



**WARDS AFFECTED:  
All Wards**

**CABINET**

**5<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006**

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**CLIMATE CHANGE: WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?**

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**REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To agree the way forward for developing renewed commitment from organisations and individuals in Leicester, including Leicester City Council, to taking action on Climate Change.

**2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 In October 2003 the Leicester Partnership adopted the City of Leicester Climate Change Strategy. Many organisations, including the city council are taking steps to tackle and amend those activities that contribute towards climate change, notably to reduce CO<sup>2</sup> emissions, but a Climate Change Action Plan has not been prepared.
- 2.2 Public awareness of the issue is now high and it is important that the City Council and Leicester Partnership renew their commitment.
- 2.3 The paper proposes the launch of a new awareness campaign led by the Partnership and funded through the Housing Department's E.U. BELIEF project and the Safer Stronger Communities Group of the Leicester Partnership.
- 2.4 The campaign will focus on encouraging all organisations and individuals in the city to re-examine climate change issues in relation to what they do and to plan actions to tackle it. The proposed campaign slogan is "Climate Change: What's your Plan?"
- 2.5 As lead organisation in the Partnership it will provide an ideal focus for the City Council to consider how its commitments under EMAS, the Local Area Agreement, the Transport Plan and other Council strategies can be brought together and developed into a Climate Change Action Plan.

- 2.6 In order to demonstrate the Council's commitment to the work and provide a forum for officers to explore issues with members, it is proposed that the existing cross party Cabinet Energy Working Group is reformed as the Cabinet Sub-Group for Climate Change.

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET

- 3.1 To agree the proposal to develop a Climate Change Action Plan for the City Council and receive a further report in early 2007 (Sections 1 and 2).
- 3.2 To work with the Leicester Partnership to endorse and promote the "Climate Change: What's your Plan?" campaign (Section 1).
- 3.3 To create a Cabinet sub group for Climate Change chaired by the Cabinet Lead for Housing and Community Safety (Section 7).

### 4. FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

#### 4.1 Financial Implications – Rod Pearson, extn 7108

There are no financial implications for the General Fund. The work will be carried out through the BELIEF Project which is partly funded through a European grant. The council's contribution to this project has been made through re-directing the work of existing staff. There is also the possibility of a £5,000 contribution from the Leicester Partnership.

#### 4.2 Legal Implications – Joanna Bunting, extn 6450

Legal Services endorse the recommendations contained in this report.

### 5. REPORT AUTHOR

Ann Branson  
Service Director (Housing Renewal, Options and Development) extn 6802.

Anna Dodd/Carol Brass  
Team Leaders  
Environment Team, Regeneration and Culture, extn 6732.

### DECISION STATUS

<b>Key Decision</b>	Yes
<b>Reason</b>	Significant effect on one or more wards
<b>Appeared in Forward Plan</b>	Yes
<b>Executive or Council Decision</b>	Executive (Cabinet)



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**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**1. City of Leicester Climate Change Strategy 2003**

- 1.1 The Climate Change Strategy was produced and adopted in October 2003 by the Leicester Partnership to encourage a debate about the city's response to the threat of climate change.
- 1.2 The Partnership recognised that it could provide a useful framework for engaging as many different stakeholders in the city as possible.
- 1.3 The strategy set out objectives relating to energy, transport, waste, carbon sequestration, awareness raising and adaptation. It is envisaged that more detailed targets and an Action Plan should be produced.
- 1.4 In practice, many of the Partnership Stakeholders, including the City Council, are taking action, for example through EMAS systems, investment in energy and waste measures.
- 1.5 The formal Action Plan for the Partnership is the Local Area Agreement, which includes targets under SSC7, to reduce NO<sup>2</sup> and CO<sup>2</sup> emissions, landfill waste, energy consumption and land areas of city to be managed for bio-diversity. There are also a range of targets under SSC8 to improve transport.
- 1.6 The proposal in this paper is that one way of achieving these targets is by encouraging all stakeholders to take 'stock' of their own organisation and then share experiences, successes and failures with each other. The staff and other resources from the BELIEF project can be used to support the work of raising awareness in other organisations. The Partnership's Safer Stronger Partnership Delivery Group is recommending the Partnership to fund publicity and marketing for the campaign (£5k) and a project that will help embed sustainability in LAA work (£40k).

It is proposed that this work, with organisations outside the City Council, will be carried out in conjunction with other Partnership members working under the slogan “Climate Change: What’s Your Plan?”

## 2. EMAS: City Council Climate Change Action Plan

2.1 The Council’s EMAS system can provide a powerful tool to manage the proposed Climate Change Action Plan. The following EMAS system elements relate to best practice in Action Plan management:-

- Identifying the most significant activities through a review process
- Setting and managing detailed targets and actions through the EMAS action programme
- An established control and monitoring mechanism supported by procedures, internal audits and external validation
- An internal officer support mechanism through SCOG
- A requirement to work with partners and stakeholders
- Public declaration of progress through an independently verified Statement

2.2 There are a number of issues to consider about how we want to express our Climate Change actions in relation both to EMAS and the LAA (Local Area Agreement). These issues will be considered and a further report brought to cabinet in early 2007.

## 3. BELIEF Project

### Building in Europe Local Intelligent Energy Forums

BELIEF is a European Project funded under the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme and led by Energie Cités. It has 23 other European municipalities as partners, all members of Energie Cités, and all committed to the aims of the project. The project started in January 2006, runs for 30 months and will finish in June 2008 (see appendix).

In monetary terms, over the 30 months Leicester can claim a maximum of around £25.25k (see table, subject to currency conversion)

<b>Staff Costs</b>	<b>£27,500.00</b>
<b>Staff Travel and Subsistence Allowances</b>	<b>£6,900.00</b>
<b>Subcontracting</b>	<b>£3,100.00</b>
<b>Other Specific Costs (Audit)</b>	<b>£2,000.00</b>
<b>Indirect eligible costs (Staff employment costs)</b>	<b>£11,000.00</b>
<b>Total eligible costs</b>	<b>£50,500.00</b>
<b>EU Contribution</b>	<b>£25,250.00</b>
<b>LCC Contribution</b>	<b>£25,250.00</b>

Under the terms of the project Leicester is committed to the following objectives over 3 and 5 years:-

The 3 year objectives of the project are:

- Development of Sustainable Energy Plan
- Building on Leicester Energy Agency Board to form Local Energy Forum involving a wide range of relevant local partners
- Implementation of action plan
- Development of performance indicators
- Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of action plan

The 5 year objectives of the project are:

- Ongoing implementation of action plan
- Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of action plan

#### **4. Future Local Authority Performance Targets**

As a Sustainable Energy Beacon Authority we need to anticipate the Government's proposed move to incorporate energy and climate change targets into the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) framework.

It has been confirmed by Peter Brunt (Energy Group DTI - speaking at the annual HECA Conference in May 2006), that climate change would indeed be included in Local Authority performance targets by 2008.

The recent Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act places a duty on the Government to publish an annual report detailing its own performance in reducing the levels of greenhouse gas emissions and will then require Local Authorities to have regard to the most recently published report in carrying out any of their functions.

There is now a further Bill proposed – The Climate Change (Commercial & Public Services) Bill that seeks to address the fact that the Commercial and Public Sectors have the fastest growing energy use (apart from aviation), with electricity use set to increase by 45% from 1990 to 2020.

In the recently published Energy Review the Government states that there will be a Local Government White Paper this autumn that will include “proposals to provide a real incentive for local authorities to take action on climate change”.

Two key action packs for local authorities on Climate Change are being published, one under the “Nottingham Declaration” scheme and one expected in the autumn from the Energy Savings Trust.

#### **5. Best Practice**

An overview of best practice at other local authorities is given below:

##### **Other local authorities**

- *Bristol:* Target of reducing the City's GHG emissions by 60% by 2050 is included in their Community Strategy. This provides the driver for their Climate Change Strategy. Climate Change related objectives included

in the Corporate Plan to ensure that action is taken. Social and economic benefits are emphasised to bring all service areas on board.

- *Brighton and Hove*: use Scrutiny process to ensure that the Las and the LSPs plans consider climate change. Emphasise the need to make a business case if you are to win the support of members. Worked with the Carbon Trust to develop a corporate emissions inventory and action plan.
- *Southampton*: Employs a full-time climate change coordinator. Have a corporate level strategy and action plan. Action plan includes adaptation but only in relation to flood defences. Partaking in Phase 3 of the Carbon Trust's LA Management programme. A number of other local authorities are now recruiting climate change officers.
- *Newcastle*: 'Carbon Neutral Newcastle' is a not for profit campaign under the charitable control of Newcastle's Community Foundation. Its founder and Director is the LA21 team leader at the City Council. Co-founders are Future Forests. It is directed and managed by a steering group of sponsors. They work with organisations and individuals so that they can benefit from their "beyond compliance" activity on Climate change.
- *Cambridgeshire County Council*: have carried out a member led review of the effects of climate change on County Council functions.
- *Worcestershire County Council*: used the UKCIP 'Adaptation Wizard' to assess the impacts of CC on a new school and to provide an adaptation strategy for the design and construction phases and for the life of the building.

## **6. Liaison with Members**

In September 2005 Cabinet set up the cross party Cabinet Energy Working Group to explore various options in relation to the Council's Energy Services. It is proposed that this group is replaced with a cross party group which will explore the various actions open to the Council in relation to implementing the City of Leicester Climate Change Strategy. Formal decisions to take action will be made through existing Council procedures as appropriate. The formal terms of reference will be agreed by the Cabinet Lead for Housing and Community Safety.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS – Rod Pearson, ext 7108**

- 7.1 There are no financial implications for the General Fund. The work will be carried out through the BELIEF Project which is partly funded through a European grant. The council's contribution to this project has been made through re-directing the work of existing staff. There is also the possibility of a £5,000 contribution from the Leicester Partnership.

## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – Joanna Bunting, ext 6450**

- 8.1 Legal Services endorse the recommendations contained in this report.

## 9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Within Supporting Information	References
Equal Opportunities	No		
Policy	Yes	All	
Sustainable and Environmental	Yes	All	
Crime and Disorder	No		
Human Rights Act	No		
Elderly/People on Low Income	Yes	Fuel poverty issues	

## 10. CONSULTATIONS

Director of Partnerships, Performance & Policy.  
Service Directors in Regeneration and Culture.

## 11. REPORT AUTHORS

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Anna Dodd/Carol Brass  
Team Leaders  
Environment Team, Regeneration and Culture, extn 6732.

**EUROPEAN PARTNERS IN THE BELIEF PROJECT**

<b>Partic. N°</b>	<b>Participant name</b>	<b>Participant short name</b>	<b>Country</b>
1	Energie-Cités	Energie-Cités	France
2	Energie Centre Bratislava	ECB	Slovakia
3	Gemeente Zoetermeer	Zoetermeer	Netherlands
4	Gemeente Delft	DLF	Netherlands
5	Stadt Frankfurt	Energierferat	Germany
6	Energy Agency Zoetermeer	EAZ	Netherlands
7	Stadt Heidelberg	Heidelberg	Germany
8	Agência Municipal de Energia de Gaia	ENERGAIA	Portugal
9	Communauté Urbaine de Dunkerque	CUD	France
10	Bistrita City Hall	Bistrita	Rumania
11	City of Rennes	Rennes	France
12	Agência Municipal de Energia de Almada	AGENEAL	Portugal
13	Municipality of Nikea	Nikea	Greece
14	Občina Beltinci	Beltinci	Slovenia
15	Comune di Rimini	Rimini	Italy
16	Ayuntamiento de Sevilla	ALES	Spain
17	Landeshauptstadt München	LHM	Germany
18	Sofia Energy Agency	SOFENA	Bulgaria
19	Comune di Padova	Padova	Italy
20	Leicester City Council	LEA	UK
21	Comune di Modena	Modena	Italy
22	Grenoble Alpes Métropole	METRO	France
23	Agenzia Napoletana Energia ed Ambiente	ANEA	Italy
24	London Borough of Southwark	Southwark	UK