



Report of the Director of City Development

Executive Board

Date: 19th December 2007

Subject: Leeds Climate Change Strategy

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In

(Details contained in the report)

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines the key issues contained within the attached consultation draft of the Leeds Climate Change Strategy. It has been produced following Council commitments made by signing the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change.
- 1.2 The purpose of the strategy is twofold:
- i. **Mitigation** - Reduce Leeds' contribution to climate change by minimising greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from all sectors.
 - ii. **Adaptation** - Improve the resilience of Leeds to current and future climate change.
- 1.3 The strategy is jointly led by LCC and the Leeds Initiative, but will be branded as a Leeds Initiative strategy, to ensure that it is clear that responsibility for delivery is jointly held across the city.
- 1.4 A six week consultation process, running from January 2008 to the end of February 2008, is designed to draw out shared priorities for action across the city. Indicative priorities are highlighted in this report.
- 1.5 Many of the actions contained in the strategy support targets within the new National Indicator Set and the draft outcomes and improvement priorities contained in the draft Leeds Strategic Plan 2008-11.

- 1.6 The costs of action are yet to be calculated, but will be prior to publication . Following consultation and prior to final publications of the strategy, priority actions will be costed (using £/tC for emissions reduction and risk assessment for adaptation). Given the scope and scale of actions required to effectively tackle climate change, significant new financial and human resources will need to be made available for high priority actions.
- 1.7 Executive Board is requested to approve the strategy for publication as a consultation document.

2.0 Purpose of this report

- 2.1 This report outlines the key issues contained within the attached consultation draft of the Leeds Climate Change Strategy , how it has been developed, the implications and plans for consultation.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 Leeds City Council signed The Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change in June 2006. This commits the City Council to:
- i. “Within the next two years develop plans with our partners and local communities to progressively address the causes and the impacts of climate change, according to our local priorities, securing maximum benefit for our communities.”
- 3.2 We are therefore working with the Leeds Initiative to jointly lead the development of a Leeds Climate Change Strategy. The Leeds Climate Change Strategy is a non-statutory document and therefore will use existing and new relationships with private and public sector partners across the city to deliver actions.
- 3.3 To ensure that it is clear that the Leeds Climate Change Strategy has been developed by the city, for the city, all publications will be branded as Leeds Initiative, rather than Leeds City Council.

4.0 Progress

- 4.1 Leeds City Council has been working on climate change for over 2 years through a council-wide Climate Change Working Group. This has focussed primarily on corporate and service delivery issues.
- 4.2 LCC and the Leeds Initiative are now jointly leading the development of a Leeds Climate Change Strategy. This will include efforts already underway in LCC but will concentrate on joint service delivery and city wide issues. To ensure that it is clear that this is owned by all organisations in the city the Leeds Initiative has established a Climate Change Strategy Group (CCSG). This group is responsible for developing, consulting and publishing the strategy and associated action plan. Going forwards, the group will take responsibility for monitoring delivery.
- 4.3 In addition to the CCSG, eight theme groups have been established to focus attention on sectors or activities with most relevance to climate change. The groups are: Adaptation; Built Environment; Education & Awareness; Natural Environment; Planning & Development; Procurement; Transport and Waste.
- 4.4 Each theme group comprises a broad spectrum of organisations with subject expertise and a balance of interests between the private sector, public sector and 3rd sector. Each theme group has responsibility for developing specific actions

most relevant to their area. Theme group chairs sit on the CCSG in order to share information between theme groups and avoid duplication of effort. It is anticipated that by taking this broad and inclusive approach, more organisations will feel that they truly have a stake in the strategy and will therefore sign up to delivery.

4.5 The purpose of the strategy is twofold:

- iii. **Mitigation** - Reduce Leeds' contribution to climate change by minimising greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from all sectors and achieving set emission reduction targets¹.
- iv. **Adaptation** - Improve the resilience of Leeds to current and future climate change by understanding the most likely climate scenarios and responding to the threats and opportunities presented.

4.6 The Mission Statement of the strategy sets out how the twofold purpose is to be delivered:

Organisations and individuals within Leeds will work together to reduce levels of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from all sectors and to develop solutions to adapt to the impacts of a changing climate.

5.0 Priorities

5.1 In 2005-06 LCC was responsible for approximately 95,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions, directly from our own activities. The majority of this (79,000 tonnes) comes from our existing buildings, with another 5,300 tonnes from street lighting and 9,700 tonnes from our fleet.

5.2 In total, all activities in Leeds emit approximately 6m tonnes of CO₂ pa. This splits fairly evenly between domestic (increasing slightly) transport (increasing more rapidly) and combined commercial and industrial activity (falling).

5.3 As LCC is only directly responsible for about 1.5% of emissions in Leeds, the strategy will only succeed if other organisations also commit to reducing emissions. Additionally, climate impacts are shared across organisations so collaboration is essential.

5.4 The six week consultation process, running from January 2008 to the end of February 2008, is designed to draw out shared priorities for action across the city. Indicative priorities include:

- Corporate – procurement of low carbon and well adapted new buildings and major refurbishments (e.g. use of combined heat and power – CHP);
- Corporate – enhancing energy efficiency and energy management in the existing LCC estate;
- Service delivery – developing additional support to enhance domestic energy efficiency improvement across all tenures;
- Service delivery – enhancing transport demand management, whilst working to secure funding for transport infrastructure improvement;
- City wide – developing a CHP and community heating network for Leeds;
- City wide – risk assessment and management of climate impacts;

¹ TARGETS to be set based on scenarios work; likely to be a 60-90% decrease between 1990-2050, to be in line with Government targets and more recent scientific evidence.

- City wide – increasing engagement with Leeds residents to motivate change.

5.5 The new National Indicator Set includes three specific climate change indicators:

- NI 185: CO₂ reduction from local authority operations
- NI 186: Per capita reduction in CO₂ emissions in the LA area
- NI 188 Adapting to climate change

5.6 To reflect this, the Leeds Draft Strategic Outcome and Draft Improvement Priorities have included specific reference to climate change priorities:

Draft Strategic Outcome

- Reduced ecological footprint through leading the response, influencing, mitigating and adapting to environmental and climate change

Draft Improvement Priorities:

- Increase recycling rates and reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.
- Reduce emissions from public sector buildings, operations and service delivery.
- Undertake actions to improve our resilience to current and future climate change.

6.0 Implications

6.1 The costs of action are yet to be calculated. Following consultation and prior to final publications of the strategy, priority actions will be costed (using £/tC for emissions reduction and risk assessment for adaptation) and this will be used to help justify the choice of short, medium and long-term actions. Support from the Carbon Trust and the Energy Saving Trust has been secured to assist with this task.

6.2 While the strategy is just a consultation draft and costs have still to be determined, it is clear that carrying through the commitments made in the Nottingham Declaration will be a significant challenge. Given the scope and scale of actions required to effectively tackle climate change, significant new financial and human resources will need to be made available for high priority actions.

6.3 The Stern Report into the Economics of Climate Change has made it clear that economic arguments no longer present a case for inaction. The costs of inaction are likely to far exceed the costs of early action to reduce emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change.

7.0 Consultation and final publication

7.1 Following Executive Board approval the draft strategy will be professionally designed as an interactive electronic document. We aim to publish the draft strategy for consultation by mid-January, with a consultation period running to the end of February 2008. The target audience will primarily be organisations with a stake in climate change in Leeds, regionally and nationally. Efforts will also be made to inform the public about the strategy and to identify what additional support is required to help them to contribute to efforts to tackle climate change.

7.2 The Leeds Initiative office will run the consultation process, sending out consultation documents, fielding enquiries and receiving responses. We plan to utilise the functionality of the new Leeds Initiative website to host an online form, to improve the efficiency of the process.

- 7.3 Following consultation, a full detailed strategy will be prepared and launched in summer 2008. The strategy will be produced as a pdf document only, available from the Leeds Initiative website. A full colour summary document will be printed and circulated widely. This will contain the key strategic statements, vision and high level actions and will emphasise how participating will benefit Leeds individuals and organisations. In addition, a number of short 'call to action' documents will be produced, providing locally relevant and practical guidance for different audiences (e.g. industry sectors, homeowners, commuters etc.).
- 7.4 This approach has been discussed and agreed with the CCSG, City Development Leadership Team, Corporate Leadership Team and Leaders Management Team. An early draft of the strategy was taken to the Leeds Initiative Board which requested to sign off the full strategy, but not the consultation draft.

8.0 Recommendation

- 8.1 Executive Board is requested to endorse the approach taken and to agree that the consultation draft of the Leeds Climate Change Strategy is published for consultation in January 2008.