

HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

28 November 2008

CLIMATE CHANGE

Discussion Report by Lead Chief Executive for Sustainability

RECOMMENDATION

That Members confirm the importance of continued joint working on Climate Change and discuss any additional ways they feel local authorities in Hampshire should progress the work in this area.

SUMMARY

HIOW authorities are leading their local communities in tackling climate change. Following the County Council's presentation to the Association of its Climate Change Commission report in January 2008, the Chief Executives' Group has reviewed the joint working arrangements on climate change across the sub-region. This progress report seeks leadership on this important subject from Members.

BACKGROUND

1. Climate change is being tackled at international, national, regional and local levels. Member authorities are leading their communities on climate change. Current legislation is continuing to address aspects of climate change.
2. Climate change has formed part of this Association's action plan for the last two years:
 - In January this year the County Council gave a presentation on the recommendations of its Climate Change Commission
 - Eastleigh is now a National Beacon Council for climate change initiatives
 - The Isle of Wight's eco-island initiatives provide another example of progressive work in this area
 - The Local Government Association has produced a comprehensive guide to the powers available to tackle climate change
 - HIOW Member Authorities who have developed the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) have, as part of their work, agreed to prepare a joint strategy to tackle climate change .
3. Climate Change and Energy are key targets in the South East England Regional Economic Strategy 2006-16 and a feature of the Regional Development Agency's own

Corporate Plan 2008-11. The focus is on ensuring a low-carbon future and reducing resource use across the region. HIOW authorities can take advantage of working with SEEDA including funding opportunities through this work.

THE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS (LAAs) AND THE PUSH MULTI AREA AGREEMENT (MAA)

4. LAAs provide an important basis for joint working on climate change. These set out targets based on the National Indicator (N.I.) set relating to climate change:

N.I. 185	Reducing CO ₂ emissions in Council business
N.I. 186	Mitigation of community CO ₂ emissions
N.I. 187	Tackling fuel poverty
N.I. 188	Adaptation to climate change.

The Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton LAA aspirations on climate change are being brought together through the Multi-Area Agreement (MAA) led by the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH).

5. The District Councils are working on climate change with Hampshire County Council through the Hampshire LAA. For local authorities in South Hampshire there is the added dynamic of this work engaging through PUSH and the MAA. The HIOW Sustainability Co-ordinators' Group brings together staff working at a tactical and operational level on climate change across all authorities with the Environment Centre providing technical support. (The Environment Centre based in Southampton is a charitable foundation supported by Member authorities).
6. The other public, voluntary and private sector partners in Hampshire and Isle of Wight are engaged in work on climate change through the Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs). The LSPs are leading work on climate change with local authorities across their communities. Community and voluntary sectors as well as the private sector have key roles to play in the process.

PARTNERSHIP FOR URBAN SOUTH HAMPSHIRE STRATEGY

7. The proposed PUSH strategy recognises that authorities have already achieved much on the climate change agenda. The strategy will include development of a joint action plan which links what each authority and each Local Area Agreement is already doing to the wider work of the Partnership. It aims to achieve a measurable and substantial reduction in CO₂ emissions, and to ensure that the PUSH area is adapted to the major risks/opportunities that climate change offers. The approach to this work is strongly supported by SEEDA through the Eco Footprint Task and Finish Group which is an initiative covering the "Diamonds for Growth Authorities" aimed at developing best practice in the region. There is an opportunity for non-PUSH authorities (Isle of Wight, Basingstoke and Deane, Hart and Rushmoor) to join in this work.
8. Building on the existing work, and the development of targets in the new round of LAAs, the following actions are proposed for individual PUSH partners as well as the partnership as a whole, for the time frame 2008-2011.

- (1) Each local authority in the PUSH area, as part of their LAAs should:
 - undertake an analysis in order to prepare to manage the risks/opportunities to individuals, communities and businesses from a changing climate
 - produce an action plan which sets out how that area is going to adapt to the biggest risks/opportunities in their area posed by climate change
 - under take an analysis of CO₂ production in their area to identify key opportunities for mitigating climate change, through behaviour change, small scale infrastructure, and major infrastructure so that there is a measurable reduction in the emission of gases which cause climate change
 - provide leadership of mitigation of climate change in the area, including leading local communities through Local Strategic Partnerships, and with examples of mitigation in the authority's own areas of work.

- (2) Each Local Area Agreement should:
 - share data and information on monitoring and reporting of results on both climate change, mitigation and adaptation
 - exchange best practice and ideas on a regular basis between each of the agreements
 - share links and contacts with Government Office/DEFRA
 - identify areas for joint working across the three LAAs.

- (3) PUSH has resolved to focus on areas where it can have an impact, namely the following:
 - ensuring that the existing infrastructure in PUSH is retrofitted to ensure the maximum benefit, both in terms of climate change mitigation and adaptation
 - ensuring a strategic approach to carbon emission reduction and renewable and low carbon energy supply is developed across South Hampshire in accordance with a recently completed Energy Study for PUSH
 - ensuring all new development and new infrastructure in the PUSH area is both adapted to climate change and mitigates its effect
 - ensuring that all new development and particularly major developments in the PUSH area are designed as exemplars of how to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change

- ensure carbon dioxide emissions are a key factor in the management of transport across the south of Hampshire
- ensure that businesses across the PUSH area are able to respond to the opportunities that the areas above will offer.

9. NEXT STEPS

The PUSH action plan will develop each of the themes above, with named leads, and resourcing implications highlighted. Progress will be monitored through the Sustainability and Social Infrastructure Delivery Panel, and reported to the Joint Committee.

10. In order to ensure a cohesive and joined up approach across the HIOW local government area it is suggested that the Isle of Wight, Basingstoke and Deane, Hart and Rushmoor consider
- (a) whether there are any further examples of climate change work they are undertaking that could be usefully shared with those authorities working within the PUSH strategy; and
 - (b) whether there is an opportunity to align their strategic climate change work with the above approach taken by PUSH.

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Date: 19 November 2008
Annexes: 0
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