

REVIEW COMMITTEE– SCOPING FORM FOR IMPLICATIONS OF GLOBAL WARMING AGENDA ON ROCHFORD DISTRICT AND THE ROLE THE DISTRICT COUNCIL AND ITS COMMUNITIES MIGHT PLAY

Project Leader: Review Committee/selected advisors	Date: June 2007
Review Title: Implications Of Global Warming Agenda On Rochford District And The Role The District Council And Its Communities Might Play	
Terms of Reference:	
To establish the implications for Rochford District of government guidance and best practice within the local authority sector in respect of Global Warming and assess how the Community can be encouraged to take an active role.	
Out of Scope:	
The specific environmental implications of global warming such as:-	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased risks of flooding caused by the melting of the Polar ice caps and rising sea levels. 2. Changing weather patterns with changes in rainfall and temperature patterns which are likely to affect infrastructure and property. 3. Changes to growing seasons affecting agriculture and the range and types of crops that can be grown as well as of the landscape, animal husbandry. There are also potential for increased erosion. 4. Threats to wildlife and their habitats. Alterations to biodiversity are likely to have complex effects upon food chains and the interactions between species. 5. Adverse effects on human health such as the increased incidence of skin cancers and the range of diseases spread by pest species. 6. Statutory Environmental Enforcement. 7. Future changes caused by external pressures i.e. Thames Gateway policies. 8. Statutory duties in respect of Air Quality, however there may be some synergies/ conflicts between some related issues in scope. 	
Brief outline of how review will be conducted:	
<p>The Review will look at some of the activities that have already been introduced by Rochford District Council.</p> <p>Input will be obtained from Essex County Council's Environmental Resource Manager.</p> <p>Other Authorities will be contacted and other published Reviews by other Authorities will be examined for evidence of Best Practices that could possibly be introduced by RDC.</p> <p>Contact will be made with the various agencies sponsored by the Government to request their input/assistance with the Review.</p> <p>Some witnesses will be invited to participate in an advisory role with the Committee.</p> <p>External site visits will be arranged as appropriate.</p> <p>Meetings will be held in public.</p> <p>Recommendations may be made regarding appropriate areas for policy development, managing our own impact on the environment or National agreement Partnerships that it may be appropriate for Rochford District Council to become party to.</p>	
Documents/information:	
<p>Examples of Climate Change strategies from Woking, Aberdeen, Devon, East Riding and Leicester.</p> <p>Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change</p> <p>Code for Sustainable Homes</p> <p>Community Leadership and Climate Change; Guidance for Local Authorities</p>	

Potential sources of external funding such as the Carbon Trust, Energy Saving Trust, Clear Skies and government agencies.
Witnesses:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers of Rochford District Council from Environmental Services, Legal Services (Property Management) together with Planning & Transportation Services. • Environmental Resource Manager; Essex County Council • Authors of any of the existing Climate Change Strategies cited
Site visits:
To be considered by the Review Committee at a later date. Potential visits include:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Woking Borough Council 2. Green developments within London/Thames Gateway 3. London Borough of Sutton
Consultation/research:
Contact will be made with other authorities in the Thames Gateway for evidence of best practice and with specialist organisations such as:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Savings Trust • Carbon Trust • DEFRA • NSCA
Venues to be used for meetings/evidence gathering:
Rayleigh Civic Suite
Officer support and other resources:
Head of Environmental Services, Head of Planning & Transportation, Property Maintenance & Highway Manager, Overview & Scrutiny Officer
Timescale/milestones:
18 July 07 Commence initial evidence gathering 7 November 07 Completion of investigation phase 12 February 08 Acceptance of report by Review Committee
Reporting line for the Review:
The Review Committee may make recommendations to the Executive Board/Council arising from the outcome of any Scrutiny Process