
LOCAL AUTHORITY ACTION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE - THE NOTTINGHAM DECLARATION

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks Members' views on whether Rochford should sign up to the Nottingham declaration on climate change.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Following a Local Government Conference held in Nottingham in October last year and the publication of the United Kingdom's climate change programme in November, the Deputy Prime Minister, together with the Chair of the Local Government Association, has written to all Local Authorities seeking a commitment to tackling the problems of climate change.
- 2.2 A copy of the Nottingham Declaration is attached to this report.

3 IMPLICATIONS FOR ROCHFORD

- 3.1 The key implications for Rochford are included in the bottom section of the declaration document. These can be summarised as follows:-
- The preparation of a plan, by December 2002, to address the causes and effects of climate change
 - A public declaration to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the Authority's own operations
 - Work with key organisations to assess the potential impacts of climate change on our communities.
- 3.2 The Local Government Association and the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) have established a pilot project to develop a framework to help Authorities measure and monitor their greenhouse gas emissions, formulate local climate change strategies and adopt emission reduction targets.
- 3.3. Notwithstanding guidance and advice from the Local Government Association and IDeA, there is no doubt that the implications for the Council of signing the Nottingham Declaration are significant. Signing commits the Council to the preparation of a plan indicating the ways in which the Authority will seek to address the causes of climate change.

Members will need to decide whether a commitment to produce such a plan by December 2002 is a realistic possibility.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Not known at this stage, but likely to be considerable. Given the current workloads, and other strategic initiatives, officers would advise that if Members do wish to commit resources to this work area, Members would need to consider what projects and initiatives are deferred.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The long-term impact of climate change is now well documented. The Nottingham Declaration seeks to promote a concerted effort by Local Government to contribute to dealing with the problem of climate change.

RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That Members decide whether they wish to sign the Nottingham Declaration (HOPS)

Shaun Scrutton

Head of Planning Services

Background Papers:

Letter from DETR 26 March 2001

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The Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change

..... Council recognises that Climate Change is likely to be one of the key drivers of change within our community this century.

We acknowledge that

- Evidence continues to mount that climate change is occurring
- Climate change will have far reaching effects on the UK's economy, society and environment.

We welcome the

- Social, economic and environmental benefits which will come from combating climate change.
- Recognition by many sectors, especially government and business, of the need for change.
- Emissions targets agreed by central government and the programme for delivering change as set out in the Climate Change - UK Programme.
- Opportunity for local government to lead the response to local level issues. UK's local authorities helping to deliver the national programme.
- Opportunity for us to encourage and help local businesses to reduce their carbon footprint, to reduce congestion, to improve the local environment.
- Additional powers to address the social, economic and environmental issues that will arise from climate change within the Local Government Act 2000, which

We commit our Council to

- Work with central government to ensure that we are fully engaged in the national programme.
- Prepare a plan with our local partners to address the issues and risks of climate change and to secure maximum resilience in our communities.
- Publicly declare, within the plan, the commitment to achieve a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from our own authority's operations especially energy consumption in the transport, waste production and disposal, and purchasing of goods and services.
- Encourage all sectors of the local economy to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions and to make public transport more attractive.
- Work with key providers, including health authorities, universities and the development industry, to assess the potential effects of climate change on our communities and to identify ways in which we can adapt.
- Provide opportunities for the development of renewable energy generation within our area.
- Monitor the progress of our plan against the national programme and publish the results.

Leader of the Council

Chief Executive

Lord Mayor

City Under Mayor