

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CABINET
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	SOUTHAMPTON LOW CARBON CITY STRATEGY AND DELIVERY PLAN
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	6 JUNE 2011
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT
<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>	
N/A	

### **BRIEF SUMMARY**

This report seeks approval to adopt the Low Carbon City Strategy and its associated Delivery Plan. The Low Carbon City Strategy sets out the key priorities for the Council for the next 10 years (up to 2020) that will help to deliver job opportunities, raise skill levels, support development, strengthen and build the low carbon economy in the city, respond to the impacts of climate change and mitigate our impact on the environment by reducing the city's carbon emissions.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

In accordance with S.2 Local Government Act 2000 and having had regard to the provisions of the Community Strategy (City of Southampton Strategy):

- (i) To approve the proposed Low Carbon City Strategy, as set out in Appendix 2, to provide a framework from which to base future decisions and policies.
- (ii) To endorse the proposed Low Carbon City Delivery Plan, as set out in Appendix 3, to ensure that the City Council and its identified strategic partners deliver against key actions in support of the Strategy objectives.
- (iii) To delegate authority to the Head of Planning and Sustainability to make any minor changes to the Strategy and Delivery Plan following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport.
- (iv) To delegate authority to the Head of Planning and Sustainability following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport to take all necessary steps to consult upon and approve updates to the Delivery Plan every 3 years.

### **REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. To give a clear management framework and policy direction for the council and to provide a basis for consistent monitoring and reporting of strategic climate change related actions.
2. To have an agreed vision and objectives to ensure we are in a position to meet our statutory obligations and to maximise any opportunities that the development of the low carbon economy may present us with.

## **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

3. To proceed with an ad hoc approach to climate change activities across the Council relying on one small team to initiate and implement changes to current practice. This would result in missed opportunities to improve performance in a number of key areas and a lack of consistency in policy direction and service delivery.

### **DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)**

#### **Background and policy context**

4. In 2004 the Council formally adopted its first Climate Change Strategy. The strategy set out a 5 year plan spanning up to 2009/10 and identified key actions to address both air quality and greenhouse gas emissions issues in the City. It outlined ways in which the Council would deliver its commitments under the Nottingham Declaration and its statutory obligations under the Environmental Protection Act.
5. The national policy context has evolved considerably since 2004 and so have the role and responsibilities of the local authority in the delivery of climate change policies. The UK has passed legislation which introduces the world's first long-term legally binding framework to tackle the dangers of climate change.
6. The 2008 Climate Change Act aims to improve carbon management and help the transition towards a low-carbon economy. It sets legally binding carbon reduction targets of at least a 34 percent cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 and at least an 80 percent cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 set against a 1990 baseline. It places a statutory duty on local authorities to deliver against these stringent and ambitious carbon reduction targets.
7. The Climate Change agenda is driving a number of partnerships and key areas of activity in the city (e.g. the Local Enterprise Partnership, the Southampton Energy Partnership, and the Chamber of Commerce Low Carbon City Group). The City Council needs to have an agreed vision and objectives to ensure that we are in a position to be the lead in taking this agenda forward, meet our statutory obligations and to maximise any opportunities that this may present us with.
8. In a changing economic context the low carbon economy presents a key area of future growth for the city and there is an opportunity to enhance the city's reputation as a centre for environmental technology and new green jobs.

#### **The Strategy and Delivery Plan**

9. The Low Carbon City Strategy (LCCS) sets out the key priorities for the Council for the next 10 years (up to 2020) that will help to deliver job opportunities, raise skill levels, support development, strengthen and build the low carbon economy in the city, respond to the impacts of climate change and mitigate our impact on the environment by reducing the city's carbon emissions.

10. The LCCS is a city wide strategy and recognises the need for a joined-up approach from a wide range of partners from different sectors to rise to the challenges of adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change in the city.
11. The LCCS is based around 8 central 'pillars':
  1. We will invest in, strengthen and grow the city's low carbon economy
  2. We will generate and use energy in a sustainable way
  3. We will reduce the carbon footprint of the city
  4. We will minimise the impact from flooding for the city
  5. We will incorporate sustainability into all of our buying decisions
  6. We will strengthen biodiversity in the city
  7. We will increase low carbon travel and transport
  8. We will use less, waste less and recycle more
12. To reflect the changes in how local authorities will now need to work, a LCCS Delivery Plan has been put together to draw out key actions over the next 3 years for the City Council and its strategic partners to focus on. These suggest realistic outputs that will establish an excellent platform for ambitious action as and when opportunities arise. It is the intention that this will be a rolling 3 year plan updated through the lifetime of the LCCS. An annual progress report will be produced and contributing service areas have been asked to include relevant actions in their business plans.

### **Consultation and Communications**

13. Each directorate has been consulted at regular intervals throughout the development of the strategy. In addition to extensive internal consultation there has been input to the LCCS Strategy and Delivery Plan from a wide variety of key partners from across the city and the wider sub-region led by the Hampshire Chamber of Commerce. A consultation workshop with key partners, jointly run by SCC and the Chamber of Commerce, was held on 2 February. The LCCS and Delivery Plan have been amended to incorporate comments from this consultation exercise and have now been finalised for approval. An internal and external communications action plan has been developed to ensure the City Council takes all appropriate opportunities to reinforce key messages to staff, residents, businesses and other stakeholders in the city. Messages will be targeted at the appropriate level for the intended audience, for example for public awareness we may refer to the LCCS as the Green City Strategy.

### **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Capital/Revenue**

14. There are no direct resource implications. The majority of actions associated with the strategy are funded through existing budgets and resources, as indicated in the Delivery Plan (Appendix 3). Where additional funding is required actions will not be taken forward until internal or external budgets are secured.

## **Property/Other**

15. The Low Carbon City Strategy and Delivery Plan should have a positive affect on the overall condition of the Council's property in the medium to long term. Processes and procedures will need to be put in place to co-ordinate and manage any potentially conflicting priorities between the reactive repair and maintenance work required to maintain the operation of buildings in the short term and decide how any additional, marginal costs that may be incurred will be funded.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:**

16. S.2 Local Government Act 2000 permits the Council to do anything likely to improve the economic, social or environmental well being of its area provided it first has regard to the provisions of the Community Strategy. The proposals in this report are consistent with and supported by the Community Strategy and are considered likely to improve both the economic and environmental well being of the area for the reasons set out in this report.

### **Other Legal Implications:**

17. SCC is duty bound to meet the government's targets on carbon dioxide emission reductions as set out in the Climate Change Act 2008.

## **POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS**

18. The Low Carbon City Strategy, the supplementary Delivery Plan and accompanying documents are in accordance with a number of policy framework plans which contain sustainability objectives. In particular:
- City of Southampton Strategy
  - Local Transport Plan
  - Housing Strategy
  - Local Development Framework Core Strategy
  - Health and Wellbeing Strategy
19. The Strategy and Delivery Plan contributes to addressing each of the four City Challenges (Economic Development, Educational Attainment, Well Being, and Green & Attractive Environment).

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**KEY DECISION?** Yes

<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	ALL
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**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Non-confidential appendices are in the Members' Rooms and can be accessed on-line**

**Appendices**

1.	Part 1 – The Story
2.	Part 2 – The Low Carbon City Strategy
3.	Part 3 – The Delivery Plan
4.	Part 4 – The Facts

**Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	None
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**Integrated Impact Assessment**

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) to be carried out.	Yes/No
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**Other Background Documents**

**Integrated Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:**

Title of Background Paper(s)

Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)

1.	None
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