Senior Climate Change & Environment officer, 020 8730 6014

Background Papers: None