

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET
19TH APRIL 2011

**Recommendation from Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee,
Thursday 7th April 2011**

Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan

The Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee considered a report from the Principal Health and Sustainability Officer that provided a progress update on the Wyre Forest Climate Change Action Plan 2010/2011 and sought endorsement of the Wyre Forest Climate Change Action Plan 2011/2012. The report also provided an update on the Affordable Warmth Strategy and Action Plan for 2011/2012.

The Wyre Forest Climate change Strategy was written to align with the Worcestershire Climate Change Strategy, setting the direction for delivering the county strategy within the district.

The strategy and action plan are based around three main topics:

- Raising awareness about the issue of climate change
- Reducing climate change gas emissions in Wyre Forest
- Adapting to the impacts of climate change in Wyre Forest

The Council has further strengthened its commitment to tackling climate change by taking part in various climate change awareness campaign, taking the decision to invest in a new BREEAM rated civic office development and in May 2011 will start work on the development of a Corporate Carbon Management Plan (accessing free technical and change management support provided by the Carbon Trust). The district (along with several other Worcestershire and West Midlands local authorities) will be taking part in the West Midlands Local Authority Low Carbon Economy Programme (funded by Improvement and Efficiency West Midlands). The programme will run until December 2011 and a key aspect of the programme is to help grow the local economy with respect to low carbon business opportunities.

The Affordable Warmth Strategy has been updated and an action plan developed for 2011/2012 whilst work to deliver a Countywide Affordable Warmth Strategy and Action plan is ongoing. Wyre Forest are contributing to this work.

The capacity in the Health and Sustainability Team to deliver on the strategy and action plan has been reduced due to Council cuts and therefore the current postholder will focus their efforts around fuel poverty and the low carbon economy programme.

Recommended to Cabinet:

The Wyre Forest Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2011/2012 and its associated Affordable Warmth Strategy and Action Plan 2011/2012 be endorsed.