



**COUNCIL – 15 DECEMBER 2008**

## **NOTTINGHAM DECLARATION**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Nottingham Declaration is a voluntary pledge to address the issues of climate change. It represents a high level, broad statement of commitment that any council can make to its own community.
- 1.2 To date over 330 local authorities have signed the Declaration.
- 1.3 The Declaration is supported by DEFRA, IDeA, LGA, the Environment Agency, the Carbon Trust, UK Climate Impacts Programme and ICLEI, the worldwide association of local governments concerned with sustainability.
- 1.4 This report seeks to raise awareness of the Declaration and the opportunity for this Council to sign it. It also considers the broad implications of making the Declaration.

### **2. THE DECLARATION**

- 2.1 A copy of the Declaration is attached to this report.

### **3. IMPLICATIONS FOR NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

- 3.1 Much of the Declaration is about acknowledgement of the issue, supporting the action already taken by Government and recognising this Council's community leadership role in this issue.
- 3.2 These are all themes having high profile in our Corporate Plan and the Sustainable Community Strategy. "Working to reduce the carbon footprint of the Council and the District" is one of the 7 key themes of our Corporate Plan.
- 3.3 The results of recent consultation amongst our members, citizens and young people demonstrate a strong majority, recognising the need to tackle climate change backed up by a willingness to change behaviour.
- 3.4 The commitments in the Declaration tie in well with the outcomes from the Green Audit in terms of developing and delivering improvement action plans, designed to reduce carbon emissions and make the best use of natural resources as well as making sure we are well prepared to deal with the impacts of climate change.
- 3.5 It also has strong links with the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy, which identifies climate change as a priority and includes the climate change community engagement initiative as one of 6 flagship projects. Work is progressing well on this and the Council has engaged with householders, business and industry, Hampshire County

Council, town and parish councils, the farming community, interest groups such as Friends of the Earth, LSP partners and schools in recent months. It is also engaged in community led initiatives such as the New Forest Transition and the Hyde Climate Change Forum.

- 3.6 The new national performance management regime, in particular the use of relevant parts of the National Indicator Set, the Local Area Agreement, and the future Use of Resources assessments, also has strong relevance to this issue.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 The timing appears right to consider this issue. The Council is aiming to do its bit to mitigate the causes of climate change in its roles as estate manager, service provider and community leader and is developing its approach to adapting to climate change through existing strategy development and specifically through one of the themes of the Green Audit.
- 4.2 A Climate Change Strategy is planned to flow from the Green Audit.
- 4.3 From now on, performance measures relating to this issue will be significant elements in assessing the Council's and the area's performance.

#### **5. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS**

- 5.1 The Portfolio Holder supports the recommendation that the Council signs the Nottingham Declaration.

#### **6. FINANCIAL, CRIME & DISORDER AND EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 None arising directly from this report.

#### **7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The signing of the declaration is a public commitment to improving environmental performance. It will be a positive step for encouraging internal and external working on this agenda and will help further develop much of the good work that the Council has done in this area.
- 7.2 The lack of a declaration will leave the Council open to question as one of a small minority of Councils not signing up to the agreement. This might bring about lost opportunities for achieving positive environmental impacts with partners and the community.

#### **8. RECOMMENDATION**

- 8.1 That the Council sign the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change.

#### **For Further Information Please Contact:**

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#### **Background Papers:**

Published documents

# The Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change

We acknowledge that

- Evidence shows that climate change is occurring.
- Climate change will continue to have far reaching effects on the UK's people and places, economy, society and environment.

We welcome the

- Social, economic and environmental benefits which come from combating climate change.
- Emissions targets agreed by central government and the programme for delivering change, as set out in the UK Climate Change Programme.
- Opportunity for local government to lead the response at a local level, encouraging and helping local residents, local businesses and other organisations - to reduce their energy costs, to reduce congestion, to adapt to the impacts of climate change, to improve the local environment and to deal with fuel poverty in our communities.
- Endorsement of this declaration by central government.

We commit our Council from this date \_\_\_\_\_ to

- Work with central government to contribute, at a local level, to the delivery of the UK Climate Change Programme, the Kyoto Protocol and the target for carbon dioxide reduction by 2010.
- Participate in local and regional networks for support.
- Within the next two years develop plans with our partners and local communities to progressively address the causes and the impacts of climate change, according to our local priorities, securing maximum benefit for our communities.
- Publicly declare, within appropriate plans and strategies, the commitment to achieve a significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from our own authority's operations, especially energy sourcing and use, travel and transport, waste production and disposal and the purchasing of goods and services.
- Assess the risk associated with climate change and the implications for our services and our communities of climate change impacts and adapt accordingly.
- Encourage all sectors in our local community to take the opportunity to adapt to the impacts of climate change, to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions and to make public their commitment to action.
- Monitor the progress of our plans against the actions needed and publish the result.

\_\_\_\_\_ Council acknowledges the increasing impact that climate change will have on our community during the 21st century and commits to tackling the causes and effects of a changing climate on our city/county/borough/district.

