

Agenda Item No.3

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER MEETING – COUNCIL SERVICES

30 May 2014

**JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STRATEGIC DIRECTOR
OF ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT**

DERBYSHIRE CLIMATE CHANGE CHARTER

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To seek approval to begin consultation on the proposed Derbyshire Climate Change Charter.

2. INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS

Background

At its meeting on the 30 March 2010 cabinet approved the officer recommendation to establish a corporate Environmental Sustainability Group to co-ordinate environmental activities across the Council and in particular, focus on reducing carbon emissions. Further to this, on 11 November 2011 Cabinet agreed to adopt a target for CO₂ reduction of 25% by 2014/15 and to establish a performance management system to monitor progress on environmental sustainability.

This monitoring has shown that during 2011/12 the County Council was successful in reducing its emissions by 6.5%. If similar reductions are realised each year, the Council is on track to meet the overall 25% target by 2015.

In 2010/11 the Council emitted 80,604 tonnes of carbon. By March 2011/12 this had been reduced to 75,406 tonnes. The carbon emissions currently measured are from energy use (electricity, gas, oil and solid fuel), fleet and business mileage and street lighting.

In order to continue to meet these ambitious targets the authority needs to encompass all the work being carried out within a Climate Change Charter. The development of the Charter has been identified within the new Council Plan (2014-17) as a key area of work.

Derbyshire Partnership Forum – Climate Change Group

The remit of this group is to co-ordinate a strategic, partnership approach to reducing carbon emissions and building resilience to climate change across Derbyshire.

The Derbyshire Partnership Forum (made up of over 60 organisations working across Derbyshire) is responsible for developing the ambitions contained within the Derbyshire Community Strategy (2009 -2014) and ensuring they are delivered.

Eleven partnership priorities (with twenty five areas of focus) were developed as a result of this work. One of these priorities relates specifically to environmental protection, with a focus on local communities and climate change (see Figure 1 below).

Sustainable Community Strategy Priority	We will focus on...	Lead Officer	Lead Partnership
Improve and Protect the Environment	Providing advice and support to enable organisations, schools, communities and individuals to reduce their impact, and be resilient and adaptable to climate change	Ian Stephenson	Derbyshire Climate Change Group

Figure 1: One of the eleven key priorities of the Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2014

Developing a Derbyshire wide Climate Change Charter

The Climate Change Charter will directly link to the Council Plan and all climate change and environmental protection related policies will link into the Charter. It will be monitored and updated regularly as the climate change agenda moves forward.

The Climate Change Charter will be an overarching document that details what Derbyshire County Council is doing to mitigate and adapt to Climate Change. It will also establish an action plan for the Derbyshire Partnership Forum Climate Change Group allowing partners, communities and businesses to engage in climate action around six key priority areas.

These key priority areas have been established through initial work with the DPF sub group members.

The key priority areas are:

- An Active Derbyshire
- A Sustainable Economy for Derbyshire
- Derbyshire Smarter Travel
- Energy Efficient Homes across Derbyshire
- A Secure Local and Renewable Energy Supply for Derbyshire
- Preparing Derbyshire for a changing environment.

The document will also provide a single point of reference for Elected Members and employees on the various policies in place that help the council to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change.

The Council will consult with community groups and partners at the following consultation events planned in 2014:

June 2014 Consultation Event with community groups

June 2014 Environmental Sustainability Group: Internal consultation

July 2014 Annual Climate Change Conference

May-June Consultation with Derbyshire Partnership Forum members

Following these events a final draft version of the Charter will be produced and taken to full cabinet.

3. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Any financial implications will be met from existing budgets.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Developing a Climate Change Charter demonstrates Derbyshire's commitment to tackling Climate Change both in terms of mitigation and adaptation. It will also be a key driver in developing a more sustainable Derbyshire community.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive, Strategic Director of Policy and Community Safety and the Strategic Director for Environmental Services, 22nd January 2013; Derbyshire Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan.

Report of the Strategic Director Environmental Services, 11 February 2013; Environmental Sustainability and Carbon Reduction
Derbyshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2014

6. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered; the prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, health, legal and human rights, personnel, property and transport considerations.

7. KEY DECISION

No

8. OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That approval is given to consult on the development of the Derbyshire Climate Change Charter.

Ian Stephenson
Chief Executive

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director of Economy, Transport and Environment