

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Cabinet **DATE:** 10th March 2014

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WARD(S): All

PORTFOLIO: Councillor Satpal S Parmar, Commissioner of Environment and Open Spaces

PART I **NON KEY DECISION**

SIGN UP TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION'S (LGA) 'CLIMATE LOCAL' INITIATIVE

1 Purpose of Report

To advise members about the Local Government Association's (LGA) 'Climate Local' initiative and seek the Council's approval to sign up to it.

2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

The Cabinet is requested to resolve:

- (a) That SBC sign up to the Climate Local Commitment (Appendix A).
- (b) That the Council's Commitments to climate change mitigation and adaptation be developed by the Carbon Management Board and Climate Change Partnership Delivery Group and that their proposals be considered by Members in due course.
- (c) That clear and measurable actions in a climate change action plan are set out and published on the Council's website and LGA website with 6 months of signing up to Climate Local.
- (d) That progress on climate change actions be reported annually and published on the Council's website.

3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Corporate Plan

The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy (SJWS) for Environment and Regeneration aims to reduce energy consumption, water usage, amount of carbon emissions generated, improve public transport, cycling and walking facilities to increase use of sustainable forms of transport.

Climate Local has been designed to help councils across the country to capture the opportunities and benefits of action on a changing climate, through saving on their energy bills, generating income from renewable energy, attracting new jobs and investment in 'green' industries, reducing flood risks, sustainable transport, waste minimisation and managing the impacts of extreme weather.

Signing to 'Climate Local' is also one of the key objectives mentioned in Slough Borough Council's Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Report submitted to Department of Energy and Climate Change in August 2013 and also on the action plan of the Council's Carbon Management Board.

By signing Climate Local the Council will commit to:

- Set out actions we intend to take locally to further reduce our carbon emissions and respond to changes in the climate within our own operations, services and with the local community
- Set a level of ambition and actions in the following areas: mainstreaming climate change, energy, local economic growth, natural environment, planning and the built environment, transport, waste, health and our communities.
- Share actions, progress and learning with other partners and local authorities

This will provide a way to show the Council's leadership on climate change to our communities, partners and to government and national stakeholders.

3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities –**

As stated in the Terms of Reference of the SWB:

'The Slough Wellbeing Board in discharging its objective to implement the Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy has aimed to work closely with the Priority Delivery Groups (PDGs). This includes PDGs taking on lead responsibility for some areas of the Strategy.'

Signing up the Climate Local initiative will contribute towards our overall aims mentioned in the Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy for Environment and Regeneration:

- Reduce energy consumption, water usage and the amount of carbon emissions generated.
- Improve public transport, cycling and walking facilities to increase use of sustainable forms of transport.

Cross-Cutting themes:

The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy lists the following Climate Change / Carbon Management civic responsibilities *that residents can undertake in delivering the Strategy and in improving Slough for the benefit of everyone.*

- Promote the town and be a champion for the area
- Use public transport or cycle or walk rather than use your car
- Insulate your home
- Reduce your water consumption
- Reduce, reuse and recycle your waste whether at home or around the town
- Compost your food and garden waste at home
- Reduce your carbon emissions by reducing your energy consumption

Both our Climate Change PDG and Carbon Management Board will seek projects to achieve the commitment of Climate Local.

4 **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

Signing Climate Local does not make any binding financial commitments for the Council, however once signed up to the initiative the Council would need to establish what are specific commitments are to climate change. These commitments would generally be no or low cost and met from existing budgets or delivered through changes to ways of working.”

Examples of what our climate change commitments could be include:

- Secure **political commitment** and responsibility for taking action on climate change
- Measure energy consumption across the SBC estate
- Work with **households** to promote greater **energy efficiency** and to alleviate fuel poverty.
- Reduce the carbon emissions of SBC grey fleet – please see Grey Fleet Review Document (see Appendix B)

(b) **Risk Management**

Risk	Mitigating action	Opportunities
Legal	none	
Property	none	
Human Rights	none	
Health and Safety	none	
Employment Issues	none	
Equalities Issues	none	
Community Support	none	
Communications	none	
Community Safety	none	
Financial	none	
Timetable for delivery	none	
Project Capacity	none	
Other		

(c) **Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications** :

There are no human rights or other legal implications arising from this report.

(d) **Equalities Impact Assessment**

No EIA is required for this report.

(e) Workforce

Resource costs are already incorporated with the Environmental Quality revenue budget. We will also require some support from our communications team to publicise what we are doing and put info onto the SBC website.

5 **Supporting Information**

- 5.1. Slough Borough Council (SBC) signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change in August 2009. Since then, in order to mitigate the extent of climate change SBC has adopted the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. The Council was a member of the Carbon Trust's Local Authority Carbon Management Programme from 2008/09 and developed a Carbon Management Plan which aims to reduce carbon emissions by 40% by 2014.
- 5.2. Climate Local succeeds the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change and offers a framework that can reflect local priorities and opportunities for action. It supports councils' efforts both to reduce carbon emissions and to improve their resilience to the anticipated changes in the climate.
- 5.3. Climate local is an initiative to drive, inspire and support SBC action on a changing climate. The initiative supports our efforts both to reduce carbon emissions and also to improve resilience to the affects of our changing climate and extreme weather.

6 **Comments of Other Committees**

None

7 **Conclusion**

The Cabinet is requested to Sign up to the Climate Local Commitment (Appendix A). Approval is also sought for the Carbon Management Board to progress the next stage of the process, which is to propose an ambition and set out clear and measurable actions.

8 **Appendices attached**

'A' - Climate Local Commitment

9 **Background Papers**

'1' - LGA: Climate Local – Information pack for councils