



---

## Report of the Development Department

### Executive Board

Date: May 06

### Subject: Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change

---

Electoral wards affected:

Specific implications for:

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

Narrowing the gap

Eligible for call In

Not eligible for call in  
(details contained in the report)

---

### Executive Summary

1. The Council resolution of the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2005 recommends the Executive Board to adopt the Nottingham Declaration which, to date, has been signed by 108 local authorities.
2. The Nottingham Declaration requires the authority to produce plans that address the causes and impacts of climate change within two years. Work has already started on a climate change strategy and action plan and the Leeds Environment City Partnership has agreed to establish a working group to develop, implement and monitor a city-wide strategy.
3. The Declaration requires the authority to publicly declare, within appropriate plans and strategies, the commitment to achieve significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. These plans, together with opportunities for action, have already been identified by an in-house group of officers

## **1.0 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 Following the Council resolution on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2005 recommending the Executive Board adopt the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change, this report summarises the main points of the Nottingham Declaration and recommends that the declaration be signed by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive.

## **2.0 Background information**

- 2.1 The Nottingham Declaration is a commitment by local authorities to:
- Work with central government to contribute, at a local level, to the delivery of the UK Climate Change Programme, the Kyoto Protocol and the target for carbon dioxide reduction by 2010
  - Participate in local and regional networks
  - Within the next two years develop plans with our partners and local communities to progressively address the cause and impacts of climate change, according to local priorities, securing maximum benefit for our communities.
  - Publicly declare, with in appropriate plans and strategies, the commitment to achieve a significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from our own authorities operations, especially energy sourcing and use, travel and transport, waste production and disposal and the purchasing of goods and services
  - Assess the risk associated with climate change and the implications to our services and our communities of climate change impacts and adapt accordingly.
  - Encourage all sectors of our local community to take the opportunity to adapt to the impacts of climate change, to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to make public their commitment to action
  - Monitor the progress of our plans against the actions needed and publish the results
- 2.2 To date 108 Local Authorities have signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change. The declaration must be signed by the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive, other signatories are the Minister of State for Climate Change and the Environment and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.
- 2.3 The Nottingham Declaration acknowledges that climate change is occurring and welcomes the social, economic and environmental benefits that come from combating climate change. This message is reinforced by Yorkshire and Humber's Climate Change Action Plan which states that it has been established beyond reasonable doubt that climate change, accelerated by human activity, is happening now. The concern of the global scientific community is that, without concerted effort to constrain the growth of greenhouse gases, climate change may impact upon the global environment to such an extent that social and economic progress is reversed and that runaway climate change could be triggered.

## **3.0 Main issues**

- 3.1 The Nottingham Declaration welcomes the opportunity for local government to lead the response at a local level encouraging and helping local residents, local business and other organisations:- to reduce their energy costs, to reduce congestion, to adapt to the impacts of climate change, to improve the local environment and to deal with fuel poverty in our communities.

- 3.2 Our response to this agenda is already being addressed within the authority through a Climate Change Working Group which was established in February 2005. The group has been working on elements of a Climate Change Strategy and has identified existing achievements and a number of LCC and strategic opportunities to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Leeds Environment City Partnership have agreed to develop this group, which will include council representatives, to add to this information and to develop and implement a city-wide strategy and action plan. This will meet the Declaration's commitment to develop plans with our partners and local communities within two years of signing the declaration.
- 3.3 The aims of the strategy will be to contribute at a local level to the delivery of the UK Climate Change Programme, the Kyoto Protocol and the target for carbon dioxide reduction by 2010 (20% of 1990 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions). These aims are supported by the Yorkshire and Humber's Climate Change Action Plan which states that all key regional strategies are working towards a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions between 1990 and 2010.
- 3.4 The climate change strategy and action plan will state that there is a need to monitor the progress of the plan against the actions and to publish results.

#### **4.0 Implications for council policy and governance**

- 4.1 The Vision for Leeds states that Leeds will measure its success by reducing the amount of carbon dioxide produced by 20% of 1990 levels and supporting regional targets for electricity from renewable sources. The Corporate Plan states that we will develop a climate change strategy to reduce pollution and the Council Plan 2005/06 states that we will focus our efforts on the most important environmental issues such as climate change.
- 4.2 The climate change working group has identified achievements and opportunities associated with adaptation and mitigation of climate change under eight key themes: planning and development, adaptation, built environment, transport, waste, natural environment, procurement, education and awareness. Each theme has representatives from different services of the authority who are able identify which policies and plans, both existing and planned, contribute to mitigating and adapting to climate change. This is a good example of Closer Working, Better Services in action.
- 4.3 Policies and plans that help to achieve a significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from our own authorities operations include:
- The Environment Policy
  - The Asset Management Plan (Energy and Water Plan 2003 -2008 and the draft Carbon Management Action Plan)
  - LCC's Travel Plan
  - Corporate Procurement Plan (Procurement Strategy 2005 – 2008)
- 4.4 Plans and policies that help to influence a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions across the city or assess the risk associated with climate change and the need to adapt accordingly include:
- Planning Policies within the UDP and future LDF
  - Risk Management Strategy ( Emergency Plan)
  - Housing and Regeneration Plan (Home Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plan 1996 – 2011 and the Affordable Warmth Strategy)

- Local Transport Plan 2
- Integrated Waste Management Strategy (draft) 2005 – 2035
- The Biodiversity Action Plan for Leeds

4.5 The need to adopt a Climate Change Strategy has been reinforced by the release, on the 28 March 2006, of the new Climate Change Programme. This document identifies a package of measures to encourage local government to help achieve government targets and increase levels of microgeneration including:

- A new planning policy statement setting out how Government expects participants in the planning process to work towards the reduction of carbon emissions in the location, siting and design of new development.
- Consideration will also be given to ensure the local government performance framework (CPA) will include an appropriate focus on climate change.
- There will be a £20m revolving fund for the public sector to invest in energy efficiency.
- A local authority best practice support programme will be launched in 2006-7 which will aim to benchmark the performance of local authorities on climate change and sustainable energy and target those who need help to raise their performance.
- Continued action to upgrade energy efficiency of social and rented homes and those in fuel poverty through the Warm Front and Decent Homes Programmes (Narrowing the Gap agenda)

4.6 The Climate Change Strategy for Leeds will address the measures identified in existing programmes, the new Climate Change Programme and will be continuously updated to include all future government programmes designed to address the causes and impacts of climate change.

## **5.0 Legal and resource implications**

5.1 There are no statutory requirements associated with climate change however the Authority has already recognised the need for a Climate Change Officer and £50,000 has been made available in the 2006/7 budget to resource the post within the Sustainable Development Unit of the Development Department.

5.2 Officers in the Environment City Team are currently in discussion with Leeds Initiative with a view to inviting all partners to attend a launch of the city-wide Climate Change Working Group on the 5<sup>th</sup> June (World Environment Day).

5.3 The Environment City Team are also working with regional partners on developing initiatives to access government funding from the Climate Change Communications Initiative launched in December 2005. It is intended that these initiatives will contribute toward encouraging all sectors of our local community to take the opportunity to adapt to the impacts of climate change, to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to make public their commitment to action.

## **6.0 Conclusions**

6.1 Leeds City Council is already addressing the commitments in the Nottingham Declaration. The Climate Change Working Group has started to develop many of the elements of a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. Agreement from the Leeds Environment City Partnership that they will establish a Climate Change Working Group to develop, implement and monitor a Climate Change Strategy and

Action Plan for the city means that Leeds City Council can commit to implementing a plan within two years.

- 6.2 Signing the Nottingham Declaration would demonstrate commitment to the Strategy and Action Plan and reinforce the need to include mitigation and adaptation measures in all relevant plans and policies, as identified above.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

- 7.1 The Executive Board propose that the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive sign the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change, as proposed by the Council resolution on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2005.