



CABINET REPORT

Report Title	Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy 2014-2017
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AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Cabinet Meeting Date:	9 September 2015
Key Decision:	NO
Within Policy:	YES
Policy Document:	NO
Directorate:	Customers & Communities
Accountable Cabinet Member:	Cllr Alan Bottwood
Ward(s)	All

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy 2014 - 17, has been produced. The report highlights the key achievements since the previous strategy was ratified in 2010 and seeks approval of the adoption of the revised strategy {and approval to sign up to the Climate Local Commitment}

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To adopt the Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy 2014-2017 including the target of reducing carbon dioxide emission by 4.5% over the period of the strategy.
- 2.2 To sign up to the Climate Local Commitment

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 The Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy 2010 – 2014 was ratified by this Council in July 2010.
- 3.1.2 The strategy together with an annual action plan is produced and overseen by the Northamptonshire Climate Change Officers Group which includes representatives from this authority.
- 3.1.3 The document has been refreshed to cover the period 2014-2017.
- 3.1.4 Key achievements since the original strategy was adopted include a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions of 20% per capita across the county and 26% per capita in Northampton.
- 3.1.5 The strategy and action plan provide a framework for coordinated action to raise issues of climate change, reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and plan for and adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- 3.1.6 The strategy outlines work that has been carried out over the past four years. These include, training events for planning officers to improve awareness of the threats posed by climate change and how appropriate adaptations can be embedded in planning policy and work carried out by the Northamptonshire Warm Homes Partnership to improve energy efficiency in dwellings.
- 3.1.7 The strategy highlights the LGA Climate Local initiative under which local authorities make a formal commitment to addressing climate change.

3.2 Issues

- 3.2.1 The refreshed strategy contains a new target for reduction of carbon dioxide emissions of 4.5% over the three year period covered by the strategy, this is in line with national targets. In adopting the strategy the Council would commit itself to working towards this target within its own operations and by promoting action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the borough.
- 3.2.2 In signing up to the Climate Local Initiative the Council makes commitments to set, publish and regularly refresh locally owned and determined commitments to reduce carbon emission, and to share learning from our experiences and achievements with other councils.
- 3.2.3 Exceptional weather events over the last few years have highlighted awareness of climate change and the need for adaptations and mitigations to address it.

3.3 Choices (Options)

3.3.1 The Council can choose whether or not to ratify the climate change strategy and in doing so accept the targets for reducing carbon dioxide emissions in the Borough.

3.3.2 The Council can choose whether or not to sign up to Climate Local

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 The commitments are in line with existing policy.

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 The officer time required to participate in the initiatives will be met within existing resources.

4.2.2 Further reductions in carbon dioxide emissions within the Council's estate should reduce energy costs.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 There are none

4.4 Equality and Health

4.4.1 The approach outlined in the report has a potentially positive impact on health and inequalities.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

4.5.1 Planning and Regeneration, Housing, Finance and Legal

4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes

4.6.1 The proposals have a positive impact in respect to making every £ go further, better homes for the future and promoting health and wellbeing,

5. Background Papers

5.1 Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy 2014 – 17

5.2 Climate Local <http://www.local.gov.uk/climate-local>

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