



Service Policy Panel

Report of: Lynnette Jones
Date: 23rd January 2007
Open

Climate Change Action Plan 2006/7- Progress Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Climate Change is a high profile issue, which is becoming an increasing priority for both national and local Government.

2. Background

- 2.1 In 2005 the Housing, Health and Rural Affairs Panel carried out an in-depth scrutiny exercise to consider the Worcestershire Climate Change Pledge. The Panel developed a series of recommendations, which were agreed by Cabinet in November 2005.

- 2.2 In December 2005, the Council made a public declaration to reduce its climate change emissions, by signing the Worcestershire Climate Change Pledge, and committing to 5 key actions:

- Raise awareness of climate change issues amongst our staff and in our activities involving the general public, for example through our newsletters, website and at events.
- Obtain advice &/or financial assistance to improve energy efficiency & save money at work.
- Minimise our waste production and recycle as much as possible
- Insulate our own homes properly and encourage our staff to do so too.
- Carry out other actions as appropriate in order to help meet the strategy's targets.

- 2.3 In June 2006 the Service Policy Panel noted the Wyre Forest District Council Climate Change Action Plan 2006/7. The Action Plan was developed to focus the Council's activities on Climate Change adaptation and mitigation, and ensure we deliver on commitments made in the Worcestershire Climate Change Pledge.

3. Progress to date with the Climate Change Action Plan

- 3.1 As detailed in appendix A, mixed progress has been made during the six months since the adoption of the Climate Change Action Plan 2006/7.
- 3.2 Sufficient progress has been made with the Climate Change Action Plan to consider making a public commitment to further key actions in the Worcestershire Climate Change Pledge in 2007.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 Recommend that the Council makes a fresh commitment to the Worcestershire Climate Change Pledge and sign the pledge with the additional 4 key actions for 2007:
- Ensure that our organisation monitors our energy use, for example through regular accurate meter readings.
 - Use 100% 'green' energy, through procurement and/or generation.
 - Reduce our organisation's energy use e.g. through switching off appliances when not in use, insulation, using more efficient plant & appliances, etc.
 - Develop and implement a staff travel plan.

5. Future

- 5.1 It is likely, that given the increasing importance of the climate change agenda, that a Climate Change Event or Seminar aimed at Members and Senior Officers will be set up in due course.
- 5.2 Changes to the Planning System and Building Regulations aimed at reducing the carbon footprint of future developments in England and Wales will be considered at a special joint meeting of the Prosperity Policy Panel and Service Policy Panel on 12 February 2007.
- 5.3 The review of the Wyre Forest District Council Sustainability Strategy 2004/7, later this calendar year will encompass further detailed work on Climate Change.
- 5.4 The Council could consider signing the national Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change.

6. Background Papers

Worcestershire Climate Change Pledge
<http://worcestershire.whub.org.uk/home/wcc-sustainability-hottopics-climatechange-pledge-0607.pdf>

7. Appendices

Appendix A – Wyre Forest District Council, Climate Change Action Plan 2006/7, Update on Progress : January 2007

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