

PAPER NO. 3

REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE MEETING OF 15th June 2015

Meeting: Executive
Date: 15th June 2015
Subject: Climate Local Action Plan
Report of: Helen Chadwick
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Neil Bannister
Status: For Decision
Relevant Ward(s): All

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To consider the Climate Local Action Plan and approve the final Harborough District Climate Local Action Plan in order to complete the requirement for becoming signatories to the LGA Climate Local Accord.

2 Recommendations:

- 2.1 **Recommended that Executive approve the Climate Local Action Plan, as set out in Appendix A.**
- 2.2 **RECOMMENDED to Council that the Climate Local Action Plan be adopted as Council policy**

3 Summary of Reasons for the Recommendations

- 3.1 In April 2013 Harborough District Council agreed to sign up to the Local Government Association Climate Local Initiative.
- 3.2 Climate Local superseded the Nottingham Declaration Initiative. It was launched in 2012. As of April 2014 there were 87 local authorities signed up to action. Harborough District Council was a signatory to the Nottingham Declaration.
- 3.3 Under Climate Local, the Council committed to developing an action plan to guide all activity on climate change, including opportunities to work in partnership. Progress on activity is to be published annually. The Action Plan, once adopted, will be reported on annually, on the Council website, with the information also made available through the Local Government Association Knowledge Hub. The draft Action Plan for Harborough is included as Appendix A.

4 Key Facts

- 4.1 In April 2013 Harborough District Council agreed to sign up to the Local Government Association Climate Local Initiative. This was seen as an important reputational step to show that the Council were still mindful of their responsibility as a community leader, with a role in encouraging a reduction in emissions across the District and helping ensure that communities are more resilient to impacts of climate change including events such as flooding and extreme weather. It was also seen as important for the Council to look for opportunities to reduce the costs of heating and lighting their own properties, whilst reducing emissions.
- 4.2 In January 2014, the Environment Co-ordinator post was filled, with a remit of producing the Action Plan.
- 4.3 A draft Action Plan, was completed in Summer of 2014. The Action Plan was aligned to the Corporate Plan and priorities, the emerging Local Plan and Home Energy Conservation (HECA) report. The draft Action Plan was circulated to all senior managers for consultation and comment.
- 4.4 In January 2015 a Scrutiny Task Group met to consider the plan. The Scrutiny Task Group accepted the Action Plan in the main and made some useful suggestions for the implementation of the plan, particularly around Council emissions and green travel, fuel poverty and planning and design. The comments made were incorporated, where possible, and other comments will be included in implementation.
- 4.5 The final Action Plan is included as Appendix A.
- 4.6 As requested by the Secretary of State, an inventory of carbon emissions arising from the Council's own estate was completed for 2013/2014 and published on the Council's website in autumn 2014. This will be repeated next year if required. This is included as Appendix B.

5 Legal Issues

- 5.1 There are no legal issues

6 Resource Issues

- 6.1 The Actions contained in the Action Plan will be delivered through existing and emerging Corporate / Service Plans. There are no specific additional resource implications of adopting the Action Plan. Some Actions may help to deliver long term resource savings for the Council and residents/business by promoting investment in renewable energy solutions and energy efficiency.

- 7 Equality Analysis Implications/Outcomes
 - 7.1 Equality assessment included as Appendix C.
 - 8. Risk Management Implications
 - 8.1 There are no significant risk management issues as a result of this report due to the nature of the guarantees within the contract.
 - 9 Consultation
 - 9.1 The document has been consulted upon internally with all service managers.
 - 10. Options
 - 10.1 Not to publish the Action Plan – not recommended as this would not demonstrate HDCs commitment to energy saving and dealing with climate change issues - in light of the Council’s commitment in principle made in 2013
 - 10.2 Publish the Action Plan and keep under review - recommended
 - 11 Background Papers
 - 11.1 None
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Previous report(s):

Information Issued Under Sensitive Issue Procedure:

Ward Members Notified: No

Appendices:

- A. Climate Action Plan**
- B. Equalities assessment**
- C. Carbon Inventory 2013/2014**