

REPORT TO: GREENER STRATEGIC GROUP – 8 OCTOBER 2009

SUBJECT: DRAFT CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

BY: HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 The Greener Strategic Group partners are invited to comment on the contents of the Council's Draft Climate Change Action Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Greener Strategic Group is requested to provide comments on the Moray Council's Working Draft Climate Action plan by Monday 28 October 2009.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 In signing the Scottish Climate declaration, the Council made a commitment to prepare and publicly declare a Climate Change Action Plan to achieve significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

3.2 Work has been ongoing within the Council to prepare the document, which will establish a framework for action in Moray to tackle the causes and consequences of climate change. The strategy describes the present situation, future intentions and actions for the Moray Council to take in order to achieve the strategic aims set out within the strategy. This is very much a working document and consultation with the Greener Strategic Group is being sought to draw on the expertise of the various partners.

3.3 The aims of the plan are framed around contributing towards national targets to reduce CO₂ emissions by 80% by 2050 and the achievement of the Scottish Governments national outcomes 12 and 14.

"We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it for future generations"

"We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production".

4. Proposals

4.1 The founding principals of this document are summarised within a strategic vision.

Reduce our demands for energy by improving the energy efficiency of all

council buildings.

Reduce our business travel, staff travel including commuting and reduce school travel. Rationalise the council's fleet and extend alternative fuel trials.

Disseminate an effective awareness campaign to Moray Council staff and the wider public. Share best practice and work in conjunction with our community planning partners.

Promote the uptake of renewable energy technologies, low carbon solutions and develop sustainable construction technique guidance.

To ensure climate change risks to Moray are appropriately identified, assessed, communicated and managed.

- 4.2 In developing this strategy the Council has chosen to take positive action and develop a set of strategic themes and key objectives underpinned by numerous actions.

The strategic themes are as follows:

- Carbon management, energy efficiency and promotion of renewable energy.
- Active/sustainable travel.
- Waste minimisation and resource use.
- Sustainable procurement.
- Low carbon building solutions and sustainable construction techniques.
- Natural environment.
- Awareness raising and environmental education.
- Climate change adaptation.

- 4.3 It is proposed to put a finalised draft of the plan to the Council's Policy and Resources Committee on Tuesday 17 November after collation of responses from the Group. The report is simultaneously being circulated internally for comments, the deadline for receipt of comments is Monday 28 October.

5. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

(a) Single outcome agreement/service improvement plan

The development of Climate Change Action Plan will assist in the achievement of Single Outcome Agreement, National Outcomes 12 and 14.

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(b) Policy and Legal

The development of an action plan is consistent with the Scottish Governments National Objectives.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

Financial

Any costs arising from the projects identified during the final preparation or implementation of the Action Plan will be reported to the Council. A number of existing projects with current budgets will help achieve the objectives of the plan.

Risks

The risks associated with climate change are recognised nationally, by signing the Declaration and resolving to prepare a climate change action plan the Council acknowledges those risks and commits itself to take action to address them.

Staffing

There will be requirements for Council staff time to oversee development of the action plan. A number of current projects that will help achieve the objects of the plan already have appropriate staff resources. Any matters that arise which require consideration of staffing will be reported to the Council as appropriate.

Property

The Climate Change Action Plan could impact on Council properties through the identification of and adoption of BREEAM standards.

(d) Consultations

To be carried out with C P Partners and Council departments.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The preparation of a Climate Change Action Plan for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is consistent with the principles of the council and those of the Community Planning Partnership. The plan offers the opportunity to galvanise all the work that is already being done and take a more inclusive and strategic approach to tackling climate change.**

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Background Papers:
Ref:

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