

**Environment Policy Development Group – 14 October 2009****CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN – Progress Report****Report of the Strategic Director (Community)**

**Statutory Powers:** Local Government Act 2000, Climate Change Act 2008 and various pieces of environmental legislation.

**Financial Implications**

The actions being undertaken under the Climate Change Action Plan are taking place within existing budgets. There is scope within the Plan, that if Members decide to pursue specific projects, additional resources maybe required. The financial implications are assessed as part of the annual budget process and reviews of the capital programme.

**Purpose of Report**

To review the progress of implementing the Climate Change Action Plan since the approval in October 2007.

**Links to Council Priorities**

The actions and achievements within the plan particularly relate to Council priorities CP3 (distinctive environment) and CP4 (clean environment). It also closely relates to the Council's commitment to CP2 (sustainability), and specifically the cross-cutting theme of climate change.

**Recommendations:**

**That the Environment Policy Development Group reviews the Council's progress in achieving the aims of the Action Plan and makes comments on progress and possible next steps for consideration by the Executive.**

**Background**

1. Climate change is now well-documented. It is predicted that climate change will have a profound impact on a global scale, affecting society and the world's economy. Tackling climate change is a global problem and national policy and legislation is moving to help mitigate the impacts (Climate Change Act 2008). However it must also be addressed at a local level with local solutions. The Council has a role to play in encouraging mitigation and adaptation to climate change across the South Hams, within a framework provided by corporate priorities, commitments, and resource constraints.
2. In March 2005 the Council signed the Devon Wide Declaration on Climate Change and Fuel Poverty. In December 2005 the Council reviewed its corporate priorities and confirmed the current CP1 to CP6 priorities but with increased emphasis to be given to responding to climate change within existing priorities. In 2007 (Min E.70/07, EPDG.6/07) the Council adopted a Climate Change Policy and Strategy that included an Action Plan.

3. The Climate Change Policy is as follows:

*“South Hams District Council’s Climate Change Policy aims to improve the well-being of the community by looking at the needs of customers, and the services we provide, and working in partnership to reduce the causes of climate change with a particular emphasis on:*

- *reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions*
- *adapting to climate change*
- *promoting sustainable development*
- *encouraging the development of appropriate new business opportunities*
- *raising community awareness.”*

**The Climate Change Action Plan**

4. The Action Plan was developed in consultation with key services and agencies including the South Hams Strategic Partnership, the Climate Change Officer at Devon County Council, a representative from Renewable Energy for Devon and the South Hams Sustainability Group. The role of the Action Plan is to provide an umbrella document to sign-post action in other strategies, including those of partner agencies, and to identify new actions. The Action Plan does not replicate all the actions of other existing strategies but establishes clear linkages to corporate priorities.

5. Since 2007, officers have been working to achieve specific actions highlighted in the Plan. **Appendix 1** summarises the achievements to date and proposed next steps.

**Risk assessment**

<b>Opportunity</b>	<b>Issues</b>	<b>Benefits</b>
To achieve local mitigation and adaptation to climate change through completion of the action plan.	Achievement of actions depends on cross-cutting and partnership work that can be difficult to achieve	Local community benefits from lower risk of climate change impacts.
To build partnership working, including shared services to achieve actions.	Failure to work in partnership will cause inefficiencies and reduce the impact of each individual agency	Closer partnership working and efficiency savings
SHDC to become engaged in climate change issues	Key actions to tackle climate change may require additional funding	Resilience of local community and economy will improve.

**Conclusion**

6. This review of the Climate Change Action Plan updates members on the actions taken to date.

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Environment Policy Development Group  
 14 October 2009

## **Background Documents**

South Hams District Council Climate Change Policy and Strategy  
Reports to and Minutes of Environment PDG 31<sup>st</sup> October 2007 (Min EPDG.6/07)  
Reports to and Minutes of Executive (Min E.70/07)  
Climate Change Act 2008