

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting15th March 2007

1. Title of Item/Report

Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy and the Stockton Action Plan

2. Record of the Decision

Members were informed that the Council had been very pro-active in tackling some of the significant environmental issues such as energy consumption and waste management. The Council had been very successful with projects such as the warm zone initiative, achieving a high level of energy efficiency improvements in the housing stock and leading on a waste management project with partners in Europe.

In November 2002 the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change, which committed the authority to:

- Work with central government to contribute, at a local level, to the delivery of the UK climate change programme.
- Participate in local and regional networks.
- Develop plans to progressively address the causes and impacts of climate change.
- Publicly declare, with appropriate plans and strategies, the commitment to achieve a significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from our own operations, especially energy sourcing and use, travel and transport, waste production and disposal and the purchasing of goods and services.
- Assess the risks associated with climate change and the implications for services and our communities and adapt accordingly.
- Encourage all sectors in the community to adapt to the impacts of climate change, to reduce their own green house gas emissions and to make public their commitment to action.
- Monitor the progress of our plans against the actions needed and publish the result.

In 2005 the Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership was established as a pioneering sub-regional initiative between the 5 boroughs of Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Stockton and Redcar & Cleveland.

Working in partnership with the Environment Agency, Renew Tees Valley, Tees and Durham Energy Advice and Scottish Power, as well as a number of strategic delivery partners, the Partnership was leading the way in effective collaborative response to the threat of climate change, principally in supporting a full-time Climate Change Co-ordinator to develop a sub regional strategy.

Officers from the five Local Authorities, together with the Environment Agency, Renew Tees Valley, and the Tees and Durham Energy Advice Centre had subsequently met monthly since October 2005 to establish appropriate sub regional targets on emission reductions, and reached consensus on a 1.25% annual reduction.

By sharing resources in this way the Partnership was able to avoid duplication of effort, and work in the most efficient way possible, ensuring a coordinated and consistent approach across the sub-region.

From the outset the Partnership recognised the importance of establishing a baseline and consistent methodology for the sub-region, allowing for meaningful comparisons of emissions over time.

Data on energy use, transport and waste had been obtained from a number of reliable sources, including the DTI, DEFRA and the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit. From this consumption data, a series of conversions and calculations had enabled the development of the Emissions Inventories for each Local Authority area, using the year 2000 as a baseline. The inventories were updated with the release of new data and used to monitor long-term progress.

Working in conjunction with the Environment Agency, the Partnership had also been able to disaggregate emissions from industry from Local Authority sub-totals, ensuring targets for Local Authorities were based on emissions from the domestic and SME sectors only. Achieving an average 1.25% annual reduction in the industrial sector would lie within the remit of the Environment Agency, who would provide the Partnership with annual progress reports.

It was explained that a Strategy for the sub-region was being developed and represented a high-level, comprehensive approach to documenting the current situation in the Tees Valley. It was driven by the partners (5 local authorities and the Environment Agency) to achieve both short-term and long-term emission reduction targets. Stockton's Climate Change Action Plan would influence the final version of the Tees Valley Strategy and represented Stockton's contribution to the partnership goals:

- § A minimum 8.75% reduction below 2000 levels from 2006-2012
- § A further minimum 27% reduction from 2012-2030

In addition, the strategy outlined broad sub-regional actions for reducing emissions and adapting to climate change, and identified the Partners responsible for implementation.

The target of 1.25% reduction had been arrived at following extensive analysis of emissions data, potential savings from a range of activities and those local authorities that had historical data on emissions savings, such as Stockton and its comprehensive database compiled largely due to the warm zone initiative. The target would also see us make a significant contribution to the national targets.

There had been significant interest already in the collaborative approach that the five Tees Valley Local Authorities had taken in base-lining the sub regions emissions, particularly at Government Office level. The Council was also demonstrating that as a borough and an authority it was committed to better protecting our communities from the known impacts of extreme weather events and was contributing to the national Climate Change Programme.

A copy of the final Tees Valley Strategy will be made available in the Members Library when completed.

The Stockton Climate Change Action Plan was provided to Members and it was explained that it had been developed in tandem with the developing Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy. It had involved staff from a variety of disciplines and service areas within the authority as well as a number of external agencies that would be involved in the delivery of the plan.

The plan focused on actions that could contribute towards the sub-regional target as well as measures to adapt to the inevitable consequences of climate change. Those included short-term actions such as installation of insulation measures, medium term such as the development of renewable energy technologies and the longer-term impacts from revised planning policies.

Underpinning this would be initiatives to encourage and enable individuals to understand their role and responsibility in tackling climate change.

RESOLVED that

1. Members note the emerging Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy

includes a target of 1.25% CO2e emissions reduction per annum.

2. the draft Stockton on Tees Climate Change Action plan be adopted as the basis for further consultation and delegated approval of the final Action Plan be given to the Corporate Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment.

3. Reasons for the Decision

Supporting the Tees Valley strategy would ensure that our response to climate change is more effective, there are shared objectives and common actions as well as an agreed baseline and protocol for reporting on progress. It is seen as an example of best practice in the region and is a model that could be adopted elsewhere in the country.

The reduction target is achievable and in doing so will place Stockton at the forefront of local authorities in their response to tackling climate change. Reducing our greenhouse gas emissions can be achieved through a range of actions including energy efficiency measures, supporting appropriate renewable energy options, reducing waste, improvements in recycling, reduction in traffic volumes, use of cleaner fuels, adopting higher building standards in new developments.

As signatories of the Nottingham declaration on climate change we committed to publicly declare targets for significant reductions in emissions and to develop an action plan to deliver on these targets. This report and the accompanying documents enable the Council to meet these obligations.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Cunningham declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in this item as he was employed as an energy consultant.

Councillor Mrs Cains declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in this item as she was a life Member of Nature's World.

6. Details of any Dispensations

None

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight on Friday 23rd March 2007

Proper Officer
19 March 2007