

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 16 OCTOBER 2006
REPORT ON: SCOTTISH CLIMATE CHANGE DECLARATION
REPORT BY: ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (COMMUNITY PLANNING)
REPORT NO: 546-2006

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To recommend that the Council signs up to the Scottish Climate Change Declaration and participates in the launch of the Declaration.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council should:

- i) sign up to the Scottish Climate Change Declaration as set out in Appendix One to this report
- ii) participate, along with the Scottish Executive and other local authorities, in a public launch of the Declaration which is likely to take place in the near future.
- iii) set up a short term working group chaired by the Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) to draw up a Climate Change Action Plan.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Staff time will be required to produce and monitor a 'climate change action plan', but the cost of the staff time will be contained within existing budgets of the departments concerned.

4. SUSTAINABILITY POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- a) Climate change is widely recognised as the most serious environmental threat we currently face. Through its complex nature it influences every Sustainability Policy principle, from forward planning of new buildings and infrastructure, alleviating flooding, maintaining air quality and reducing CO₂ emissions, to the management of green spaces, waste and health of the environment. A Climate Change Action Plan will publicly demonstrate the Council's commitment to mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change and contribute to improving our own environmental performance.
- b) Strategic Environmental Assessment - the subject of the report would require an action plan to be drawn up and therefore an SEA screening has been carried out. This indicates that the plan should not require a full Environmental Assessment due to the nature of the plan to be prepared. The actions and initiatives to be contained in the plan will be collated from existing Council strategies, plans and programmes which themselves escape SEA requirements as set out in the legislation. If, in the future, the action plan is to change or there are likely to be significant changes to the other Council strategies, plans and programmes, then an SEA may be required. This has been raised nationally with the Scottish Executive and guidance is awaited.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

None

6. BACKGROUND

6.1 The Scottish Climate Change Declaration has been produced by the Scottish Local Authority Climate Change Programme Development Group. Signing the declaration is seen as an opportunity to:

- highlight action to date and demonstrate the work that has already been done
- share success with others
- plan and declare future action
- build confidence across Scotland that steps are being taken to address climate change

6.2 The Declaration is set out in full in Appendix One to this report. In summary, it would commit the Council to:

- Produce and publicly declare a plan, with targets and time-scales, to achieve a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from our own operations. This will include energy sourcing and use, travel and transportation, waste production and disposal, estate management, procurement of goods and services, and improved staff awareness.
- Ensure that greenhouse gas reduction and climate change adaptation measures are clearly incorporated into all of our new and existing strategies, plans and programmes, in line with sustainable development principles.
- Assess the risks and opportunities for our services and our communities of predicted climate change scenarios and impacts, and take action to adapt accordingly and in line with sustainable development principles.
- Encourage and work with all sectors in our local community to take action to adapt to the impact of climate change, to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions and to make public their commitment to action.
- Monitor and publish an annual report on the progress of our climate change response, detailing targets set, actions taken, outcomes achieved and further actions required.

6.3 Much of this work is already underway in Dundee, through the Council's Sustainability Policy, existing Council strategies and plans, the work of individual departments and the involvement of Community Planning partners such as Dundee Sun City and Dundee Energy Efficiency and Advice Project. Although some staff resources will be required to develop and monitor a 'climate change action plan', guidance and support is available to assist with this. It is therefore recommended that Dundee City Council sign up to the Declaration.

6.4 It is anticipated that a Scotland-wide launch of the Declaration will be organised in the near future, involving the Scottish Executive and those local authorities which are signing up. This will form part of a programme of publicity, including a national TV advertising campaign promoting sustainable development, work on carbon proofing policy and publication of the Scottish Executive's energy strategy, as well as pursuing action following the publication of the Climate Change Strategy 'Changing Our Ways', which will seek to ensure that climate change is considered as part of the development of all policies throughout local government and elsewhere. It is recommended that the Council participate in the public launch of the Declaration.

6.5 A key aspect of the Council's commitment to the Declaration will be the development of a Climate Change Action Plan. It is recommended that a short term working group chaired by the Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) should be remitted to develop this plan.

7. **CONSULTATION**

The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Director of Economic Development and Head of Waste Management have been consulted on this report.

8. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

Chris Ward
Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning)..... 10/10/2006

Appendix One

The Scottish Climate Change Declaration

We acknowledge that

- Evidence shows that climate change is occurring and that human activities are having a significant negative and potentially dangerous influence.
- Climate change will have far reaching effects on Scotland's people and places, impacting on our economy, society and environment.
- There are significant social, economic and environmental benefits in taking action to combat and prepare for climate change.
- We all in Scotland have duties and responsibilities to take action to both mitigate and adapt to climate change, to promote the sustainable development and well-being of our local communities.

We welcome the

- The UK Government and Scottish Executive Climate Change Programmes and targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Opportunities for local government in particular, and other agencies, businesses, voluntary bodies, community organisations and individuals to show leadership at a local level to respond to climate change.
- Opportunity to address climate change by promoting the sustainable development of our local communities.

We commit Dundee City Council from this date _____ to

- Work with the UK Government and the Scottish Executive to contribute to the delivery of the UK and Scottish Climate Change Programmes, including to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to future climate change scenarios.
- Produce and publicly declare a plan, with targets and time-scales, to achieve a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from our own operations. This will include our energy sourcing and use, travel and transportation, waste production and disposal, estate management, procurement of goods and services, and through improved staff awareness.
- Ensure that greenhouse gas reduction and climate change adaptation measures are clearly incorporated into all of our new and existing strategies, plans and programmes, in line with sustainable development principles.
- Assess the risks and opportunities for our services and our communities of predicted climate change scenarios and impacts, and take action to adapt accordingly and in line with sustainable development principles.
- Encourage and work with others in our local community to take action to adapt to the impact of climate change to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions and to make public their commitment to action.
- Monitor and publish an annual report on the progress of our climate change response, detailing targets set, actions taken, outcomes achieved and further actions required.
- Collaborate with other organisations to promote good practice on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Dundee City Council acknowledges the increasing impact that climate change will have on our community, Scotland and other countries during the 21st Century and commits to tackling the causes and effects of a changing climate within our local area.