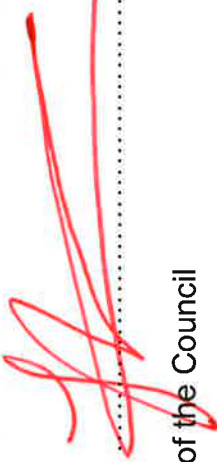


NOTICE OF DELEGATION OF DECISION TO CABINET MEMBER BY STRONG LEADER

Section 15(4) of the Local Government Act 2000, the senior executive member may discharge any of the functions that are the responsibility of the Cabinet or may arrange for them to be discharged by another member of the Cabinet or Officer. On 1st December 2010, the Council adopted the Strong Leader Model for Corporate Governance 2011 as required under Part 3 of The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (The 2007 Act).

I, J-P Champion, as Strong Leader, delegate the decision on whether Wyre Forest District Council signs up to the Local Government Association's Climate Local Commitment to the Cabinet Member for Place Shaping:

Cabinet Member: Cllr Anne Hingley 

Dated: 17th Sep 2013.
Signed: 
Leader of the Council

NOTICE OF DECISION OF CABINET MEMBER

Pursuant Section 15(4) of the Local Government Act 2000, as amended by section 63 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the senior executive member may discharge any of the functions that are the responsibility of the Cabinet or may arrange for them to be discharged by another member of the Cabinet or Officer. On 1st December 2010, the Council adopted the Strong Leader Model for Corporate Governance 2011 as required under Part 3 of The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (The 2007 Act).

In accordance with the authority delegated to me by the Leader, I have made the following decision:

Subject	Decision	Reason for decision	Date for Decision to be taken
Climate Local	<p align="center">That Wyre Forest District Council sign up to the Local Government association's Climate local commitment</p>	<p>To reiterate our commitment to this important area of work, assist in our requirements under the Home energy conservation act and provide access to free support.</p>	January 2013

I confirm that the appropriate statutory officer consultation has taken place with regard to this decision.

Dated: 22/01/13
 Signed: *Anne Hingley*
 Councillor: ANNE HINGLEY
 Cabinet Member

To: Cabinet Member for Place Shaping, Cllr Anne Hingley.

From: Principal Health and Sustainability Officer, Jenny Moreton

Date: 17th January 2013

Climate Local

1. Purpose of Report

This report provides an outline of the Local Government Association's new Climate Local initiative and the implications for Wyre Forest District Council.

2. Recommendation

The Cabinet Member for Place-Shaping is asked to:

2.1 Agree that Wyre Forest District Council signs up to the Local Government Association's Climate Local Commitment.

3. Background

Climate Local

Climate Local is an initiative which aims to drive, inspire and support council action on climate change, launched by the Local Government Association (LGA) in July 2012. Climate Local supports councils' efforts both to reduce carbon emissions and also to improve their resilience to the impacts caused by our changing climate and extreme weather events. The initiative aims to help councils to capture the opportunities and benefits of taking action on climate change, through saving on energy bills, generating income from renewable energy, attracting new jobs and investment in 'green' industries, reducing flood risks and managing the impacts of extreme weather, such as drought, tackling fuel poverty and protecting our natural environment.

Climate Local provides a way to show council leadership on climate change. It enables councils to demonstrate leadership individually – to their communities, stakeholders and peers – and collectively – to Government and other national stakeholders. Climate Local includes the Climate Local Commitment, for councils to sign to demonstrate their commitment to addressing climate change and to challenge them to build on their existing achievements. Resources such as topic-based guidance, an online community and opportunities for peer learning are also being provided.

Climate Local and the Home Energy Conservation Act (1995)

In July 2012, DECC released updated guidance for Local Authorities pursuant to the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) 1995. The Act recognises Local Authorities' ability to use their position to improve the energy efficiency of all residential accommodation and tackle fuel poverty in their areas. The

updated guidance requires relevant local authorities (including WFDC) to prepare a HECA report by March 2013, with updates every two years following this. The HECA report should set out the energy conservation measures considered practicable, cost-effective and likely to result in significant improvement in the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in the area. These measures should include those that take advantage of forthcoming initiatives and funding sources, such as the Green Deal and the Energy Conservation Obligation (ECO) funding, and area based schemes involving local communities and partnerships (e.g. social housing partners and voluntary organisations). Climate Local is referred to throughout the HECA guidance as a way of setting out our local ambitions and priorities, as required for the HECA report, and as a means of support for local authorities in delivering our HECA plans.

Tackling climate change in Wyre Forest and Worcestershire

Wyre Forest District Council has a strong track record in its commitment to tackling climate change. It has previously signed up to commitments including the Worcestershire Climate Change Pledge and the 10:10 campaign, which encouraged individuals and organisations to reduce their carbon emissions by up to 10% in 2010.

The Wyre Forest Climate Change Strategy and annual Action Plan sets out how the Council plans to raise awareness, reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. It is aligned with the Worcestershire Partnership's Climate Change Strategy, which is currently being updated. Wyre Forest's 2012-13 climate change action plan was agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8th March 2012 and by Cabinet on 21st March 2012.

In terms of delivery of the climate change strategy, work to date has included various subsidised/ free loft and cavity wall insulation schemes, a renewable energy grant scheme, awareness raising activities and events, development of a Carbon Management Plan and a Local Climate Impacts Profile and tackling flooding issues through the North Worcestershire Water Management Team, hosted by WFDC. The Council also works closely with the other Worcestershire authorities and partners, for example through the Warmer Worcestershire Network (which has recently been awarded £247k to tackle energy efficiency/ affordable warmth issues by the Department for Health) and in developing a county-wide delivery model for the Green Deal and ECO. Across the county, Wychavon DC is already signed up to Climate Local whilst Worcestershire County and Worcester City councils are in the process of doing so.

4. Key issues

The Climate Local Commitment

The first step to becoming a Climate Local council is signing up to the Climate Local Commitment. By signing the commitment, Wyre Forest District Council would then be asked to:

- Set out what actions we intend to undertake locally to reduce carbon emissions and respond to changes in the climate within our own operations and services and with our local community.
- Set out our level of ambition and how we would monitor our progress.
- Share information with other councils and national partners about the actions being undertaken and our progress.

In signing up to the Climate Local Commitment, we would 'recognise that our council has an important role to help our residents and businesses to capture the opportunities and benefits of action on climate change. These include saving money on energy bills, generating income from renewable energy, attracting new jobs and investment in 'green' industries, supporting new sources of energy, managing local flood-risk and water scarcity and protecting our natural environment. '

We would 'progressively address the risks and pursue the opportunities presented by a changing climate, in line with local priorities,' through our role as a community leader, a service provider and an estate manager. Various initiatives are already in place or in development which would demonstrate our delivery of Climate Local, including implementation of our Carbon Management Plan (which has identified projects to reduce energy and fuel use from our operations and services) and the Green Deal/ ECO. Signing up to Climate Local would therefore not require us to undertake additional projects to those already underway, but would enable us to reiterate our commitment to this important area of work, assist in our requirements under HECA and provide access to free support.

5. Financial implications

To be considered as part of projects/ initiatives referred to in our Climate Local commitment. Work will be carried out within existing resources.

6. Legal & Policy Implications

Sign up to Climate Local will assist in our requirements under the Home Energy Conservation Act.

7. Risk management

To be considered as part of projects/ initiatives referred to in our Climate Local commitment.

8. Equality Impact Assessment

To be considered as part of projects/ initiatives referred to in our Climate Local commitment. Carrying out an Equality Impact Assessment is not a requirement of signing up to Climate Local.

9. Conclusion

It is recommended that Wyre Forest District Council signs up to the Climate Local Commitment.

10. Consultees

Relevant stakeholders to be consulted as part of projects/ initiatives referred to in our Climate Local commitment.

11. Background papers

[LGA Climate Local Information Pack for Local Authorities](#)