



Report of the Sustainable Development Unit

Scrutiny Board (City Development)

Date: 10th February 2009

Subject: Climate Change Strategy

Electoral Wards Affected: All

Ward Members consulted

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To give members the opportunity to comment on the *Leeds Climate Change Strategy: Vision for Action* prior to submission to Executive Board and Full Council for approval.

2.0 Background information

- 2.1 The Leeds Climate Change Strategy is a city-wide strategy focused on carbon reduction and climate adaptation and aims to fulfil the Council's commitment in the Nottingham Declaration.
- 2.2 Strategy development has been led by the Climate Change Strategy Group (CCSG - a Leeds Initiative group) and supported by eight themed groups. A consultation between February and April 2008 supplemented by close work with key partners through the Low Carbon Cities Programme has further refined the form and focus of the strategy.

3.0 Proposed strategy

- 3.1 Given due consideration to the outcomes of consultation, the current uncertainty in the economy, availability of resources within the Council and the outcome of external funding bids, the attached *Leeds Climate Change Strategy: Vision for Action* is recommended for publication. **Please see attached draft of the Leeds Climate Change Strategy: Vision for Action.**
- 3.2 Publishing this document allows the Council to communicate priorities to city partners and moves from strategy development to strategy delivery phase. It also allows the Council the flexibility to bid for external resources and reallocate resources internally as opportunities arise to take forwards specific priorities.

3.3 When the strategy is published in May 2009, it will be important to provide concrete examples of progress to demonstrate the Council's willingness to take action in this area. Specific examples could include:

- Publishing the Sustainable Design & Construction SPD;
- Developing the bid for a City Centre based ESCo (Energy Services Company);
- Formally bringing climate change adaptation within the scope of the Council's environmental management system.

4.0 Implications for Council policy and governance

4.1 The *Leeds Climate Change Strategy: Vision for Action* is closely aligned to existing Council policy and has well developed governance arrangements.

4.2 The principal council policies (Leeds Strategic Plan and Council Business Plan 2008-11) now prioritise climate change. There are a number of new National Indicators including 185, 186 and 188 concerned with reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change.

4.3 The Leeds Strategic Plan prioritises NI185 and NI188 and commits the Council and its partners to:

- *Reduce ecological footprint through responding to environmental and climate change.*
- *Reduce emissions from public sector buildings, operations and service delivery, and encourage others to do so.*
- *Undertake actions to improve our resilience to current and future climate change..*

4.4 The Council Business Plan prioritises NI185 and commits the Council to take "significant steps to reduce our carbon emissions" with specific commitments to:

- *ensure all new buildings and refurbished buildings (where possible) commissioned by the council meet Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) excellent standards with maximum energy credits;*
- *invest strategically in energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies to reduce CO₂ emissions from the existing estate;*
- *reduce our overall office floorspace eg by the delivery of a corporate document records facility; and*
- *explore new ways of working that are more flexible and efficient to reduce CO₂ emissions, particularly from travel.*

4.5 The governance arrangements currently in place with the Leeds Initiative to establish this strategy will need to be amended to now focus on delivery. Discussions with the Deputy Director of the Leeds Initiative have already taken place and a new governance model developed, based on securing participation from key partners across the city.

5.0 Legal and resource implications

5.1 There are no immediate legal or resource implications arising from the *Leeds Climate Change Strategy: Vision for Action*.

6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1 That City Development Scrutiny provide any additional comments on the *Leeds Climate Change Strategy: Vision for Action* prior to it being sent to Executive Board and Full Council for approval.

7.0 List of Supporting Documents

- 7.1 The following documents have been instrumental in guiding the final form of the Leeds Climate Change Strategy:

- Consultation draft of the Leeds Climate Change Strategy (Leeds Initiative, 2008, <http://www.leedsinitiative.org/environment/page.aspx?id=942>)
- Vision for Leeds (Leeds Initiative, 2004)
- Leeds Strategic Plan 2008-11 (Leeds Initiative, 2008)
- Council Business Plan 2008-11 (Leeds City Council, 2008)
- UK Climate Change Strategy (Defra, 2005)
- Energy White Paper (DTi, 2006)
- Mayor's CO₂ Plan (GLA, 2007)
- Nottingham Declaration Toolkit (www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/nottingham)