

EXETER CITY COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE-COMMUNITY

15 JANUARY 2008

EXECUTIVE

4 MARCH 2008

CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY (2008 – 2018)

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report presents the Council's Climate Change Strategy and seeks Scrutiny Committee support and Executive approval for the revised Strategy and action plan. The report also summarises the changes made to the strategy as a result of the research undertaken by the University of Exeter and the outcomes of a public consultation exercise.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Climate Change Strategy sets out key proposals for how the Council, working with others, can take the lead in reducing carbon dioxide emissions within Exeter by 30% by 2020 (from 1990 levels). This will allow Exeter to make its full contribution to national targets in this area. The Strategy contains 5 policy areas ('themes') for action: energy, transport, waste, community leadership and adapting to the effects of climate change.
- 2.2 The draft Climate Change Strategy was approved by Executive on 19 June 2007 (min 62 refers). Following this, consultation took place with partner agencies and stakeholders across the city between August and October 2007. In parallel, the Centre for Energy and Environment at the University of Exeter has undertaken research to better understand the nature of Exeter's carbon dioxide emissions in the domestic, non-domestic and transport sectors and to analyse the potential for reduction in emissions, to meet the 30% reduction target. Exeter is most unusual in being able to plan in the light of such comprehensive analysis. The Strategy has been revised in light of these developments and an action plan, covering the period until Spring 2009, has been developed. A copy of the Strategy and the University's analysis is available on the intranet and in the Members' Room. A summary of the findings from the consultation process is provided in Appendix I.

3 SUMMARY OF CLIMATE CHANGE ANALYSIS

- 3.1 The University's analysis shows that 45% of carbon dioxide emissions in Exeter come from the non-domestic sector (compared to 49% nationally), while 34% are derived from domestic consumption (compared with 28% nationally) and 21% from transport (compared to 27% nationally). The research identifies the potential to reduce total emissions in Exeter by around a quarter in 2020, compared with 2004 levels and taking account of future growth. This could be achieved through the widespread application of current best practice energy saving measures in the domestic and non-domestic sectors and, further development of technological and behavioural programme measures in the transport sector (in parallel with known national regulatory and other changes over this period). Achievement of this level of reduction, however, will be a significant challenge for Exeter given the scale of measures identified.

3.2 Members should be aware that the baseline data used in the University analysis is based on carbon dioxide emissions data for 2004. Due to a change in how the data is collected, future data will not be directly comparable with the dataset for 2004. To enable future monitoring to be undertaken it will therefore be necessary to adjust the baseline at some point.

4 KEY PROPOSALS

4.1 Proposals that Members may wish to be aware of are highlighted below:

- Opportunities to reduce energy consumption in the domestic sector, including the establishment of an Affordable Warmth Neighbourhood, exploration of opportunities for decentralised energy solutions in those areas of the city where Economy 7 supplies are concentrated and the establishment of a landlord accreditation scheme (see Theme 1 - Energy).
- Opportunities to reduce energy consumption in the non-domestic sector, including undertaking a mapping exercise of main industrial sites to identify patterns of energy use and opportunities for reduction, working with agencies that specialise in energy efficiency advice to identify energy supply/efficiency opportunities and the establishment of a pilot exercise with ECC commercial tenants (see Theme 1 - Energy).
- Opportunities to reduce emissions from new development, including undertaking a low and zero carbon development feasibility study of main development sites within the New Growth Point Area (see Theme 1 - Energy).
- Opportunities to reduce emissions from the transport sector, including pursuing the introduction of licensing requirements to encourage taxi and private hire operators to reduce carbon emissions and introduction of an ECC car-parking climate change levy. An independent panel (to include local residents, business & campaign groups supported by energy experts) will be established to explore options for allocation of the funds (see Theme 2 - Transport).
- The intention to explore the creation of an Exeter Carbon Fund in which local organisations and individuals are able to pay voluntary contributions to offset their emissions. This ring-fenced fund would then be spent entirely and transparently on additional energy efficiency measures in Exeter (see Theme 4 - Leadership).
- The intention to undertake research to better understand the risks and vulnerabilities of Exeter to climate change, and develop appropriate adaptation measures (see Chapter 5).

5 PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE MONITORING AND REVIEW OF THE STRATEGY

5.1 The Climate Change Strategy sets out action plans for future work covering the period up to Spring 2009. A commitment will therefore be made to developing a new action plan in 2009, and thereafter every three years. The possibility of adopting interim targets for carbon reduction will be explored as part of this process. In parallel to this, progress towards meeting the aims of the Strategy will be monitored annually and reported to Scrutiny Committee - Community.

5.2 It is considered that a commitment should be made to undertake a fundamental review of the Strategy in 2013.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The revised Climate Change Strategy has no additional financial implications for the Council.

7 RECOMMENDED

- (1) that the Scrutiny Committee Community supports and the Executive approves the Exeter Climate Change Strategy.
- (2) that general progress towards meeting the aims of the Strategy be monitored on an annual basis and reported to Scrutiny Committee Community.
- (3) that the action plan be revised in Spring 2009 and thereafter every three years.
- (4) that a commitment be made to undertaking a full review of the Strategy in five year's time (2013).

HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

S:LP/Committee.108SCC3 v2

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COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)
Background papers used in compiling this report: