

Subject:	City Climate Change Strategy		
Date of Meeting:	10 November 2011		
Report of:	Strategic Director, Place		
Lead Member:	Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Susie Howells	Tel: 29-3332
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Key Decision:	No		
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 This report invites Cabinet's endorsement for the city Climate Change Strategy, its policy approach and governance arrangements. The work has been led by the City Sustainability Partnership (CSP), on behalf of the Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership, with the council's strong support.
- 1.2 The City Climate Change Strategy replaces the previous Climate Change Action Plan, and will enable the council to focus its work with the CSP within challenging economic times and a period of public sector expenditure constraint. An implementation plan is being finalised in conjunction with the City Sustainability Partnership, and council funding is subject to budget process. This will be reported to Cabinet in the New Year. Implementation will focus effort in advancing measures to reduce the city's carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, managing environmental risks and exploring new business and employment opportunities arising from the need to manage and mitigate the impact of climate change in the city. The strategy incorporates One Planet Living principles.
- 1.3 Brighton & Hove City Council is taking a leadership role in climate change to enable the city to be better prepared for the future, with anticipated energy supply and security risks, projected sharp price rises in energy and fuel costs and the impacts of a changing climate locally.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Cabinet endorses the City Climate Change Strategy set out at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 That Cabinet agrees the proposed citywide governance framework set out in paragraph 3.4;
- 2.3 That Cabinet directs service commissioners and heads of delivery to incorporate the aims of the strategy into service compacts and business plans;

2.4 That Cabinet encourages officers working within the City Sustainability Partnership to bring forward appropriate capital funding proposals for consideration where resources allow.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

3.1 Brighton & Hove's emissions in context and the need for a new strategy

3.1.1 A review of the 2006 Climate Change Action Plan indicated that it had too many actions, was too council focused and would have been more successful with a stronger governance framework.

3.1.2 In 2010 the Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership, published its revised sustainable community strategy "*Creating the City of Opportunities – A sustainable community strategy for the City of Brighton & Hove*" in which it sets out eight priority themes, including "living within environmental limits and enhancing the environment."

3.1.3 The sustainable community strategy contains approximately 68 directly relevant actions and activities, with targets to reduce carbon emissions and the city's ecological footprint.

3.1.4 The council has looked in depth at three relevant areas through its Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- The Environmental Industries Scrutiny Panel made 21 recommendations.
- The Renewable Energy Scrutiny Panel made 13 recommendations.
- The Climate Change Adaptation Scrutiny Panel made 13 recommendations

All of these recommendations were accepted in part or in full by Cabinet. It is intended that the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee are carried forward in the strategy's implementation plan.

3.1.5 In March 2011 a review undertaken on behalf of the City Sustainability Partnership suggested that the city will fall short of meeting the target set in the Sustainable Community Strategy for its ecological footprint. While these are different measures, there is a strong correlation, and carbon represents over half of this breakdown.

3.1.6 In October this year the council adopted a new Corporate Plan, a key strand of which is to advance Brighton & Hove as a sustainable city. The proposed Climate Change Strategy provides a framework for commissioning and implementing Corporate Plan commitments.

3.1.7 Together with its partners, the council is committed through the nationally-recognised Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change to systematically address the causes of climate change, and to prepare the local community for its impacts. This is reflected in the priorities of Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy; and the strategy is informed by this and other national, city and council plans, policies and programmes.

- 3.1.8 Brighton & Hove is in a strong position to enhance its reputation and performance as a more sustainable city by moving towards a low carbon local economy. Recent scrutiny reports suggest that a growing environmental industries sector can support this drive towards resource efficiency and that the city is well placed to develop sustainable energy generation.
- 3.1.9 Brighton & Hove's carbon emissions per head (from energy and fuel use) fell by 15.6% between 2005 and 2009, the latest date for which figures are available. While this was only just short of the 16% target, it was no greater than regional or national reductions and does not take account of the bigger picture of embodied emissions in the goods and services the city buys.
- 3.1.10 The city has lower per head emissions overall than other parts of the UK, possibly due to higher living densities and – in common with other south coast cities – a warmer climate and (usually) milder winters.
- 3.1.11 The proportion of the city's direct emissions from homes is much higher – at 42% - than either the regional (31%) or national (30%) figures. This is likely to be influenced by the greater age and poorer performing nature of much of the private sector housing stock. This presents an opportunity to reduce inequality by tackling fuel poverty through home energy efficiency measures that also create local jobs while cutting carbon emissions.
- 3.1.12 The city has relatively low car ownership, award-winning public transport services, increasing cycling numbers and at an early stage in the development of an electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

3.2 Background

- 3.2.1 This strategy replaces the Climate Change Action Plan, published in 2006. Its revision was required by the City Sustainability Partnership (CSP), and agreed by the Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership and the council's Sustainability Cabinet Committee. The work is being led by the council's Sustainability team, on behalf of the City Sustainability Partnership, using local funding secured through the city's Local Public Service Agreement.
- 3.2.2 The CSP proposed that its scope would extend to cover the wider city - in line with other UK Climate Change Strategies, rather than the council's own operations, and that it would encompass adaptation - helping the city to become more resilient to the impacts of climate change.
- 3.2.3 The CSP has developed a One Planet Framework approach to sustainability which includes an aspiration to work towards a zero carbon city by 2050. Other priority principles (local and sustainable food, sustainable transport, zero waste and local and sustainable materials) are clearly relevant in reducing carbon emissions, and there are reference points across the strategy to ensure links are clearly made.
- 3.2.4 The council has a significant role to play in implementing the strategy in city service provision, statutory responsibilities, contribution to emissions from its own operations, and its sphere of influence and desire to set a positive example. As a

focal point of civic leadership it will be important that the council demonstrates its commitment through example, for example the council's Housing and corporate photovoltaic (PV) programmes.

3.2.5 The Council's Carbon Management Programme currently targets a reduction in CO₂ emissions from its own operations of 4% per year. This five-year programme is led by the council's Carbon Management Board, chaired by the Director of Finance and includes senior officers from transport, property, sustainability, housing and schools; supported by expertise from the council's Energy & Water team. The programme is currently being reviewed with a view to developing a new council Carbon Management Programme for 2012-17, reflecting corporate priorities and legislation.

3.3 Approach

3.3.1 The strategy proposes an outcomes-based planning approach (see Figure 1 at Appendix 2) to diagnose problems and identify business solutions and opportunities for private sector, business and third sector agencies operating in the city. It encourages partnership working and a focus on deliverable solutions to meet policy objectives.

3.3.2 This strategy is broken down into five priority outcomes to provide focus:

- A low carbon economy
- Low carbon homes and buildings
- Low carbon transport
- Renewable and sustainable energy resources; and
- A city adapting well to climate change

3.4 Governance

3.4.1 Strong governance and clear leadership are critical to catalysing action and commitment to the strategy. This includes enhancing the alignment of work undertaken by the Transport Partnership, the Economic Partnership, the Housing Partnership and the Food Partnership.

3.4.2 It is proposed that ownership of the strategy will lie jointly with the Leader of the Council (and Public Service Board Chair), and the Chair of Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership. The CSP will provide oversight and monitoring of the implementation of the strategy. Accountability for the delivery of the implementation plan will be subject to agreement with delivery partners. Where significant council commitments are proposed as part of the implementation plan these will be brought to the relevant Cabinet Member for agreement.

3.5 Implementation

3.5.1 The strategy's implementation will be monitored by the CSP, through the governance framework identified. This strategy is designed to inform both future commissioning for the city, and to help develop synergy across work that is already going on in the city.

- 3.5.2 No new additional resources have been identified at this stage, and this strategy is designed to influence existing and planned work programmes. This will include further assessment of government and European funding opportunities to support the delivery of key pieces of work. Further resource implications will be factored in as this work progresses.
- 3.5.3 Performance indicators are consistent with those defined in the Corporate Plan, and for the council in the Organisational Health Report. Carbon management internally will be managed in the context of the council's environmental management system and Carbon Management Programme. Work on council carbon budgets is progressing.
- 3.5.4 A communications plan will run alongside this, designed to raise levels of awareness, promote understanding and engagement and develop synergy (with common aims, less fragmentation of effort, fewer actions but greater potential for change). It is planned to develop engagement and activity through existing partnerships and groups in the city, and map the need for new groups where required.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Extensive consultation took place in the development on the Sustainable Community Strategy and its sections on climate change, and through the scrutiny process in the three scrutiny panels that inform the Climate Change Strategy.
- 4.2 Further joint work has been undertaken with members of the City Sustainability Partnership (CSP) in the form of a working group to develop the scope and content of this strategy. Progress on the development of the strategy has been reported on a regular basis to the CSP, and recommendations incorporated in subsequent revisions.
- 4.3 Feedback from discussions (November 2010 – June 2011) suggested fewer, clearer actions should be identified to deliver tangible benefits, and that a citywide approach should be adopted.
- 4.4 Successful identification and engagement of partners is an important element of this strategy, which calls for a long-term, co-ordinated approach and the ability to recognise where work programmes can be effectively linked to achieve specific outcomes. Clear leadership and governance will be critical, without losing the ability to act less formally to achieve the same or better results.
- 4.5 The approach adopted in refining this strategy has been to develop shared vision through the City Sustainability Partnership; to promote engagement and ownership, with agreed roles and responsibilities; to use existing structures where possible; to use the strategy to enhance existing work programmes and to develop a clear set of outcomes.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The Climate Change Strategy supports current and planned work programmes and is expected to be delivered within existing Council and Partnership resources. Any additional resources required to support the implementation of the Climate Change Strategy will be identified and funding sought through grant programmes or developing Council and Partnership budgets.
- 5.2 Capital funding for the local transport plan can be used to meet relevant priorities in the plan.
- 5.3 There is currently no national funding being distributed to the council for private sector renewal and therefore new options for investment to reduce carbon emissions from the private rented sector would need to be identified.
- 5.4 Funding has been approved on an invest to save basis to implement solar pvs on council housing and corporate buildings including schools.

Finance Officer Consulted: Anne Silley

Date: 07/11/10

Legal Implications:

- 5.5 The legislative framework for the Climate Change Strategy consists primarily of the Climate Change Act 2008 which imposes a legally binding duty on the government to reduce the UK's greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050, through a series of "carbon budgets", thus giving businesses (including investors) a strong signal of the government's overall trajectory.
- 5.6 The government has introduced a number of measures and incentives to help the UK meet the targets in the Act. An example of this is the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme which came into force in April 2010 and places obligations on non-energy intensive organisations in the private and public sectors in the UK (such as offices, shops, hospitals and local authorities). It aims to make businesses and public sector organisations more energy efficient.
- 5.7 The Nottingham Declaration requires signatories to commit to addressing the causes of climate change in their area and to prepare their communities for its impact. However, the council and its partners in Brighton & Hove are under no **legal** obligation to fulfil its commitments

Lawyer Consulted:

Oliver Dixon

Date: 13/10/11

Equalities Implications:

- 5.8 Fuel poverty is the most relevant inequality issue and targeting private sector housing for carbon emissions reduction has clear health and economic benefits for people living in fuel poverty in the city i.e. spending more than 10% on their income on heating.

- 5.9 Severe weather impacts of a changing local climate can affect people on lower incomes more and the provision of advice and information may be less accessible to some communities, particularly with English as a second or other language.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.10 This strategy directly addresses the issue of climate change, as well as other sustainability issues by drawing together existing legal and policy requirements, including the city's Sustainable Community Strategy and other city and council plans, policies and programmes, as well as recommendations from three overview and scrutiny panels (Environmental Industries, Adapting to Climate Change and Renewable Energy Potential) to focus effort in reducing the city's carbon emissions and preparing for the effects of climate change in the city.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.11 Reports of the association between crime and hot weather are more speculative than definitive. Hot weather is linked with higher levels of street violence and attacks as well as unrest (Rotton and Cohn, 2000a, 2000b). There is also the likelihood that road rage increases during periods of anomalous warmth (Kenrick and MacFarlane, 1984), as does domestic violence (Auliciems and DiBartolo, 1995) and the number of police call outs (LeBeau and Corcoran, 1990). This is relevant because projections generally suggest summers will become hotter.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.12 Risks and opportunities associated with strategy have been identified and evaluated. Key risks include:
- City and council reputation: the Climate Change Action Plan is now out of date; and a benchmarking exercise against other similar areas shows that an up-to-date plan is needed.
 - Ability to comply with legal and policy requirements: this strategy provides a framework and reference points for better understanding of relevant policy and targets.
 - Environmental impact: reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Costs and resource efficiency: The business case for early action was set out in 2006 by Nicholas Stern [[Stern Review in 2006](#)].
- 5.13 In addition, a key strategic risk has been identified in the city's Strategic Risk Management Action Plan relating to "Severe Weather Preparedness and Climate Change Adaptation."

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.14 This is a citywide strategy, designed to promote understanding and engagement across the city partnerships, groups, businesses and residents in tackling the issue of climate change. It forms the approach towards the 'zero carbon' principle from the city's One Planet Framework, and makes links with other relevant principles (Local and Sustainable Food, Sustainable Transport, Waste and Sustainable Materials). It is led by the Brighton & Hove Strategic partnership and

the Public Service Board, and contributes to many of the city's key policies and plans.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 An update of the 2006 Action Plan was evaluated, and it was agreed to step back and develop a framework approach because of the number and range of existing activities, and to focus on the opportunity to draw these together into a more co-ordinated approach, building in improved governance, data development and performance management.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 To confirm Cabinet's commitment to this city strategy. Its endorsement will provide a strong factor in the strategy's successful implementation.
- 7.2 To agree governance arrangements for this strategy.
- 7.3 To improve and streamline delivery arrangements. It is a complex piece of work, so it is important to build common understanding of the approach in order to stimulate collaborative effort towards a low carbon city adapting well to climate change.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. City Climate Change Strategy
2. Figure 1 City Climate Change Strategy outcomes chart

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

None