

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

11 JUNE 2009

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Environment – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Mrs Jennie Beaumont

TEES VALLEY CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY & STOCKTON ON TEES CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

1. Summary

This report seeks Cabinet endorsement for the draft Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy that establishes a baseline position, targets, and broad sub-regional actions for reducing emissions and adapting to climate change. These targets will be delivered through individual action plans being developed by each of the five local authorities in the Tees Valley.

In March 2007 Cabinet Members noted the emerging Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy which included a target of 8.75% CO₂e emissions reduction below the year 2000 baseline by 2012.

Since then a number of significant changes have occurred which require a significant review of the Tees Valley Strategy and of Stockton's action plan, which include the Climate Change Act 2008, the Pitt Review and the introduction of the set of new national indicators.

Stockton has developed a draft action plan that reflects these changing priorities and how it will contribute to the developing Tees Valley Strategy and to the national targets.

2. Recommendations:

Recommended that:

- 1 Members note the emerging revised Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy which includes a target of 21% CO₂ emissions reduction against the baseline year 2005 by 2020.
- 2 The draft Stockton on Tees Climate Change Action plan is 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 Recommendations/Decision(s)

- 1 Supporting the Tees Valley strategy will 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.
- 2 The reduction measures within the action plan are achievable and, when added to the actions to be taken by other organisations within the Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership, can make a significant overall contribution to national targets.
- 3 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, and adopting higher building standards in new developments.
- 4 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. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (**paragraph 8**) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (**paragraphs 10 and 11 of the code of conduct**).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;
- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting;

and must not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (**paragraph 12 of the Code**).

Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc; whether or not they are a Member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other

body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.

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SUMMARY

This report seeks Cabinet endorsement for the draft Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy that establishes a baseline position, targets, and broad sub-regional actions for reducing emissions and adapting to climate change. These targets will be delivered through individual action plans being developed by each of the five local authorities in the Tees Valley.

In March 2007 Cabinet Members noted the emerging Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy which included a target of 8.75% CO₂e emissions reduction below the year 2000 baseline by 2012.

Since then a number of significant changes have occurred which require a significant review of the Tees Valley Strategy and of Stockton's action plan, which include the Climate Change Act 2008, the Pitt Review and the introduction of the set of new national indicators.

Stockton has developed a draft action plan that reflects these changing priorities and how it will contribute to the developing Tees Valley Strategy and to the national targets.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 1 Members note the emerging revised Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy which includes a target of 21% CO₂ emissions reduction against the baseline year 2005 by 2020.
- 2 The draft Stockton on Tees Climate Change Action plan is 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.

DETAIL

- 1 Since the Stockton on Tees Climate Change Action plan was produced in 2007 there have been a number of significant developments, which require a review and refresh of both that action plan and the Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy.
- 2 One of those developments was the severe flooding in the summer of 2007 which led to a comprehensive review and report by Sir Michael Pitt. In response to his report, which contained 92 recommendations, the government produced the draft Flood and Water Management Bill in April 2009.

- 3 The effect of those floods and of the response by government has focused attention upon the need to consider the impacts of climate change on public services and to look at managing the risks presented by a changing climate.
- 4 The second development was the Climate Change Act which received Royal Assent in 2008 and includes targets for reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 80% by 2050 and reductions in CO2 emissions by at least 26% by 2020 against a 1990 baseline.
- 5 These targets are clearly very challenging and are going to be very difficult to achieve without significant reductions in energy consumption as well as a major decarbonisation of the energy supply system.
- 6 There was a further development with the introduction in April 2008 of the set of 198 New National Indicators, to measure the performance of Local Authorities. This brought about a standard methodology to measure action on climate change. In particular it introduced:-
 - NI 185 - CO2 reduction from local operations;
 - NI 186 - Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions;
 - NI 188 - Planning to adapt to climate change;
 - NI 189 - Flood and coastal erosion risk management.
- 7 These new national indicators provided an opportunity to introduce a nationally agreed means to set a baseline and monitor progress in the delivery of the climate change action plan.
- 8 To reflect these new developments there has been a review of the Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy and of the Stockton on Tees Climate Change Action plan which sets out our contribution to the delivery of that strategy.

Key elements of the Climate Change Action Plan

- 9 The most significant change to the action plan is the revision to the target which was originally to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 8.75% below the year 2000 level by 2012. The proposed target is now a 21% reduction by 2020 against a 2005 baseline using the government's methodology for calculating emissions for the new national indicator 185. This will align the strategy and action plan with the Climate Change Act 2008 and follow a uniform method of measurement.
- 10 National Indicator 185 measures the CO2 emissions from three sectors, industry / commercial, transport and domestic. It then takes the total emissions and sets that against the population of the borough to produce the per capita emissions.
- 11 Clearly an area such as Stockton has significant industrial emissions and in 2006 this amounted to 79% of the total compared with 12% from domestic sources and 9% from transport.
- 12 The action plan has taken a pragmatic approach in recognising where significant emissions reductions can be achieved whilst recognising the need for economic stability and long term growth. For example there are still opportunities to greatly improve domestic energy efficiency within the Borough utilising existing technologies.
- 13 Transport is an area where progress on emissions reduction will be slow and linked to both economic activity and to technological advances. Similarly the emissions from industry and the commercial section are going to be very much linked to the economy and to fiscal measures as well as to changes in technology.

- 14 Whilst there are a number of interventions that can be delivered on a sub-regional and local level on transport to encourage more sustainable modes we have limited influence on the large industrial and commercial sources of CO₂.
- 15 It therefore makes sense to report on progress on emissions reduction per sector in order to ensure that reductions in industry for example due to economic circumstances do not hide increases in emissions from the other two sectors.
- 16 The need to adapt to the inevitable climate changes that will occur will become a key feature of the revised action plan. The previous version focused largely on mitigation i.e. reducing the emissions of CO₂, however we now need to understand what will be the main changes in climate, what impacts those changes will have upon the community and ensure that the services we deliver meet those changes.
- 17 The government has clearly seen the importance of planning to adapt to climate change in that they have developed a new national indicator NI 188 to measure progress. The indicator measures how prepared an authority is for the changes in climate and how we have taken this into consideration in terms of the ability to deliver services and to provide services that meet the changing climate.
- 18 In Stockton significant work has been done on adaptation and as at end March 2009 we are at level 3 and will have achieved the highest level 4 by March 2010 using the NI 189 methodology. In doing so we have worked with all services in the authority and external partners to consider how climate change will impact on those services and develop an action plan that ensures continuity and meets changing circumstances. This has been achieved in part by workshops, a forum for members and consultation with partners.
- 19 A copy of the Stockton draft action plan is attached at **Appendix 1**.

The Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy

- 20 The Tees Valley Strategy is also being reviewed to meet the developments previously referred to and is being driven by the five Tees Valley authorities as well as partners that include the Environment Agency, the Energy Savings Trust and Renew at CPI that form the Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership.
- 21 The strategy sets sub-regional targets for emissions reduction and broad objectives for delivery by stakeholders and partners that will secure those targets. Under this strategy document will sit individual action plans prepared and endorsed by members of the partnership that will set out short and long term quantified contributions that can be made to the overall target.
- 22 A copy of the summary of the draft Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy is at **Appendix 2**.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 23 The costs of implementation of the climate change actions are to be met from within existing resources and from stakeholder and partnership contributions where appropriate.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 24 The Climate Change Act 2008 introduced a legally binding target for reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and a carbon budgeting system.

RISK ASSESSMENT

- 25 Failure to address climate change has economic, social and environmental consequences, which have been well documented in reports such as the Stern Review. Adapting to the consequences of climate change is a key challenge for the authority and individual risk assessments are include within the action plan against the possible impacts upon service delivery.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

- 26 Within the Environment and Housing section of the 2008 – 2020 sustainable community strategy there is an ambition to tackle climate change and to ensure that the services we deliver meet the changing climate.

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 27 The equalities impact assessment carried out for the 2007 climate change action plan will be reassessed in the light of changes to this document.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

- 28 The draft climate change action plan has been discussed at the environment partnership on 28th May 2009. Subject to cabinet approval the draft action plan is to be circulated to all Members for comments and any significant amendments referred to the environment partnership prior to final approval using the proposed delegated decision procedure

Name of Contact Officer: Mike Chicken
Post Title: Environmental Policy Manager
Telephone No. 01642 528148
Email Address: mike.chicken@stockton.gov.uk

Background Papers

Draft Stockton on Tees Climate Change Action Plan
Summary of draft Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Not ward specific.

Property

Not applicable