

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

CABINET

Date of meeting: Monday 8th September 2008
Report of: Cheshire East Climate Change Group

Title: **CLIMATE CHANGE IN CHESHIRE EAST**

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To build upon recommendations arising from the Members induction day in June 2008 on how Cheshire East can start to take forward Climate Change.

2.0 Decisions Required

- 2.1 To sign the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change
- 2.2 To introduce Climate Change implications onto board reports

3.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications. However, by signing the Nottingham Declaration, Cheshire East is committing to ensuring that tackling climate change is a cornerstone of any council strategy. Therefore there will be a need to dedicate officer/ staff time and resources in taking forward Climate Change in Cheshire East, as well as training/ support to report authors to ensure Climate Change implications are fully highlighted.

4.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications to the recommendations. However tackling climate change is a long term programme, will involve many sections of the Council and will need dedicated officer time and resources over many years. However, by addressing the effects of climate change, Cheshire East could also bring social, environmental and financial benefits for the local authority and its community. By not addressing Climate Change through direct action as well as partnership action, there are potentially huge negative financial implications.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The declaration is designed to be signed by the Leader and Chief Executive (or their equivalents) of the council.

6.0 Risk Assessment

- 6.1 There are no risks associated with these recommendations, but there are greater risks to Cheshire East and its community if climate change is not addressed through both mitigation and adaptation work.

7.0 Background

- 7.1 At the Places Induction Day on 12th June 2008, there was consensus that the new Council should provide leadership on Climate Change and take positive action to take on board the implications of our changing climate.
- 7.2 Work is already underway through the Places work stream programme to identify how Climate Change could be taken forward. However, as major decisions are now being made, Members from the induction day suggested that the new Council needs take on board any Climate Change implications arising from such decisions, through the introduction of Climate Change Implications statements on every Board report as soon as possible. Guidance is sought from Members on how quickly Climate Change Implications should be introduced onto Board reports.
- 7.3 If Climate Change Implications are introduced onto reports, awareness raising and training in this matter will need to be considered for Members and Officers taking account of the implications. The Cheshire East Climate Change Group is already developing guidance in this area, possibly through a 'checklist', building upon ideas and best practice from other Local Authorities.
- 7.4 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. The declaration is designed to be signed by the Leader and Chief Executive of the council. In doing so, they are committing to ensuring that tackling climate change will be a cornerstone of the council's overall strategy.
- 7.5 The present District Councils have previously signed the Declaration. By signing the Declaration, Cheshire East would continue the present commitment of the local authorities.
- Congleton September 2007
 - Crewe and Nantwich April 2007
 - Macclesfield May 2006
 - Cheshire County Council January 2006 (Northwest Climate Change Charter Signatory which is similar to The Nottingham Declaration)

8.0 Overview of Day One, Year One and Term One Issues

- 8.1 Short term: over the next few months
Development of guidance on Climate Change implications
Training for report authors
Recognition for Cheshire East by signing the Nottingham Declaration

Medium / long term: over the next few years
Resources to tackle Climate Change

9.0 Reasons for Recommendation

- 9.1 Cheshire East has the opportunity to demonstrate its early commitment to tackling climate change by the actions outlined above. Over the next few months, substantial work will be carried out to identify in detail how Climate Change in Cheshire East could be taken forward.

For further information:

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Background Documents:

<http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/housingbuildings/localauthorities/NottinghamDeclaration/?role=manage>