

networkfareham Board Meeting
Tuesday 1 December 2009

Item 5 Briefing Paper
A Climate Change Strategy for Fareham

INTRODUCTION

Members of the Board will recall that at its meeting on 1 June 2009, the Board considered a report on developing the sustainability agenda in Fareham. The report gave the Board a brief overview of some of the main issues and sought views about how members of the Board could contribute to the development of the agenda and, in particular, how the community can become involved. It referred to the decision by the Council's Executive on 6 April to sign the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change and to develop a Climate Change Strategy during 2009/10. This report updates the Board on some of the issues and seeks comments on a draft Climate Change Strategy and an endorsement of the general approach prior to wider consultation. It highlights the potential for the development of Greening Campaigns within the Borough to enable wider community involvement.

PROGRESS SINCE LAST REPORT

The Fareham Environment and Transport Partnership (FETP) has adopted climate change as one of its three priorities. It has been receiving regular reports on how Fareham is developing its response, including partnerships with other interested parties and progress against National Indicators.

Two National Indicators form part of the Hampshire Local Area Agreement (LAA). NI 188 relates to the progress made by local authorities in preparing for and adapting to climate change. Under the LAA it was agreed that Level 1 (Impact Assessment) would be reached by March 2009. In the event, Fareham Borough Council reached this stage in July 2009, in common with most of the other authorities in Hampshire. The slight delay was caused by the fact that UKCP weather scenarios, which had an impact on the work being carried out, were not published until June. Preparations are now underway to ensure that we reach Level 2 (Risk Assessment) by March 2010.

Part of NI 188 relates to ensuring that partner agencies are also developing their plans to adapt to climate change. Informal indications are that this is happening and Members of the Board are therefore asked to satisfy themselves that this is the case.

NI 186 relates to reducing carbon emissions per capita. The LAA contains a target to reduce carbon emissions per capita by 10% by March 2011 from a 2005 baseline. This is now recognised as being unrealistic as some actions may take many years to bear fruit. It is nevertheless seen as a direction of travel, from a series of "quick wins" which will produce reductions over the remaining two years of the LAA. The latest figures released by the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs do, however, show that the total carbon emissions per capita for 2007 were 5.4 tonnes, which is a reduction of 5% from 2005.

Two other National Indicators, 185 and 194 relate respectively to reducing carbon emissions and minimising air pollution from the Council's own operations. As 2008/09 was the first year of reporting on these indicators, there is nothing to compare the Council's performance against. However, it is evident that measures being taken to reduce energy consumption in the Council's buildings are beginning to have an effect, so 2009/10 should demonstrate a reduction against these indicators.

DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

The draft Climate Change Strategy has been prepared over the summer months and a copy is attached at Appendix A. It is not intended to be a detailed document, full of closely argued scientific evidence with a string of detailed actions. Instead its intention is to describe concisely the main issues and how they relate to Fareham and to set out a series of key priorities for the Borough Council, its partners in the statutory and business sectors and local residents. These priorities are reflected in an Action Plan which again, is not detailed, as it will be underpinned by the strategies and plans of other agencies and other services within the Borough Council.

As the impact the Borough Council on its own can have on climate change is fairly limited, the draft strategy concentrates, not only on the Council's role as a provider of services, but also on its roles as an influencer, an enabler and a community leader. To this end, it is important that the strategy is signed up to and jointly owned by all sectors of the community in Fareham and this aspect is covered further in the section on consultation. In particular it is vital that the **networkfareham Board** sign up to it as a demonstration that this is a strategy for Fareham and not just a Fareham Borough Council strategy.

The strategy begins by describing the future climate projections, which, in the south east are likely to lead to hotter, drier summers and warmer wetter winters with an increase in extreme weather events. It notes that, although some climate change is inevitable, it is not too late to decelerate the process, providing action is taken soon. Under the Climate Change Act 2009, the Government has committed to a target of reducing CO₂ emissions by 80% by 2050 (from a 1990 baseline), with an interim target of 26% by 2020.

The strategy covers both adapting to and mitigating climate change. In this context, adaptation means anticipating the impact of climate change and making sure that the necessary plans are in place to deal with the risks it poses. Mitigation means helping to decelerate climate change by taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Put simply, a recent definition was that adaptation was protecting society from climate and mitigation was protecting climate from society.

In relation to adaptation the draft strategy identifies the main challenges and priorities as follows:

- Flooding and storm damage: ensuring that our emergency and risk management plans are amended so that we can deal effectively with the consequences of extreme weather events and ensuring, through the Local Development Framework that new buildings are resilient enough to withstand climate change;
- Threats to water supplies: Ensuring through the Local Development Framework that the impact of new developments on water consumption is addressed;
- Threats to public health: Working with the Primary Care Trust to ensure that public health risks, such as the spread of disease, food poisoning and the danger of more heatwave related deaths are taken into account; and;
- Damage to the biodiversity of the Borough: Examining our biodiversity plans to minimise the risk to natural habitats and to look at the opportunities for new crops, plants and habitats.

All of these issues are being addressed as we move towards the completion of Level 2 of NI 188 by March 2010 and Level 3 (Developing Comprehensive Action Plans) by March 2011.

In relation to mitigation the main priorities are as follows:

- Reducing energy and fuel consumption in Council buildings and the Council's vehicle fleet;
- Encouraging the development through the Local Development Framework, of more energy efficient buildings, potentially using renewable energy sources or Combined Heat and Power schemes;
- Raising awareness amongst the business community and local residents of the need to reduce energy consumption;
- Ensuring the provision of up to date advice to assist homeowners to increase energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption;
- Raising awareness of the need to reduce car usage;

- Continuing the excellent work as part of Project Integra to increase the amount of waste which is recycled and reduce the amount which is sent to landfill;
- Working in partnership with Hampshire County Council to increase the amount of energy produced from waste.

Most of these priorities will require an element of partnership working, as the limitations of the Borough Council working on its own cannot be emphasised too strongly. In particular, very strong partnership arrangements have been developed with Hampshire County Council and the other district Councils in Hampshire to ensure a consistent approach and to share best practice. This partnership is currently working towards developing a vision for Hampshire which is consistent with this strategy. A Hampshire wide community conference to discuss this vision is planned for March 2010.

CONSULTATION

As previously emphasised in this report, it is vital to gain ownership of this strategy from all sectors of the community. To this end, partners such as Hampshire County Council, the Environment Agency, Hampshire Primary Care Trust and the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service have been consulted and have endorsed the approach. The draft strategy was considered by the Borough Council's Service Performance and Improvement, Policy, Development and Review Panel on 19 November. Following consideration by this Board, the strategy will then be the subject of wider consultation. Methods of undertaking this consultation could include a combination of meetings with the business community, articles in Fareham Today, possible use of the Borough Council's e-panel and presentations at CATs meetings.

The latter could involve advertising the potential for setting up local Greening Campaigns. About 140 Greening Campaigns have, so far, been established all over the south east of England, including one in Stubbington which is at an embryonic stage. They involve residents in local communities "championing" action on climate change, and committing to a number of challenges to reduce their carbon emissions. They are assisted by a Greening Campaign co-ordinator who provides support, attends meetings and arranges for printing of literature. The cost of setting up each Greening Campaign is about £2,000 and the County Council has undertaken to meet half of this cost, up to a maximum of five Campaigns per district. The Greening Campaign co-ordinator gave a presentation to the FETP on 3 November. This was favourably received as it was seen as a means of providing some structure and focus to community involvement.

NEXT STEPS

The proposed next steps are as follows:

- December 2009- January 2010: Publication of draft strategy on FBC website and invite comments from general public and via e-panels.

- January-March 2010: Presentations to CATs meetings.
- February 2010: FETP to consider draft strategy.
- March 2010 onwards: Develop Greening Campaigns in a number of communities in the Borough.
- March/April 2010: FBC Executive and **networkfareham** Board consider final version of the strategy.

The Board are asked to consider and make comments on both the draft strategy and the proposed consultation process and to endorse the partnership approach adopted by the draft strategy.