

COMMITTEE: ENVIRONMENT AND NON-EXECUTIVE
FUNCTIONS SCRUTINY

DATE: 16TH OCTOBER 2008

SUBJECT: CARBON FOOTPRINT - PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SCRUTINY

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IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	✓	COMMUNITY SAFETY	
EQUALITIES	✓	ENVIRONMENT	✓
FINANCIAL		CONSULTATIONS	
STAFFING		OTHER	

WARDS AFFECTED: NONE

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to keep the committee informed about work being undertaken and progress being made by the group of officers working to implement the Council's commitment to the Nottingham Declaration on climate change and to the climate change indicators in the local area agreement.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. Environment and Non Executive Functions Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note the report.

BACKGROUND

3. There is an officer group working on the Council's policies and strategies relating to environmental sustainability and particularly carbon consumption. Following on from its commitment to the Nottingham Declaration, the Council has approved a statement of principles and the officer group is drawing up a strategy that will turn those principles into a programme of action. This committee has requested a progress report to every meeting. Previous reports and the statement of principles are listed as background papers.

REPORT

4. At the last meeting of this committee on 4th September I reported on the draft energy policy. The draft policy has now been considered by the Corporate Improvement Board and has been put forward for submission to the Council's Executive probably at the December meeting.
5. At the meeting on 25th September the officer group further work was done on the action plan mapping the 'Best Foot Forward' report on the carbon footprint of Luton as an area to the statement of principles approved by the Council and particularly on identifying who would be responsible for leading on specific actions. The group also discussed the process and timing of amalgamating the four action plans into one.
6. The group was advised about a climate change workshop to take place on 10th October at the Hat Factory to begin the process of involving the Council's partners in addressing the climate change national indicators that feature in Luton's local area agreement. The workshop has been organised under the banner of the Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change (ESCC) sub-group of the Luton Forum.
7. The next meeting of the group will be on 23rd October.

PROPOSAL/OPTION

8. The Committee is asked to note the report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9. Save as otherwise indicated in the report there are no legal implications to this report and this has been agreed with J. Newman Solicitor in Legal Services on 6 October 2008.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10. There are no direct equalities implications of this report; however it is invariably the poorest and most disadvantaged members of society who suffer most from the high cost of energy, lack of effective thermal insulation and the adverse effects of extreme weather events and climate change. This inequality must be tackled to prevent an adverse impact on community cohesion.

ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

11. The contribution to the reduction of global warming that can be made by the Council is small but it is important that the Council, like everyone else, plays its part. The Council has a responsibility to show a lead by setting a good example itself and advocating mitigation and adaptation measures to partners in the public, business and third sectors and to residents of Luton. The environmental and other effects of climate change on the lives of local people are difficult to predict but they are likely to become significant over time. The Council needs to be alert to and to plan for foreseeable changes to the climate as it affects Luton, to be prepared for more extreme weather events and to implement measures to mitigate them where it is feasible to do so.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D

Report 9 to the Environment and Non-Executive Functions Scrutiny Committee on 12th June 2007

Report 9 to the Environment and Non-Executive Functions Scrutiny Committee on 6th September 2007

Report 11 to the Environment and Non-Executive Functions Scrutiny Committee on 18th October 2007

Report 11 to the Environment and Non-Executive Functions Scrutiny Committee on 22nd November 2007

Report 12 to the Environment and Non-Executive Functions Scrutiny Committee on 23rd January 2008

Report 11 to the Environment and Non-Executive Functions Scrutiny Committee on 21st February 2008

Report 11 to the Environment and Non-Executive Functions Scrutiny Committee on 3rd April 2008

Report 14 to the Environment and Non-Executive Functions Scrutiny Committee on 1st May 2008

Report 11 to the Environment and Non-Executive Functions Scrutiny Committee on 10th June 2008

Report 13 to the Environment and Non-Executive Functions Scrutiny Committee
on 4th September 2008

Statement of Principles for embracing the Nottingham Declaration on Climate
Change approved by the Executive on 28th August 2007

Report 12 to the Executive on 28th August 2007