

# Crawley Borough Council

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|  | Report No:<br>PS/0338 |  |
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## Report to Cabinet

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008

### Corporate Climate Change Strategy

#### 1. Key Points

- 1.1 This report seeks the approval of the Corporate Climate Change Strategy. It identifies why the Borough Council should adopt a Strategy and the key challenges for the Borough Council and the towns local community. The Strategy also sets out the key steps required for implementation.

#### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet:-
- i) adopts the Corporate Climate Change Strategy
  - ii) authorises the relevant Heads of Service in consultation with the appropriate portfolio members to implement the Year One action plan for 2009/10.
  - iii) approves the carry over of the £50,000 Climate Change Strategy Fund in 2008/09, to 2009/10 if not spent for the implementation of the Climate Change Strategy, year one actions and top 10 tasks, and
  - iv) notes that further funding may need to be identified for the implementation of the action plans.

**TED BERESFORD-KNOX**  
Head of Planning Services

**ANGELA TANNER**  
Head of Environmental Services

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 The Borough Council's commitment to adopting a Corporate Climate Change Strategy is set out in Priority Six of the Corporate Plan 2007-2012. The strategy is important to ensure that the Borough Council takes a key role in supporting a sustainable environment and tackling climate change at a local level.
- 3.2 The strategy attached in Appendix One sets out the Borough Councils vision to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 for both its own operations and those of its local community.
- 3.3 The Strategy was developed with input from the Environment and Housing PDF and the Heads of Service Workshops held throughout August.

### **4. Content**

- 4.1 The Strategy document (Appendix One) identifies that the global challenge of Climate Change requires action at a local level and that Local Authorities have a duty and responsibility to lead by example.
- 4.2 It shows that the Borough Council already undertakes a wide range of initiatives to address climate change and that the strategy aims to build on this good practice. It also clarifies the role of the Borough Council as a business, as a service provider and as a leader and influencer with regard to its local community.
- 4.3 This is set out in the Strategy as the 3 key themes that need to be addressed. These are:
  - How we reduce Co2 in our operations
  - How the town & its community reduces its C02 emissions
  - How we adapt and plan for climate change

This also ensures that the strategy is based on three national Indicators (NI 1185,186 and 188) which have been set by central government. These require local authorities to monitoring and submit information regarding CO 2 emissions in their area.

- 4.4 The Strategy identifies current good practice and commitments in the short, medium and long term to improving carbon emissions throughout the town. However it also states that there is a large amount of work still to be done before we can both identify the current carbon footprint of the town and what the best approach is, in order to ensure we make carbon savings without affecting the quality of services provided.

### **5. Ward Members' Views**

- 5.1 The principle of the strategy and the approach was agreed at the Environment and Housing Policy development Forum in the August 2008.

- 5.2 At this meeting members of the Local Environment Action Group and members of the Local Strategic Partnership board were invited. At the forum, a workshop was held to discuss some of the issues and implications of climate change and the range and level of service provided by the Borough Council.
- 5.3 At the meeting the following key comments were made:-
- the Council should lead by example in the bid to address climate change and that it was essential that the Council developed an effective way of running its business to address Climate Change.
  - the Corporate Strategy on Climate Change would provide a clear and unified direction, with shared goals across the Council.
  - the Council should be an important source of advice and guidance to individuals as well as ensuring that young people were educated on how to reduce the effects of climate change.
- 5.4 The Strategy as attached in Appendix One was also circulated to members of the Policy Development Forum in November for comment.

## **6. Staffing, Financial and Legal Implications/Powers**

- 6.1 The Climate Change Strategy will effect all departments within the Borough Council. However, it is anticipated that the Cabinet Member for Environment supported by the Head of Amenity Services, will provide a co-ordinating role in progressing the Strategy.
- 6.2 At this stage it is not possible to identify the cost savings which might result from implementing the strategy or the additional funding requirements which might result if particular projects were to be taken forward. These implications will become clearer as the Strategy develops. Any additional funding will have to be contained within the Borough Council's overall budget strategy; the Borough Council is likely to continue to face budget constraints in the medium term with the emphasis on increased efficiency savings. It is unlikely that there will be significant resources available for growth/increased budgets without identifying compensating savings or external funding.
- 6.3 In February 2008 the Executive considered report FIN/138 of the Head of Finance, which outlined the proposed Budget and Council Tax for 2008/9 and resolved the revenue provision in the 2009/10 budget of £50,000 for the Climate Change Strategy. This report identifies that this fund/budget is used to implement the strategy and the year one actions including the top 10 tasks, as well as any subsequent action plans.
- 6.4 The "First Steps" section of the Strategy and the Top 10 tasks, indicate that some commitments may be time intensive but with minimal cost, whilst others may be easy to do but will require additional budgets or staff or new funding sources. It will also be the case that while some initiatives may be cost neutral, some will involve increased budgets and some will result in costs savings. However the approach identified must have a long term return with regard to carbon savings and must be adaptable to deal with new technology and scenarios as they develop.

- 6.5 Effective delivery of the Climate Change Strategy will require a commitment of staff time and expenditure on the various different action plans.

## 7. Other Implications

- 7.1 Following adoption of the Strategy (Appendix One) it is recommended that a carbon audit be undertaken for the Borough and its local community in order to develop a baseline for the Strategy. This audit can also allow the cost and benefits of the specific commitments to be assessed with regard to how they will reduce carbon emissions. The CO<sub>2</sub> costs and savings of each project/scheme proposed by the council may then be required as part of the decision making process to demonstrate how the carbon saving has been considered.
- 7.2 The Strategy also makes a commitment to undertake an annual Climate Change Strategy Review which provides an update on what commitments have been made, and if they have been achieved. This will also include other key tasks that are ongoing that feed into the Strategy but may not be listed in the action plan, such as work on the new town hall.

## 8. Links to the Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Plan

The proposals contained in this report relate to the following key areas of the Sustainable Community Strategy

|                           |   |                       |   |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| Community Cohesion        | y | Community Safety      | y |
| Young People and Children | y | Health and Well Being | y |
| Older People              | y | The Environment       | y |
| The Local Economy         | y | Social Inclusion      | y |

The following key principles are applicable:-

|   |   |
|---|---|
| (i) Working together                            | y |
| (ii) Dignity, respect and opportunities for all | y |
| (iii) Involving People                          | y |
| (iv) Making it last                             | y |

The report relates to the following areas in which the Council operates to enhance the town and the quality of life of local people:-

|   |   |
|---|---|
| (i) <u>Our Communities</u> : (ensuring they are safe, healthy, cohesive and enjoyable)  | y |
| (ii) <u>Our Environment</u> : (ensuring that it is attractive, clean, protected and sustainable)  | y |
| (iii) <u>Our Economy</u> : (ensuring it is thriving, vibrant and prosperous)  | y |
| (iv) <u>Our Council</u> : (ensuring it is engaging, transparent, business-like with a social conscience, cost-effective and a place-shaping community leader) | y |

## **9. Reasons for the Recommendation**

- 9.1 By adopting and implementing this Climate Change Strategy, we believe we can effectively, efficiently and substantially reduce our own carbon footprint, as well as that of our local community. We can then ensure we maximise our ability to protect the environment for future generations.

### **Background Papers**

Corporate Plan 2007-2012

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Of

## **Procedural Check for Cabinet Only**

**Please note that reports will not be accepted until this section has been completed by the author**

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Key Decision                       | yes                                    |
| First included on the Forward Plan | February 2007                          |
| Discussed at CMT on                | (last discussed at October 08 meeting) |
| Discussed at Portfolio Briefing on | (last discussed at October 08 meeting) |
| Discussed at Cabinet Briefing on   | 4 <sup>th</sup> November               |

Cleared by the following officers:-

|                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Head of Finance                       | yes        |
| Head of Legal and Democratic Services | <b>yes</b> |
| Director of Resources                 | yes        |
| Head of Community Services            | yes        |
| <b>Head of Amenity Services</b>       | <b>yes</b> |
| <b>Head of Environmental Services</b> | <b>yes</b> |
| <b>Head of HR &amp; Development</b>   | <b>yes</b> |

# Climate Change Corporate Strategy

## What is Climate Change?

*“There is a compelling scientific consensus that human activity is changing the world’s Climate. The evidence that climate change is happening, and that man-made emissions are its main cause, is strong and indisputable...we are already experiencing the effects of climate change and ....without the right responses locally and globally, we will see even more extreme impacts. ..The Government believes that climate change is the greatest long-term challenge facing the world today.” **Planning and Climate Change PPS1 December 2007.***

It is accepted that Climate Change is a Global challenge, but also that there is a ‘pivotal role for local authorities in achieving sustainable development and mitigating and adapting to climate change’. **Local Government White Paper**

## The Local Challenge

Action on climate change is needed at local, national and international levels. Crawley is well placed to tackle the global challenge.

Crawley was designed and built with principles which are now described as ‘sustainable development’. The neighbourhood principle meant, for most people, easy access to schools, shops and other local services. Employment opportunities were close at hand and there was scope for people to cycle or use buses, rather than the car.

These principles have continued to underpin the development of the Town as it has grown beyond its original ‘new town’ targets. Action has also been taken, both by the Council and others, in an effort to reduce our impact on the global climate. Today, we compare favourably with the rest of the South East. Baseline information for 2005 shows that domestic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were 2.1 tonnes per person - well below the 2.5 tonnes per head average for the South East, and down from the 2004 figures.

However, we live in very different times from when the Town started to develop in the 1950s. Expectations are different and the challenge presented by climate change is both immediate and demanding. Even though our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are lower than some other areas, we still release some 300,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere every year, making our own contribution to global warming. And the Town will continue to grow – new neighbourhoods and new housing development will take place, new shops and services will be built and new businesses will locate here as the Town strengthens its role within the Gatwick Diamond.

Whilst the principles on which the Town was developed may continue to hold good, much more will need to be done if we are to meet expectations for ever improved standards of living, whilst reducing our contribution to climate change. New developments will need to be planned and constructed differently. Businesses and service providers, including the Council, will also need to operate in a different way, and we will all need to look at how we can reduce our individual impact on the environment.

Both the Local Strategic Partnership and the Borough Council are already committed to reducing the Town’s carbon footprint, and this strategy builds on those commitments. It seeks to address the Council’s role in addressing climate change across the Town and its various communities. It includes the local impacts of Gatwick, but at this stage does not seek to include air travel itself, as this is dealt with nationally.

## Why should Crawley Borough Council take a lead?

Crawley Borough Council is ideally placed to lead on tackling Climate Change. We have signed the Nottingham Declaration and made a clear commitment to addressing climate change. Our declaration states that we recognise the role of the Council in leading society's response to the climate challenge, and that we pledge to address the causes of climate change, as well as preparing our own community for the impacts of a changing climate.

Climate change is now identified as a major issue in our Corporate Plan. We already celebrate success as an exemplar local authority with regard to our Sustainable Procurement, together with achieving EMAS accreditation.

By preparing this strategy we are taking forward our commitments. The proposed initiatives will help to ensure we have identified a successful approach, with key steps that utilise our roles as a Business, Community Leader, Estate Manager and Service Provider.

Implementation of the strategy will require difficult decisions to be made with regard to how we provide our services. We will need to encourage others to change their behaviour and pose the right questions so people can make informed choices. By defining how the strategy will do this we can address people's perceptions of the issues, and the attitudes we have, both as a council and as a local community.

Whatever the issue, we must ensure that our impact on Climate Change is recognised and addressed, whilst identifying the risks involved if we do nothing, or fail to meet the targets set by this strategy.

By adopting and implementing this climate change strategy, we believe we can effectively, efficiently and substantially reduce our own carbon footprint, as well as that of our local community. We can then ensure we maximise our ability to protect the environment for future generations.

### Our Vision

*To become a Carbon neutral council and a carbon neutral town by 2050.*

### Our Targets

*For Crawley Borough Council to achieve Carbon Neutrality we aim to:*

- *Reduce our carbon emissions by 32% by 2020;*
- *Reduce our carbon emissions by 60% by 2040; and*
- *Become Carbon Neutral by 2050.*

### Our Approach

The need to address climate change effectively presents challenges to our town and residents, local economy and environment.

In 2008, national government adopted key national indicators in order to assess the performance of all Local Authorities. Three key indicators are now used to assess climate change within the Local Authority area.

These are:

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| How we reduce CO <sub>2</sub> in our operations                    | <b>(NI 185)</b> |
| How the town & its community reduces its CO <sub>2</sub> emissions | <b>(NI 186)</b> |
| How we adapt and plan for climate change                           | <b>(NI 188)</b> |



These 3 indicators have been accepted as the basis for assessment and developing a strategic approach to climate change. Therefore, they have been translated into the 3 key themes in this strategy. Following adoption of the strategy, the baseline data for 2008, when finalised, will be used to identify where we are now, whilst the next section of the strategy identifies the mechanisms required to ensure success. We will do this in 3 key stages. Details for our initial actions to be undertaken in our year one 2009/10 are set out in the top 10 key tasks at the end of the Strategy.

These Top 10 initiatives are the priorities for year one and will be closely monitored to assess progress and the impact on CO<sub>2</sub>. However, contained within the strategy there are also 10 other initiatives that will also be progressed within the first year 2009/10 to assist with the assessment and planning stages of the strategy for further years.

For the following 2 years (years two and three) we will focus on developing existing initiatives and exploring other opportunities for change. For the medium-term, 4-7 years into the future, we will look to introduce new initiatives, based on the previous years' research. For the longer term, 8-12 years from now, we will have to review how successful we have been and, in the light of national and local circumstances, decide what more needs to be done. This will allow the strategy to set out a plan of action up to 2020 and ensure we can audit how we meet our target of 32% by 2020.

This strategy sets out the key principles and commitments that CBC will investigate further, and the time-line in which they will be considered. This will lead to action plans being developed, following adoption of the strategy, which will look at how they can be achieved, who will take the lead and how they will be resourced with regard to time, staff and finance.

## **Key Theme One**

### **Reducing the Council's Carbon Footprint**

Through the services it provides, and the way in which it operates, the Council contributes directly to the Town's carbon footprint (National Indicator NI 185). This includes how we procure items and services, how we manage our own assets and buildings and how we use energy. It also includes our vehicle use and travel patterns, and the way in which our employees work.

#### **Where are we now?**

The Council is already committed to reducing its carbon footprint. We have introduced initiatives that look at the way we travel, work and use electricity to successfully reduce our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Our recent successes include:

- Developing a 'Make the Change' campaign to both employees and local businesses;
- Reducing business car mileage from 307,936 miles in 2003/04 to 226,910 in 2007/08;
- Reductions of 17% in water consumption at the Town Hall from 2006/07 to 2007/08;
- Increased household waste sent for recycling from 14.70% in 2001/02 to 26.95% in 2007/08.

However, we still do not have a full assessment of our current carbon footprint and in aspiring to be carbon neutral we will need to go further in reducing our reliance on non-renewable sources of energy, changing the way we work and reducing the waste we generate.

### **Measuring our performance**

- As a first step towards carbon neutrality we will undertake an audit to assess our current carbon footprint;
- We will regularly update the audit to identify the progress we are making;
- We will review the work in two years time to take into account the results and progress we are making.
- We will undertake an annual climate change strategy review to assess progress each year.

Our strategy for the Council's operations has five main elements: minimising our use of energy; developing more sustainable forms of energy supply; securing more sustainable working practices; reducing the impact of the way we travel; securing greater water and waste efficiency.

### **Minimising Energy Consumption**

The Borough Council uses significant amounts of energy through its function as a business. We use energy to provide services to our community, as well as through creating documents and running the buildings we own. This strategy requires us to look at ways we can minimise the amount of energy we need to use.

### **Minimising Energy Consumption**

#### **Initially in year one, 2009/10 we will:**

- Assess benefits, costs and CO<sub>2</sub> savings of minimisation initiatives;
- We will undertake an audit to assess our current carbon footprint; (see Appendix One for details.)
- Look at how we can reduce energy consumption for all of our own buildings;
- Consider how delivery of services can be made more energy efficient;

#### **In the short term, 2010-2012 we will:**

- Assess the implications of achieving a minimum level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes, but aspire for level 6 for all residential developments;
- Assess the implications of council built non-residential development achieving a minimum of Building Research Establishment Environmental assessment method (BREEAM) Very Good, but aspire for Excellent where possible;
- Ensure development built by the council, including the new Town Hall, achieve the highest possible standards and, where possible, are 'future proofed' to allow for changes in technology;
- Review energy monitoring and targeting procedures.

#### **In the medium term 2012-2016 we intend to:**

- Develop an awareness of advancing technology and how the Council can utilise it. This may be through sustainable construction techniques or energy production and minimisation;
- Utilise sustainable design and innovation where appropriate to ensure we minimise the carbon emissions of all of our own developments.

#### **For the longer term 2016-2020 we may need to:**

- Reassess our energy consumption, introduce further improvements to new buildings and retrofit sustainable energy measures which become available.

## Using Sustainable Energy

To ensure utilisation of sustainable forms of energy we need to commit to moving away from non-renewable sources. We must effectively look towards the use of renewable energy, especially from localised power generation, and the mechanisms that will allow us to do this.

### Using Sustainable Energy

#### Initially in year one 2009/10 we will:

- Look at how we supply energy to our buildings and the role of renewable energy, especially localised power generation;

#### In the short term, 2010-2012 we will:

- Assess the scope and mechanisms available through the planning framework, including Section 106 agreements, to link renewable energy provision.

#### For the medium term, 2012-2016 we intend to:

- Develop any renewable or localised power generation programmes identified as being appropriate for the Council;

#### In the longer term , 2016-2020 we will:

- Reassess our energy supply and whether there are further carbon savings to be made through efficiencies, economies of scale or technological advances.

## Developing more sustainable working practices

The Borough Council employs over 800 staff across its 4 directorates. By looking at the way our business operates, the way our staff travel and how the Council buys goods and services, we can have a significant impact on our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

### Developing more sustainable working practices

#### Initially, in year one 2009/10 we will:

- Identify the potential for additional carbon savings through e-recruitment, learning and electronic storage.
- Look at how we can further improve and adopt sustainable procurement procedures for all contracts and products.

#### In the short term, 2010-2012 we will:

- Seek to reduce our average employee carbon footprint through the use of improved technology;
- Consider whether there is scope for a "Green Bank" or "Carbon Offset Fund" for Council projects;
- Consider further opportunities for mobile working, working hubs and flexible working conditions, particularly in relation to the new Town Hall;

#### In the medium term, 2012-2016 we will:

- Identify options for "green credentials" in assessment processes including Committee reports, and assessments by the Budget Advisory Group;
- Consider the potential for carbon savings from reduced face-to-face customer service;
- Encourage large reductions in the amount of printable material produced;
- Identify key campaign themes each year, to communicate benefits and carbon savings.

#### For the longer term , 2016-2020 we may need to:

- Set carbon targets per employee;
- Re-look at options for improved procurement procedures, plus green assessment criteria for all projects and employees.

## Sustainable Travel

Like any business, the Council needs to look at how it works and where improvements can be made in order to reduce its carbon footprint. By looking at the way our employees travel and the type and travel patterns of our vehicles, we will be able to assess opportunities for more sustainable ways of working. All Amenity Services vehicles have recently been fitted with a vehicle tracking system and this has already led to a 5% reduction in mileage.

### Sustainable Travel

#### Initially in Year One 2009/10 we will:

- Consider vehicle tracking across our Council fleet;
- Monitor travel to site visits across the borough for all staff;

#### In the short term, 2010-2012 we will:

- Identify how we can reduce our Carbon emissions through our own vehicle fleet and travel movements;
- Reduce mileage through carrying stock, and planned servicing for housing staff.

#### In the medium term, 2012-2016 we will:

- Identify the benefits, savings and costs of purchasing electric/non-lpg vehicles.

#### For the longer term , 2016-2020 we may need to:

- Re-evaluate all vehicle and staff movements, plus opportunities for further CO<sub>2</sub> savings;
- Consider benefits of mobile working hubs with other local businesses or local authorities.

## Water and Waste Efficiency

By aiming to become more efficient in our resource consumption we can ensure we have a strategic approach to carbon reductions. Continuous assessments will help us to identify where further improvements can be made.

### Water and Waste Efficiency

#### Initially in year one 2009/10 we will:

- Include the collection of glass, Tetra Paks and cartons from REDtop bins by 2009, and identify the CO<sub>2</sub> savings of doing so;

#### In the short term, 2010-2012 we will:

- Identify how we can reach the target of 4,000 **GREENbin** garden waste customers by 2010 and identify the CO<sub>2</sub> savings of collecting this waste;
- Look at improving water and waste efficiency and reduction throughout all CBC buildings;
- Work with WSCC's not-for-profit company, 'For Better Tomorrows', in changing perceptions and behaviour regarding waste.

#### In the medium term, 2012-2016 we will:

- Instigate Phase 3 the GreenZone environmental education centre improvements;
- Further develop reduction and recycling of waste from our own Council buildings, to build on challenging EMAS targets.

#### For the longer term, 2016-2020 we may need to:

- Working with WSCC, the waste disposal authority, look at harnessing technological advancement in reducing waste and re-using and recycling our waste products;
- Identify any opportunities for water recycling at all Council buildings.

## **Key Theme Two: Helping Crawley as a town reduce its Carbon Footprint**

The Council plays a major role within the local community, influencing patterns of behaviour concerning how people live, work, and travel, as well as how they spend their leisure time within Crawley, and the carbon footprint all this creates (National Indicator NI 186).

### **What do we need to do to help our community?**

We have a key role to play by looking at the services we provide to our community, as well as how we promote good practice and encourage others as a Community Leader.

The following sections identify how we will support and encourage our local community to reduce its carbon emissions through its own level of energy use, what energy it uses, how travel around the town is managed and the other resources used. We will also look at the biodiversity of the town, the way we can communicate the climate change challenge and how each person can contribute to the town's carbon savings.

### **Minimising the energy our community uses**

Whilst sustainable energy looks at where we get energy from, the other essential task is to minimise the amount of energy we need to use. The Borough Council has a key role in requiring new developments to be designed in the most efficient and effective way through its regulatory planning function, but we will also signpost options and technologies available to other sections of our community.

We are already successful at developing initiatives that help the local community to reduce its Carbon emissions and energy consumption. Recent successes include initiating a loft insulation and boiler renewal programme for Council owned housing, to exceed the Standard Assessment Procedure for energy in dwellings (SAP) rating of 71%.

We have also started to undertake initial assessments of opportunities at Manor Royal to look at potential for developing a "green approach" for businesses. We will continue with the Green Business Programme run by the Environment Unit.

### **Minimising the energy our community uses**

#### **Initially in year one 2009/10 we will:**

- Identify the current carbon footprint of the town; (see Appendix One for details)

#### **In the short term, 2010-2012 we will:**

- Develop and publish our Planning requirements and standards for new developments, including Code for Sustainable Homes, BREEAM, % on site renewables, and the use of section 106 planning agreements for new developments.

#### **In the medium term, 2012-2016 we intend to:**

- Assess opportunities for reducing the carbon footprint for private home owners and local businesses, including use of the Carbon Trust and Energy Saving Trust;
- Consider the face-to-face contact functions provided at the Town Hall and the best approach for customer service;

#### **For the longer term, 2016-2020 we may need to:**

- Promote the use of local power generation within the town and other energy network opportunities.

## **Securing sustainable energy**

The aspiration of achieving a carbon neutral community will require a number of key commitments to be made about what type of energy is used and how this is generated. This will require developing alternative sources of energy instead of traditional and finite non-renewables. To do this, critical decisions will need to be made about the best mechanisms and technologies available to assist in energy production.

The Council is already committed to supporting its local community in reducing its carbon footprint. It is currently doing this by exploring, with consultants, the role and benefits for Crawley Borough Council in developing an Energy Services Company (ESCo), as well as using the formal planning framework to set out development management policies, to require a target or percentage for new developments to provide on-site renewables for any new development.

### **Securing sustainable energy**

#### **Initially in year one 2009/10 we will:**

- Further investigate the benefits /role of CBC in creating an Energy Services Company (ESCo);
- Develop policies within the Local Development Framework and, if appropriate, a Supplementary Planning Document, on Climate Change and renewable energy targets;

#### **In the short term , 2010-2012 we will:**

- Assess the mechanisms to allow CBC to facilitate energy production through new developments or partnering roles such as an ESCo, or energy supply network.

#### **In the medium term, 2012-2016 we will:**

- Ensure clear advice is available to both residents and business about the benefits of local power generation;
- Take a lead on assessing the options, technologies and capacity for renewable energy across the Borough, such as Combined Heat and Power (CHP);
- Continue to support WSCC in its energy from waste (MRMC) ambitions.

#### **For the longer term , 2016-2020 we expect to:**

- Look at best practice and ensure information sharing and support to all parts of the community, including private sector housing and local businesses.

## **Encouraging sustainable travel and movement in and around the town**

Thirty percent of greenhouse gas emissions are from transport. Sixty percent of our local residents use their car to get to work and 58% of all trips are car based within the Borough. Taking action to reduce climate change must therefore include steps to further reduce the need to travel, as well as ensuring that more sustainable forms of transport are used.

The Borough Council has already started to look at initiatives to reduce carbon emissions and travel movements by continuing to promote the benefits to both the environment and healthy living by walking and cycling.

It is using the formal planning framework by requiring planning applications for new developments to consider where the development is located, with minimum parking, and that the developments are supported by travel plans to reduce reliance on the car.

For our commercial areas, we have developed the Crawley Easit campaign, which has successfully reduced commuter travel to main employment areas such as Manor Royal.

### **Encouraging sustainable travel and movement in and around the town**

#### **Initially, in year one 2009/10 we will:**

- Further develop the Active Life programme to encourage walking and cycling;

#### **In the short term, 2010-2012 we will:**

- Look at the travel movements and patterns of CBC as a service provider e.g. housing repairs, grass cutting, litter picking and other site visits, to minimise travel within the Borough.

#### **In the medium term, 2012-2016 we will:**

- Share and develop, with local businesses, initiatives for e-recruitment, e-learning, electronic storage and flexible working including assessing remote working stations.
- Investigate and assess costs and carbon savings of facilities for making payments, or getting advice, at local facilities rather than visiting the Town Hall.

#### **For the longer term, 2016-2020 we may need to:**

- Investigate mechanisms to significantly reduce carbon emissions from travel, such as car free areas, increased non- car travel, congestion charging or higher parking charges, and their impacts on the town with regard to carbon savings.

### **Improving Waste and Water efficiency**

Households in Crawley Borough produce over 33,000 tonnes of waste per year, and 18% of this is packaging, whilst our water consumption is approx 2 bath fulls/ 160 litres per person per day.

By ensuring that our local community considers water and waste efficiency measures in their day to day lives we can significantly reduce resource consumption. We have already begun to look at the green credentials of major works contractors, for example when Crawley Homes are looking to appoint new contractors. This includes evaluating the company's environmental impact, particularly with regard to recycling and waste management.

There has been a successful roll out of REDtop and green waste collection bins across the Borough to improve household recycling.

### **Improving Waste and Water efficiency**

#### **Initially in year one 2009/10 we will:**

- Assess how the Borough can share information and improve signposting for both domestic and commercial good practice.

#### **In the short term 2010-2012 we will:**

- Use our waste reduction strategy to increase domestic waste recycling to 30% by 2010;
- Provide signposting and information regarding good practice by us, or local businesses, to other agencies.

#### **In the medium term, 2012-2016 we intend to:**

- Develop our approach and role as an Asset Manager to require tenants to achieve waste and water minimisation;
- Develop our waste reduction strategy to further increase domestic and commercial waste recycling and set challenging targets.

**For the longer term, 2016-2020 we may need to:**

- Ensure partnership working with providers, including water companies, regarding new developments and good practice.

## **Biodiversity**

By improving the biodiversity within both our living and working environments, the town's carbon emissions can significantly be reduced. There is an ongoing commitment by the Borough Council to work with agencies and community groups to improve the natural environment in and around the town.

An example of this is the Gatwick Greenspace Partnership. They work with the community, local businesses and adjacent local authorities to ensure the restoration, maintenance and enhancement of natural habitats.

The Borough Council and its Parks Service are committed to supporting and enhancing the role of bio-diversity and conservation. This is illustrated through its work with the Let's FACE it! and its Greenspace Strategy.

## **Biodiversity**

**Initially in year one 2009/10 we will:**

- Consider the way we plant and maintain our parks and open spaces, including how frequently we undertake works, by reassessing the customers' needs for the land we own
- Assess the species that are able to adapt to climate change and how they can be utilised within the Borough.

**In the short term, 2010-2012 we will:**

- Promote the benefits to individuals and local businesses of sustainable/native planting/planting that is adaptable to climate change, the use of allotments and tree sponsorship initiatives.
- Assess the scope and role of the Parks Service and its Conservation Officer in relation to the Climate Change Strategy.

**In the medium term, 2012-2016 we will consider:**

- Increasing CBC's own tree planting programme

**For the longer term, 2016-2020 we expect to:**

- Undertake a full assessment of the strengths and weakness of parks and open spaces regarding their impact on CO<sub>2</sub> savings.

## **Communication and Education**

This strategy highlights the complexity behind tackling climate change. It will require action from everyone to ensure that carbon emissions are reduced. The Borough Council has a key role in facilitating some of the commitments, but there is also a raft of initiatives that benefit from information sharing, promoting good practice and the benefits this may bring.

In order to ensure we develop strong communication links with the local community, we have already developed an informative website to communicate our key aims, initiatives and information. We also have an essential resource in the Tilgate Nature Centre, where we work with a wide audience to mix interest and education, and the impacts of climate change on nature.



We also are using our existing partnerships with the local media to assist in promoting key messages regarding Climate Change, and use the Environment Unit and Amenity Services to champion good practice, including specific programmes such as the Green Business Awards and Lets FACE it! campaign.

### **Communication and Education**

#### **Initially in year one 2009/10 we will:**

- Develop a Communication Strategy that identifies key environmental aims and messages to communicate each year;
- Monitor and report on CO<sub>2</sub> per capita emissions in the local authority area.

#### **In the short term, 2010-2012 we will:**

- Developing a Climate Change Educational Programme with local schools and colleges.
- Consider the role of the Tilgate Nature Centre in relation to the Climate Change Strategy.

#### **In the medium term, 2012-2016 we will consider:**

- Identify the key successes made by the Borough Council and the local community with regard to carbon savings, and the mechanisms used to achieve them;

#### **For the longer term, 2016-2020 we intend to:**

- As a market leader, promote key successes and how they have been achieved.

### **Key Theme Three: Planning and adapting to climate change**

It is widely acknowledged that we will all experience the effects of Climate Change within the short term. However, National Indicator NI 188 requires us to look beyond options for mitigation in NI 185 & NI 186 and develop policies that recognise the local risks to our town, and how we can identify opportunities for adaptation.

We already have an established approach to dealing with the potential impacts of Climate Change. We have done this by adopting a Borough wide Emergency Plan to deal with environmental incidents.

We have also highlighted the role of our Corporate and Public Safety Manager, who has successfully integrated with local businesses and other Local Authorities.

We have begun the process of drafting development management policies within our Local Development Framework that look at Flood risks and design features to deal with our changing climate.

### **Planning and Adaptation**

#### **Initially in year one 2009/10 we will:**

- Ensure we have exemplar emergency planning functions;

#### **In the short term, 2010-2012 we will:**

- Consider how we work with other LA's within Sussex with regard to notification of floods and droughts;
- Ensure planning policies deal with the inevitable effects of climate change for new developments, including landscaping proposals.

**In the medium term, 2012-2016 we will look to:**

- Recognise the need for investment and consider the resource and risk implications;
- Integrate climate risk and adaptation assessments into business and community planning;
- Undertake a full assessment of how existing and future planting within our parks and open spaces should be adapted to suit our changing climate.

**For the longer term, 2016-2020 we will expect to:**

- Identify the new challenges for our emergency planning role from our changing climate;
- Ensure our policy formulation role is up to date to deal with adaptation.

## **First Steps: How do we achieve carbon neutrality by 2050?**

This strategy highlights the impact that Climate Change will have on all parts of the Council, as well as our local community, including local businesses and residents.

The following first steps have been identified in ensuring that the commitments and aims set out in this strategy are implemented and translated into actions and projects.

- **Develop a Working Group**

In order to progress these commitments, a cross-cutting Climate Change working group will be required involving officers from across the Council supported by the lead cabinet members. We may be able to build on or utilise the EMAS group for this. Specific initiatives may be referred to the appropriate Policy Development Forum for consideration.

As well as driving forward the council's own commitments, the working group will need to establish how to engage the wider community, including members of the LSP, local businesses and the community at large.

- **Developing Action Plans**

The next stage is to develop action plans beyond the Top 10 tasks, and Year One 2009/2010 commitments identified within this Strategy. One of the first key tasks for the first year will be to undertake a carbon audit of the Council and its community to identify the baseline data and our current carbon footprint. Future action plans can then monitor the progress and successes of the Strategy against this baseline data.

The Strategy also includes actions for the short, medium and long term. Following the completion of year one, further action plans can be developed with more detail and with new commitments added following the assessment and appraisal stages undertaken in year one.

For the new action plans the short term is defined as 2010-2012, the medium term 2012-2016 and the longer term 2016-2020.

This will give us a strong commitment to achieving the first target of achieving 32% carbon reduction by 2020.

- **Assess the risks if we don't meet our targets**

As part of the action plans, we need to make sure that all the work identified is assessed in relation to its carbon footprint and its impact on carbon reductions. The main risks for all projects will need to be identified in our action plans as to the implications are if we don't do them, and what we can do to ensure that we do achieve our carbon reduction targets.

This will also allow us to give priority to schemes that result in significant carbon savings, as well as the time frame in which those savings can be achieved.

- **Translating ideas into Service Plans**

Once the working group and officers have established what needs to be done, it must be clear who will lead on each project and how they will be integrated into Council work programmes and service plans.

- **Develop greater understanding of resources implications**

Following the stages above, it is necessary to identify the resource implications behind the projects. Some may be more complex to set up or may be time intensive but with minimal cost, whilst others may be easy to do but require additional budgets or staff, or new funding sources.

It will also be the case that whilst some initiatives may be cost neutral, some will involve increased budgets and some will result in cost savings. However, the approach identified must have a long term return with regard to carbon savings and must be adaptable to deal with new technology and scenarios as they develop.

All Council projects should also assess and identify their carbon implications. This should highlight the CO<sub>2</sub> costs and savings of each project, and how this has been considered in the decision making process.

**Monitoring & Review:**

We will need to check on the progress we are making and ensure that the strategy remains up to date, realistic and achievable. We will therefore undertake an annual climate change strategy review. This review will provide a report on the progress to date, any changes over the year that have had an impact on the strategy commitments and a carbon reduction for the year.

This annual review will take place in April for every year of the strategy starting in 2010. This will ensure that we review our strategy in the light of the Year One 2009/10 commitments with a full review in 2020, measured against our target of achieving 32% carbon reduction.

The costs of addressing climate change issues must not be seen in isolation. However, we do need to ensure that Climate Change issues are being addressed alongside other priorities in order to ensure that we maximise our ability to protect the environment for future generations.

