

POLICY, FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 7TH JULY 2015

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITIES & NEIGHBOURHOODS

CLIMATE LOCAL COMMITMENT

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval from Members to sign the Climate Local Commitment.
- 1.2 To set out a proposed process for developing Melton Borough Council's Climate Local commitments and the rationale behind these commitments.

2.0. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. **Members approve to sign the Climate Local Commitment as attached as Appendix A**
- 2.2. **Members approve the draft Action Plan, to be refreshed annually, attached as Appendix B and note that future proposed actions will be locally determined commitments and are expected to take place within the Borough of Melton.**
- 2.3. **Members approve to publish our commitments, actions and progress, enabling local communities to hold us to account.**
- 2.4. **Members approve officers to share the learning from our experiences and achievements with other councils.**

3.1. KEY ISSUES

- 3.2. As an element of the Local Government Associations Memorandum of Understanding with Central Government, the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change was replaced by Climate Local in June 2012 (see **Appendix A**).
- 3.3. Climate Local requires signatories to develop explicit commitments both to reduce carbon emissions, to improve their resilience to the effects of our changing climate, and to report to the public progress in delivering those actions and impact of those actions on outcomes (see **Appendix B** for a draft updated Action Plan). Commitments must be refreshed on a yearly basis.
- 3.4. Melton Borough Council previously had a Carbon Reduction Strategy which ran up until the end of 2013 and is therefore in need of updating. The Council also previously had a Green Travel Plan, which focused on 4 main objectives:
 - (a) Support increased choice of travel modes;
 - (b) Promote and achieve access by sustainable modes;
 - (c) Respond to the growing concern about the environment, congestion, pollution and poverty of access;

- (d) Promote the creating and shaping of “place” through improved environmental credentials and improved accessibility.

This plan also expired in 2013.

- 3.5. Signing Climate Local and committing to locally developed actions will enable Melton Borough Council to demonstrate leadership, commitment and ambition to climate change and sustainability issues.
- 3.6. The Climate Local scheme is established good practice with a large online resource to support the process. Other District Councils in the county to have signed Climate Local include Blaby District Council, Charnwood Borough Council and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.

4.0 **POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Melton Borough Council already has a strong strategic focus towards creating sustainable and resilient communities, which is embodied within key documents such as the Sustainable Community Strategy and the recently refreshed Corporate Priorities 2015-2020, including:

Place:

- (a) Promoting a vibrant and sustainable economy, focused on growth and prosperity.
- (b) Helping to provide homes and environments that meet local needs.
- (c) Creating a well-connected Borough.

Agile Council:

- (d) To effectively manage demand delivering well-respected value for money customer focused services with pride and efficiency.

Goal:

- (e) Sustainable Borough

- 4.2 Climate Local would contribute towards climate change policies contained within the Local Plan, which focuses heavily on sustainable development within the Borough
- 4.3 Signing Climate Local would also support many of the concepts recently discussed at a key staff briefing from the Council’s Chief Executive, regarding a programme of change aimed at Melton Extending to Excellence. Such a commitment would undoubtedly contribute towards this desired excellence, requiring innovative thinking and exploring new ideas to expand the Council’s comfort zone.
- 4.4 There is also existing policy direction from Leicestershire County Council’s Carbon Reduction Strategy, which acknowledges the potential for contribution from Local Authorities in achieving national and County-wide targets.

5 **FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1. Some actions may have potential costs associated with invest to save schemes.

- 5.2. The Leicester and Leicestershire Local Enterprise Partnership has identified 8 growth sector areas, including the low carbon sector, indicating potential funding streams for relevant projects which satisfy the funding criteria.
- 5.3. There would need to be a staff resource in order to attend internal meetings and implement the action plan.
- 5.4. Locally, the benefits of supporting the national and County agenda on climate change manifests itself in future cost savings to local services and contributing to the local economy. Mitigating climate change through carbon reduction can create jobs, boost the economy, and reduce Council energy costs. Development of the low carbon sector through “green investment” will increase employment, skills development and innovation in the Borough.

6.0 **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS**

- 6.1 Potential compliance implications from the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme and the Climate Change Act (2008).

7.0 **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

- 7.1 There are no direct links relating to this report.

8.0 **EQUALITIES**

- 8.1 No initial equalities issues have been identified.

9.0 **RISKS**

- 9.1 Relevant risks are considered in the table below:

Probability



Very High A				
High B				
Significant C				
Low D		1		
Very Low E				
Almost Impossible F				
	IV Neg- ligible	III Marg- inal	II Critical	I Catast- rophic

→
Impact

Risk No.	Description
1	Climate Local is not approved, no current document available- reputational loss

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 The Climate Local Commitment seeks to drive and inspire councils to act on the causes and effects of climate change by providing a framework through which councils can organise and plan their journey in addressing climate change.

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 The declaration is in alignment with current policies and priorities:

- Melton’s Corporate Plan 2015-2020
- Melton Community Partnership’s Sustainable Community Strategy 2015-2025
- Melton Extending to Excellence 2015- 2020
- Leicestershire County Council’s Carbon Reduction Strategy 2013-2020
- Asset Management Plan

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 All wards affected.

Contact Officer: Amy Scoins- Community Policy Officer

Date: 7/7/15

Appendices: Appendix A: Climate Local Commitment certificate
Appendix B: Draft Climate Local Action Plan

Background Papers: n/a

Reference:

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