

**Report of Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods**

**Report to Executive Board**

**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> July 2012**

**Subject: Leeds Climate Change Strategy 2012-15 (light-touch review)**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Summary of main issues**

1. The Leeds Climate Change Strategy 2012-15 is a city-wide strategy focused on carbon reduction and climate adaptation and aims to fulfil the Council's commitment to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 40% between 2005-2020.
2. The Council has already made significant steps towards the target, reducing emissions by 14.4% between 2005-09. Headline successes include:
  - 3,892 insulation measures installed under Wrap Up Leeds in Q1 2012-13;
  - Recycling and Energy Recovery Facility progressing which would save over 60,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> pa;
  - Proposals for a £1bn West Yorkshire Transport Fund and devolved transport powers under a 'City Deal';
  - Re:fit guaranteed to save over 1,600 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> pa from just nine Council buildings;
  - Sustainable Design and Construction SPD in use and research found that Leeds has more BREEAM excellent buildings than any comparative city;
  - Vulnerable parts of Leeds already much better protected and long-term plans for the Aire under development with the Environment Agency.

3. The strategy identifies a small number of major priorities which need to be progressed in order to meet this aim (including development of a strategic transport hub, district heating network and building energy efficiency). Whilst many are either underway or well planned, there are some which need additional support to develop an investment grade business case.
4. Financial and technical support to develop full business cases for projects is normally hard to access, but an opportunity exists to bid for support from Europe via the European Local Energy Assistance (ELENA) mechanism.

### **Recommendations**

5. To approve the Leeds Climate Change Strategy 2012-15 and publish it through the Leeds Initiative channels, together with a short non-technical summary.
6. To support and champion the Council's role in delivering the priority actions contained within the strategy.
7. To support the development of an expression of interest and full business case to ELENA to refine and commercialise a series of strategic low carbon energy infrastructure and energy efficiency projects in order to deliver the objectives of the Leeds Climate Change Strategy 2012-15.
8. To become a signatory to the EU Covenant of Mayors and to submit the Leeds Climate Change Strategy 2012-15 as our Sustainable Energy Action Plan, to support an ELENA bid.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To provide sufficient information to enable the Council to endorse and publish the updated Leeds Climate Change Strategy 2012-15.
- 1.2 To outline the support available from the European Local Energy Assistance (ELENA) mechanism to refine and commercialise a series of strategic low carbon energy infrastructure and energy efficiency projects in order to deliver the objectives of the Leeds Climate Change Strategy 2012-15.
- 1.3 To seek formal approval to join the EU Covenant of Mayors as a first step towards submitting an ELENA bid.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 The existing Leeds Climate Change Strategy (2009-11) provides a strategic framework for action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to prepare for the local impacts of changing weather patterns.
- 2.2 The 2009-11 strategy was developed by the Leeds Initiative's Climate Change Partnership with extensive contributions from organisations across the city.
- 2.3 The Council has played a critical role throughout this work. Environment Portfolio Holders have chaired the Partnership for over 5 years and provided strong strategic leadership. Officers from across the Council have responded to this leadership by developing a range of innovative carbon reduction programmes, such as Re:fit, Wrap Up Leeds and the Leeds Core Cycle Network.
- 2.4 The Partnership recently reviewed the 2009-11 strategy and agreed that a light touch review and update was more appropriate than a comprehensive rewrite. The review document is attached as appendix 1. Key findings were:
  - 2.4.1 Some good strategic progress, including establishing medium-term emissions reduction targets and improving our understanding of cost-effective emissions reduction opportunities in different sectors, but some areas of underperformance, mainly due to changing government funding levels.
  - 2.4.2 That 7 of the 15 major actions were rated green in terms of progress (including providing free insulation, investment in sustainable transport through the Local Transport Plan 3, corporate emissions reductions, municipal recycling and residual waste procurement and feasibility studies for low carbon infrastructure in the Aire Valley), 5 were amber and 3 were red (notably major public transport investment and the flood alleviation scheme).
  - 2.4.3 That 2 of the 10 overarching themes (see table – appendix 1) were rated as green (Home energy efficiency and waste and recycling), 7 were amber and 1 was red (Information collation, coordination and inspiration). This demonstrates that some progress has been made across all the themes but that some individual actions are not making sufficient progress.

- 2.4.4 That the strategy would be improved by reducing the number of themes and number of actions within those themes.
- 2.5 The most significant addition to the 2012-15 strategy is a new section on financing low carbon, based on the recent *Economics of Low Carbon Cities* research by the University of Leeds and including some major new funding sources, such as the Green Deal and the proposed bid to the EU ELENA fund.
- 2.6 A summary of ELENA and the Covenant of Mayors is included in sections 3.8-3.18.

### 3 Main issues

#### Leeds Climate Change Strategy

- 3.1 The Leeds Climate Change Strategy 2012-15 has been provided to Exec Board members and is available via <http://www.leedsinitiative.org/environment/page.aspx?id=17796>. This aims to provide a brief and readable summary of the main priorities for action, without going into exhaustive detail on all the current activities or lower impact actions required. However by its nature it is a technical document and to help make it more accessible, we will also design and publish a very short non-technical summary leaflet outlining the vision, key actions and impacts on residents.
- 3.2 The strategy starts with visions for 2015, 2021 and 2050 to provide short, medium and long-term snapshots of where the city could be, if positive action is taken.
- 3.3 This is followed by a brief contextual section (including our promising progress of 14.4% emission reductions from 2005-09) before moving into the key sections: emissions reduction activities and cross-cutting activities.
- 3.4 Each sub-section briefly describes progress to date then presents a short list of priority actions to undertake. These are for the city as a whole to undertake and the Climate Change Partnership developing these actions further to form an annual action plan, which will set out the detail of who will do what by when in order to meet our stated priorities.
- 3.5 Key actions that the Council will lead include:

Theme	Priorities for Action	Progress to date
Home Energy Efficiency	Use Wrap Up Leeds and similar schemes to deliver at least 15,000 energy efficiency measures during 2012-13.	<b>3,892 insulation measures installed through Wrap Up Leeds in quarter 1 2012-13</b> , saving almost 4,000 tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> pa.
Home Energy Efficiency	Develop and promote an overarching domestic energy efficiency and renewable energy programme, linked to the Green Deal, Energy Company Obligation, Feed in Tariffs and the Renewable Heat Incentive, to	Agreement from Leeds City Region Leaders to develop a collaborative business case to procure a framework of <b>Green Deal Providers, aiming for an investment of at least £100m into Leeds</b> . Work started on a short

	offer packages of improvements to households in Leeds.	term project to attract ECO finance to Leeds.
Sustainable Transport	Major public transport infrastructure investment secured that will ensure all of Leeds is served by high-quality, accessible, affordable and reliable public transport.	Biomethane refuse vehicles now in operation in Leeds and strategic cycle paths making progress. <b>Proposals for a £1bn West Yorkshire Transport Fund and devolved transport powers under a 'City Deal'.</b>
Waste and Resource Efficiency	Within existing plans for recycling and residual waste treatment, push for maximum carbon reductions through appropriate segregation of waste and utilisation of best technology solutions, particularly combined heat and power, district heating and anaerobic digestion.	Municipal recycling rates increasing rapidly (37% in 2011/12). Good progress on <b>Recycling and Energy Recovery Facility which would save over 60,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> pa</b> , including technology to enable heat extraction. Anaerobic digestion feasibility due to commence shortly.
Business Emission Reduction	Develop an Energy Services Company (ESCo) or public private partnership to provide investment for low carbon retrofit of existing commercial space, to assist with implementation of measures and to liaise between tenants and owners.	Study completed by Leeds City Region and <b>Re:fit guaranteed to save over 1,600 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> pa from just nice Council buildings</b> . Now being taken forwards as part of ELENA bid.
Low Carbon Economy and Development	Support the development of Aire Valley Leeds as an exemplary Urban Eco-Settlement characterised by efficient homes, a sustainable energy infrastructure and low carbon industries.	Aire Valley has proposals for many renewable energy technologies and feasibility studies for district heating due to be commercialised using ELENA funding. Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Document published and well received, indicating that <b>Leeds has more BREEAM excellent buildings than any comparative city</b> .
Risk Assessment and Adaptation	Work with the Environment Agency and others to develop and deliver an appropriate flood risk management scheme to protect Leeds city centre.	Vulnerable parts of Leeds already much better protected and <b>long-term plans for the Aire under development with the Environment Agency</b> , as part of a phased approach.

3.6 The development of a new £1bn Transport Fund and investment plan for new strategic transport infrastructure is being progressed to strengthen the sub-regional economy by supporting new jobs, enhancing the sustainability of transport and improving accessibility to employment from disadvantaged communities. This proposal will sit alongside the proposed Leeds City Region

'City Deal' with the government to provide greater local autonomy in the planning and provision of local services to drive forward economic growth.

- 3.7 A new transport strategy for Leeds city centre is being prepared to support economic growth, enhance accessibility and consolidate the emergence of a modern 21<sup>st</sup> century city in line with the Vision for Leeds. Key elements will be to enhance the role of the city centre as the hub of for the city region's public transport networks, support the continuing development of the city centre as a place with a quality urban and public realm, developing the centre as a walkable and cycleable place, and expanding sustainable options for movement into and around the centre including strategies for parking and park and ride.

## **EU ELENA**

- 3.8 If the council aims to be the best city for climate action and carbon reduction and to attract the inward investment, jobs and direct financial savings that this entails, there is a need to increase the resources available to coordinate activity and to bring forwards new commercially viable projects. Key programmes that we are seeking ELENA funding to help commercialise include:
- District heating networks, particularly in the city centre and Aire Valley;
  - Energy efficiency improvements in domestic and commercial buildings;
  - Refuelling infrastructure for gas and electric vehicles.
- 3.9 The ELENA funding stream is one of the only sources of funding that can help to commercialise projects. It is the only one that we are aware of that offers 90% of the costs. Further detail on ELENA is given below and in sections 4.4.2-4.4.6.
- 3.10 The European Commission and the European Investment Bank (EIB) established the ELENA technical assistance facility (European Local ENergy Assistance - [www.eib.org/elena](http://www.eib.org/elena)) in December 2009, financed through the Intelligent Energy-Europe programme. ELENA is supports regional or local authorities to contribute to the EU "20-20-20" initiative: reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20%; and/or increase the share of renewable energies in energy consumption to at least 20%; and/or improve energy efficiency by at least 20%, all by 2020.
- 3.11 ELENA support can be provided for the development and acceleration of identified investment programmes so as to attract external finance in the fields of energy efficiency and low carbon energy sources:

- public and private buildings, including social housing and street and traffic lighting, to support increased energy efficiency – e.g. refurbishment of buildings aimed at significantly decreasing energy consumption (both heat and electricity), such as thermal insulation, efficient air conditioning and ventilation, efficient lighting;
- integration of renewable energy sources (RES) into the built environment – e.g. solar photovoltaic (PV), solar thermal collectors and biomass;
- investments into renovating, extending or building new district heating/cooling networks, including networks based on combined heat and power (CHP); decentralised CHP systems (building or neighbourhood level);
- urban transport to support increased energy efficiency and integration of renewable energy sources, e.g. high energy efficiency buses, including hybrid buses, electrical or low-carbon propulsion systems, investments to facilitate the introduction of electric cars, investments to introduce new, more energy efficient concepts to improve freight logistics in urban areas;
- local infrastructure including smart grids, information and communication technology infrastructure for energy efficiency, energy-efficient urban equipment, inter-modal transport facilities and refuelling
- infrastructure for alternative fuel vehicles

3.12 ELENA funding can be available for up to three years and is able to fund up to 90% of the eligible costs corresponding to any technical support that is necessary to prepare, implement and finance the investment programme (e.g. feasibility and market studies, structuring of programmes, business plans, energy audits, preparation of tendering procedures and contractual arrangements, programme implementation units etc). Costs of newly recruited staff assigned to develop the investment programme is also an eligible cost. ELENA does not provide finance towards final investment costs but prepares projects for financing by other sources of public or private finance.

3.13 The EIB wants to show that through the use of ELENA a series of bankable projects can be delivered in a district and that local authority capacity to continue to deliver projects of this type will be sustainable. The total investment cost of the programme the fund is supporting normally has to be over €50m. ELENA does not have calls for proposals and will be based on a first come first served basis with applications made directly to the EIB.

### **EU Covenant of Mayors**

3.14 The EU Covenant of Mayors has been running since 2008 with the aim of encouraging local authorities to develop detailed energy strategies for their areas. Local authorities play a crucial role in mitigating the effects of climate change as 80% of energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is associated with urban activity. To date, over 3,800 local authorities from almost all European states have signed the agreement.

3.15 In order to translate their political commitment into concrete measures and projects, Covenant Signatories undertake to prepare a Baseline Emission Inventory and submit, within the year following their signature, a Sustainable Energy Action Plan outlining the key actions they plan to undertake.

- 3.16 Beyond energy savings, the results of Signatories actions are manifold: creation of skilled and stable jobs; healthier environment and quality of life; enhanced economic competitiveness and greater energy independence. These actions serve as examples for others to follow, notably through referring to the “Benchmarks of Excellence”, a database of best practices submitted by Covenant Signatories. Support is available from:
- **Covenant of Mayors Office** – promotional, technical and administrative assistance;
  - **The Joint Research Centre** – scientific and technical support related to emissions inventories and action plans and access to tools and methodologies;
  - **EU Institutions** – institutional support, including from the European Investment Bank.
- 3.17 The Covenant of Mayors is not a statutory or legally binding agreement. However, it does provide a structure and support network to help local authorities to strategically progress low carbon energy infrastructure. Additionally, the Covenant is marketed as being a means to unlock EU finance to deliver the commitments in the Sustainable Energy Action Plans.
- 3.18 Given our intention to develop a low carbon energy infrastructure for Leeds and this proposal to seek EU ELENA funding, it seems an appropriate time to sign the Covenant of Mayors. This will demonstrate clear leadership to our partners and strong Member commitment to supporting innovative carbon reduction programmes.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.1.1 The Leeds Climate Change Strategy 2009-11 was developed in partnership with 100 organisations and subject to extensive public consultation with over 60 detailed responses received.
- 4.1.2 As this consultation was relatively recent and the 2009-11 Strategy was considered to still be fit for purpose, the Leeds Climate Change Partnership agreed to only conduct a light touch review. This review was undertaken by a sub-group of the partnership (chaired by Cllr Walshaw) over three sessions, with the proposed amendments then presented back at two full partnership meetings where the amendments were agreed.
- 4.1.3 Council officers from relevant departments were also involved with drafting the text and commenting on the strategic priorities relevant to their work area.
- 4.1.4 The proposed ELENA bid has been discussed with the Environment Programme Board (23<sup>rd</sup> April) and the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods has subsequently agreed to coordinate the submission, subject to Executive Board Approval.

4.1.5 Consultation with the International Relations team has indicated that signing the Covenant of Mayors may help an ELENA bid to be looked at more favourably by the EU.

## **4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

4.2.1 Equality screening has been undertaken and has not identified any significant issues.

4.2.2 The objectives of the Climate Change Strategy are consistent with the council's aim to narrow the gap between the best and worst off in society. Emission reduction priorities will, over the long term, reduce energy costs for all by hedging against fuel price inflation and the poorest in society will stand to gain the most in percentage terms. Additionally, it is often the more vulnerable who suffer most in extreme weather events (i.e. the elderly in Paris were hardest hit by the 2003 heat wave and some of the most deprived parts of Leeds are most at risk of flooding) so having a resilient city will help avoid these risks.

4.2.3 Many of the priorities will be delivered through specific programmes of work, each of which will be equality screened as part of the design process.

## **4.3 Council policies and City Priorities**

4.3.1 The Vision for Leeds 2011 to 2030 acknowledges that climate change is one of the three major challenges that have emerged since the last Vision was published in 2004.

4.3.2 To achieve our aim to become 'the best city in the UK' by 2030, we will have to transform the economy in Leeds to a low carbon one and address the impacts of a changing climate. The Vision identifies actions in every sector, from green manufacturing to high-quality public transport, alternative energy to local food, sustainable housing to reduced waste. The Leeds Climate Change Strategy will provide the critical short-to-medium term actions to achieve this longer term Vision.

4.3.3 The Vision is supported by the City Priority Plan 2011 to 2015, which brings together a number of key four-year priorities that will help us deliver the 2030 Vision. It is supported by five separate action plans that address the five key themes. Of these, two contain priorities which are directly relevant to the strategy:

4.3.4 Best city... for business:

- Support the sustainable growth of the Leeds' economy.
- Improve journey times and the reliability of public transport.
- Improve the environment through reduced carbon emissions.

4.3.5 Best city... to live:

- Maximise regeneration investment to increase housing choice and affordability within sustainable neighbourhoods.

- Enable growth of the city whilst protecting the distinctive green character of the city.
- Improve housing conditions and energy efficiency.

4.3.6 Council priority 23 covers energy efficiency and district heating, two of the major priorities within the strategy.

#### **4.4 Resources and value for money**

4.4.1 Publishing the Leeds Climate Change Strategy has no direct financial implication, and to reduce costs, we plan to only publish a small number of hard copies, and make the strategy available online. The priorities contained within the strategy do have financial implications. However, they tend to fall into three categories:

- Projects which are already ongoing with existing budgets, or on the Council's and other partners list of priority projects to be delivered;
- Projects which are well developed and could be delivered cost-effectively between a partnership of public and private sector players;
- Projects which need additional support to develop an investment grade business case.

4.4.2 The first category has no new financial implication. The second category should be possible to develop with minimal impact on Council resources, but where new resources are required, the projects will need to go through the normal project development process. The third category does need additional funding, which we propose to access via ELENA as described in 4.4.4 – 4.4.6 below.

4.4.3 Signing the Covenant of Mayors is simply a strategic commitment and has no direct financial implication.

4.4.4 Submitting a successful ELENA bid would commit the Council to provide 10% match funding against the EU investment. For example, the Council would need to provide £300k of match funding for a £3m investment. This would require a budget of c£100k pa for a three year period (2013/14 – 2015/16) and would be sought from a combination of realigned existing budgets, external funding and investment from the capital programme.

4.4.5 Only proposals that can demonstrate that there is a pipeline of investment of at least 25 times the size of the commercialisation project (i.e. £75m for a £3m investment) will be accepted onto the ELENA programme. Therefore there is an expectation that the Council would use a combination of loans from the European Investment Bank or other investments from its public/private sector partners to deliver the capital projects following ELENA.

4.4.6 A separate paper will be brought to Executive Board for endorsement, prior to submitting the final ELENA bid.

4.4.7 Additionally, there are other sources of funding, such as the Future Cities Catapult Centres (which provides up to £25m for innovative low carbon projects) which will be investigated and applied for where relevant to support the objectives of the strategy.

#### **4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

4.5.1 The Leeds Climate Change Strategy 2012-15 has no direct legal implications and all information is openly accessible.

4.5.2 Signing the Covenant of Mayors places a non-statutory obligation on the Council to conduct a baseline emissions inventory, submit a Sustainable Energy Action Plan within a year of signing and to achieve a 20% or greater CO<sub>2</sub> reduction by 2020. The Leeds Climate Change Strategy would fulfil this function.

4.5.3 Submitting a successful ELENA bid would commit the Council to some financial outlay, as described above, but otherwise has no legal implications.

4.5.4 The recommended decisions are all open to Call In.

#### **4.6 Risk Management**

4.6.1 Corporate risk 24 is that 'Council does not meet CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction targets and improve home energy efficiency'.

4.6.2 The Leeds Climate Change Strategy provides a means to coordinate and deliver actions to mitigate this risk and the linked ELENA proposal will help to stimulate further mitigation actions.

4.6.3 Each programme of work will be developed and governed using the standard project management practices and each will therefore have its own risk profile.

### **5 Conclusions**

5.1 The Council has already made some significant steps forwards, reducing emissions from across the city and helping to prepare for a changing climate.

5.2 The Leeds Climate Change Strategy 2012-15 provides a short list of strategic priorities for the city to work on, in order to achieve the Council's commitment to a 40% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction by 2020.

5.3 Although many of the priorities will be taken forward through existing plans and programmes, a number of key priorities are not yet fully developed.

5.4 Signing the Covenant of Mayors and developing an ELENA bid to refine and commercialise these projects will help the city to deliver the 40% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction commitment. This will build on the Council's excellent climate change work and demonstrate a strong Member commitment to continue to innovate.

### **6 Recommendations**

- 6.1 To approve the Leeds Climate Change Strategy 2012-15 and publish it through the Leeds Initiative channels, together with a short non-technical summary.
  - 6.2 To support and champion the Council's role in delivering the priority actions contained within the strategy.
  - 6.3 To support the development of an expression of interest and full business case to ELENA to refine and commercialise a series of strategic low carbon energy infrastructure and energy efficiency projects in order to deliver the objectives of the Leeds Climate Change Strategy 2012-15.
  - 6.4 To become a signatory to the EU Covenant of Mayors and to submit the Leeds Climate Change Strategy 2012-15 as our Sustainable Energy Action Plan, to support an ELENA bid.
- 7 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**
- 7.1 Leeds Climate Change Strategy 2009-11
  - 7.2 Leeds Climate Change Strategy 2012-15
  - 7.3 The Economics of Low Carbon Cities (University of Leeds, 2012)
  - 7.4 EIA Screening

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.

# Appendix 1 – Review of 2009-11 Climate Change Strategy

## **Purpose**

This paper outlines the key achievements of the Leeds Climate Change Strategy and areas of underperformance. It critically appraises the approach taken and recommends a review process in order to stimulate discussion and seek buy-in from members of the Climate Change Partnership.

## **Background**

The Leeds Climate Change Strategy was published in summer 2009 and represented the first major output from the Leeds Climate Change Partnership and the first attempt to develop a comprehensive climate change strategy for the city of Leeds. It was designed to cover both adaptation and mitigation and to represent all sectors within the city.

The strategy is split into 10 broad themes (each of which has a future vision statement for 2011) which contain 35 priorities for action. The strategy contains a commitment to conduct a review during 2011.

## **Key achievements since publication**

- Development of a comprehensive action plan for Leeds City Council, responding to the 35 priorities for action.
- Adoption at full council of a target to reduce council corporate emissions by 40% between 2008-09 and 2020-21 (reduction of 3.6% in the first year).
- Adoption at full council of a city wide target of a 40% gross reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> for the whole city between 2005 and 2020 (reduction of 4.7% in first three years).
- Development of a vantage point model for Leeds, identifying the scale of action required in key technologies and sectors in order to achieve a 40% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction for the city by 2020.

## **Key areas for improvement/development**

- The need to agree targets or action plans for all Climate Change Partnership members, or to share existing targets and action plans.
- The need to develop shared priority actions across members of the Partnership.
- To improve engagement with the business community in strategy delivery..
- To secure funding for major initiatives (particularly the flood alleviation scheme and public transport improvements).

## **Headline progress report for the 10 themes**

Theme	Future Vision Statement: By 2011...	Progress report
Home Energy	we will have made major energy	Energy efficiency improvements in public and

Efficiency	efficiency improvements and will be ready to start delivering new technologies in bulk.	private sector; plans in place for major cavity and loft scheme for private sector and possible solid wall programme.
Sustainable Transport	the proportion of car-based trips into central Leeds will have decreased and we will have a plan to reduce congestion and emissions through investment in the transport network, particularly public transport, coupled with appropriate demand management.	Reducing trend for car-based journeys and some investment in active travel; secure significant public transport investment.
Partnership Emission Reduction	it will be clear that the public and private sector in Leeds are showing leadership by working together to make significant carbon reductions.	Most public sector organisations and large businesses are making ongoing carbon reductions and publicising success; limited collective action.
Waste and Resource Efficiency	we will have clear plans in place to turn waste in Leeds into valuable resources.	Municipal recycling rates rapidly rising as recyclables and collection routes expand; plans for a CHP ready residual waste plant progressing; commercial and industrial waste less clear.
Business Emission Reduction	major businesses will be taking action to reduce carbon emissions and smaller businesses will have appropriate support in place.	Most major businesses now understand commercial value of carbon reductions and are making good progress; smaller businesses less advanced and lack support.
Low Carbon New Developments	some major low and zero carbon developments have been built and key developers and planning policies support low carbon development.	Development slow since 2009 but many BREEAM excellent buildings built, award winning Greenhouse in use and LILAC ecohomes have planning permission; policies advancing but stymied by changing national/regional framework.
Low Carbon Energy Infrastructure	we will have developed major renewable energy and community heating plans that significantly reduce emissions and will be ready to start building them.	Community heating plans developing well, particularly for parts of the city centre and Aire Valley; Yarn Street CHP being built. Slower progress with renewables.
Risk Assessment and Priority Interventions	we will have developed a clear understanding of what the key climate risks are for Leeds, which parts of the city are most vulnerable, and have a clear plan to make Leeds more resilient.	West Yorkshire risk-assessment and action planning undertaken and good technical understanding of key risks and priority actions; flood alleviation scheme making very slow progress.
Information Collation, Coordination and Inspiration	we will have made important climate change information for Leeds easily available, partnership activities will be well coordinated and we will have inspired mass action to reduce emissions.	Leeds Initiative website contains good information but not heavily used; partnership yet to develop coordinated activities and mass action not happening yet.
Moving to a Low Carbon Economy	the economic imperative of successfully tackling climate change is clear to the Leeds business community and a skills	Recent progress on Mini Stern and commercial property will help this area and new LEP has committed to focus on low carbon growth. Skills programme yet to be

	development programme has been agreed to help develop the low carbon economy.	developed.
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### ***Initial critical appraisal of the strategy***

The current Leeds Climate Change Strategy splits into four main sections. These are outlined and appraised below, with recommendations for improvement or review in italics.

1. **Visions for 2011, 2021, 2050.** These are meant to tell visual stories of how Leeds may change to respond to the challenge of climate change. They successfully do this and have been quoted as best practice in a Scottish guide to climate change strategies. *To remain largely the same, with a scenario for 2015 replacing the 2011 scenario.*
2. **Background information.** These sub-sections outline the scope and purpose of the strategy and summarise key statistics. This information provides context prior to the key activities relatively successfully. *To remain largely the same with minor updates.*
3. **Key activities.** Each of the 10 themes has a brief introductory paragraph providing specific context, then a small number of priorities for action and concluding with a statement regarding where we want to be by 2011. The format works well, however the high number of actions (35) together with the lack of clear ownership and absence of specific targets means that it is not easy to chart progress. *The number of actions should reduce and they should adopt the SMART approach.*
  - a. **emissions reduction.** This contains the bulk of the actions for Leeds, split into 7 areas. These are broadly right, covering the main sources of emissions within Leeds, divided by the sectors that can most easily influence them. There is some overlap between sub-sections, particularly Partnership and Business; New Developments and Energy Infrastructure. The Low Carbon Economy section from cross-cutting may also be better placed here, linked to Business. *To review the number of sub-sections and attempt to rationalise to focus on key actions.*
  - b. **adaptation.** This section focussed on capacity building in order to improve our knowledge of key risks and priority interventions. Although some gaps in knowledge still exist as this field is relatively young compared to emissions reductions, enough is known now to prioritise some short-term actions. *To be refocused on specific actions.*
  - c. **cross-cutting.** This contains sub-sections focussed on information/coordination and research into the low carbon economy. By year end the economy research should be largely complete and should move to emissions reduction. The coordination element is probably weakest in the strategy. Additionally, a number of organisations have identified that the natural environment/food production are entirely missing from the strategy but are very important for both resilience and

emissions reductions. *To review the coordination element and strengthen and replace low carbon economy with a cross cutting natural environment section.*

**4. Monitoring and review process.** Summaries of progress have been included with the council's Annual Environment Statement and this approach is still sound. *To remain largely the same with a new review date of 2015.*

### ***Recommended approach to review***

Overall, the Leeds Climate Change Strategy remains fit for purpose. The first version was the result of 2 years of detailed evidence gathering and consultation and was published less than 2 years ago, so there is little point in repeating this exercise.

Therefore the recommendation is for a relatively light touch review focussed on:

- refreshing background information and existing sections;
- combining some areas within emissions reduction and introduce a new natural environment sections within cross cutting;
- making actions SMART with clear ownership from members of the partnership;
- moving the review date forward to 2015.

The recommended approach to this is to:

- Establish a small task and finish group (5-6 people) formed from members of the Climate Change Partnership to lead this work;
- To consult on the natural environment section with organisations outside the Partnership to steer the content of the new section;
- To report back to the main partnership on progress in September and present a recommended final version in December 2011;
- To seek formal endorsement from Full Council in early 2012;
- To publish the revised strategy as an online document early in 2012.