

APPENDIX D

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 5 JANUARY 2010

Title:

SURREY CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

[Portfolio Holder: Cllr John Sandy]

[Wards Affected: all]

Summary and purpose:

Tackling climate change is now very high on national and international agendas. Local authorities have the ability to influence their communities and also have a duty to actively promote the need to take action on Climate Change by reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

Last year it was identified that Waverley is in need of an overarching Strategy that would address Climate Change. In the meantime, the Surrey Climate Change Partnership (SCCP) was formed aiming to enhance capacity within district and borough Councils and share good practice, and a Surrey-wide strategy was proposed.

Utilising funding from the Surrey Improvement Partnership (SIP) a consultancy was employed to produce a document that will give strategic direction on the common Climate Change responsibilities and at the same time give local authorities the opportunity to adapt the strategy according to individual needs and capabilities.

The purpose of this report is to introduce the Surrey Climate Change Strategy and recommend its endorsement in principle. An initial contribution to an action plan is also attached to this report. A complete action plan will follow middle 2010, following consultation with appropriate Waverley officers and the portfolio holder.

How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

A Climate Change Strategy is in line with Waverley's priorities to protect the environment and reduce CO2 emissions. It will also assist with Waverley's performance on the new National Indicators on Climate Change.

Equality and Diversity Implications:

The less advantageous members of the community such as people in fuel poverty could benefit from a well-developed Climate Change Strategy.

Resource/Value for Money implications:

Staff time will be required to plan and deliver the strategy. The Sustainability Team will lead the project but Officer time from various relevant departments within Waverley will be required.

In order to achieve financial savings some investment will be needed to save money in the longer term.

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications identified.

1. Introduction

1.1 Tackling climate change is now very high on national and international agendas. In September last year scientists announced a 4°C temperature increase sooner than originally expected. Local authorities have the ability to influence their communities and also have a duty to actively promote the need to take action on Climate Change by reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

1.2 Last year it was identified that Waverley was in need of an overarching Strategy that would address Climate Change. In the meantime, the Surrey Climate Change Partnership (SCCP) was formed, aiming to enhance capacity within district and borough councils and share good practice, and a Surrey-wide strategy was proposed. Jacobs consultancy was commissioned to produce a Surrey Climate Change Strategy (**Annexe 1**) and it was funded by the Surrey Improvement Partnership.

2. Background

Surrey Climate Change Partnership (SCCP)

2.1 The SCCP is an officer group attended by representatives of all eleven districts and borough councils and the County Council. The Partnership was established to facilitate and develop joint working on climate change issues as well as develop best practice, which can be shared throughout the county and region

Surrey Improvement Partnership (SIP)

2.2 The Surrey Improvement Partnership (SIP) is part of Improvement and Efficiency South East (IESE). The partnership is designed to bring together all of the local authorities in Surrey to deliver improvements and efficiencies in local government services throughout the County.

3. Surrey Climate Change Strategy and its purpose

3.1 The Government is leading the way on this issue by putting legally binding legislation in place and handing down responsibilities to local authorities to act on a local level. The national indicators that were put in place in 2008 require

us to demonstrate action on mitigation and adaptation. In addition, our commitment on Waverley's corporate plan to reduce our own emissions also needs to be put into practice.

3.2 Waverley already has initiatives to address Climate Change. A Climate Change strategy will underpin all the good work that has been taking place. It will also give us the opportunity to review existing policies such as the Climate Change Action plan (2006), the Energy Use and Transport Action Plans (2008) and replace them with a new, overarching framework.

3.3 A Climate Change Strategy on a County level will encourage the continuation of joint working and will ensure a level of consistency whilst still allowing each district and borough council to reflect its own priorities.

4. What does it mean for Waverley

4.1 The findings of the UK Climate Impacts Programme are predicting hotter and dryer summers, more frequent extreme winter rainfall and storms.

4.2 The economic implications of Climate Change are predicted to be vast if action is not taken sooner rather than later. Prevention is better than cure and it is in our interest to think in advance and plan our actions and adjust our budgets accordingly.

4.3 It is important to stress that the impact of Climate Change is also going to bring opportunities and it is in our interest to identify them and benefit from them.

5. Currently

5.1 Whereas Waverley does have a Climate Change Action Plan, this was produced in 2006 and is in need of a revision. It is lacking specific targets and timescales for any actions and the proposed Climate Change Strategy is aiming to address that.

5.2 An initial contribution to Waverley's action plan is attached to this report (**Annexe 2**) and this will form the basis of the final action plan that will be completed middle 2010 following consultation with relevant Waverley Officers. The final action plan will appear before this committee for consideration.

5.3 Waverley is also working in partnership with the Carbon Trust on the Local Authority Carbon Management programme. The programme aims to help us reduce emissions from our operations. The outcome of this programme will be a structured five-year plan and should embed carbon management into Waverley's operations.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1 Waverley is in need of a corporate, over-arching policy that will give us direction and guidance to prioritise the actions we need to take to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. A Climate Change Strategy will be complemented with an action plan to mitigate as well as adapt to the changing climate. It will enable Waverley to lead the community while simultaneously achieve government and corporate targets and duties.
- 6.2 On a positive note, the Department for Energy and Climate Change have recently produced results “per capita CO2 emissions” for the local authority area (National Indicator NI186) during 2005-2007. The results show that the community within Waverley has achieved a significant 4.9% reduction in emissions during that period. That is the second highest performance within Surrey.
- 6.3 It appears that we are heading in the right direction.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Executive

1. endorse the contents of the Surrey Climate Change Strategy;
2. endorse the Action Plan that will compliment the strategy set out in Annexe 2; and
3. Ask the officers to develop it further and refer back to a future meeting.

Background Papers

Surrey Climate Change Strategy

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