

Individual Executive Member Decision

Title of Report:	West Berkshire Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan
Report to be considered by:	Individual Executive Member Decision
Date on which Decision is to be taken:	30/04/2014
Forward Plan Ref:	ID2759

Purpose of Report: To adopt the 'Climate Change Strategy' and Action Plan, a product of the Greener Sub-Partnership.

Recommended Action: Consider the documents and approve them for adoption by West Berkshire Council.

Reason for decision to be taken: This revised strategy embraces the many changes in policy and scientific thinking since the first attempt. It re-focuses the desire to tackle climate change, as demonstrated by the individual efforts of people, local communities, schools, businesses and organisations within West Berkshire, and puts in place a strategy that can affect change at a district level.

The Greener Sub-Partnership is keen for West Berkshire Council to acknowledge its recommendations and play a role in the implementation process by adopting the Strategy.

Other options considered: No other options considered.

Key background documentation: Nottingham Declaration 2006,
West Berkshire Climate Change Strategy & Action Plan,
West Berkshire Renewable Energy Strategy

Portfolio Member Details	
Name & Telephone No.:	Councillor Dominic Boeck - Tel (07956) 546506
E-mail Address:	dboeck@westberks.gov.uk
Contact Officer Details	
Name:	Evangeline Wood
Job Title:	Energy Efficiency Officer (Community)
Tel. No.:	01635 503267
E-mail Address:	EWood@westberks.gov.uk

Implications

Policy:	The production of a Strategy by the Greener sub-partnership may have implications for future council policy.
Financial:	The implementation of any element of the strategy will be determined by existing revenue and capital budgets.
Personnel:	N/A
Legal/Procurement:	Having a Climate Change Strategy is an obligation under the Nottingham Declaration*, of which the Council is a signatory. *The Nottingham declaration is now replaced by Climate Local, WBC is yet to commit to signing up to this.
Property:	N/A
Risk Management:	N/A

Is this item relevant to equality?	Please tick relevant boxes	
	Yes	No
Does the policy affect service users, employees or the wider community and:		
• Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Is it a major policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Will the policy have a significant impact on how other organisations operate in terms of equality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to functions that engagement has identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to an area with known inequalities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Outcome (Where one or more 'Yes' boxes are ticked, the item is relevant to equality)		
Relevant to equality - Complete an EIA available at www.westberks.gov.uk/eia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Not relevant to equality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council: Councillor Gordon Lundie No Comment to make.

Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman: Councillor Brian Bedwell No Comment to make.

Ward Members: N/A

Opposition Spokesperson: Councillor Royce Longton No Comment to make.

Local Stakeholders: See formal consultation

Officers Consulted: John Ashworth, Corporate Director – Environment
 Adrian Slaughter, Principal Energy Efficiency Officer

Trade Union: Not consulted

Is this item subject to call-in?	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box:		
The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Item is Urgent Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Report is to note only	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 West Berkshire Council support, and are members of, the Greener Sub-Partnership. This is a branch of the Local Strategic Partnership and is acknowledged as an important element of the Council's role in engaging with its residents, local business and voluntary sector.
- 1.2 The Greener Sub-Partnership is keen for West Berkshire Council to acknowledge its recommendations and play a role in the implementation process. This will be helpful in shaping local policy and give them a platform upon which to base future dialogue with interested parties.

2. History of the Climate Change Strategy

- 2.1 By signing the Nottingham Declaration* in October 2006, West Berkshire Council committed itself to producing a Climate Change Strategy. The purpose of the West Berkshire Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan was to fulfil this commitment and establish the framework for action in West Berkshire, to tackle the causes and consequences of climate change.
- 2.2 The previous version of the Climate Change Strategy, published in 2009, is outdated and in need of a refresh. There was a general consensus that the original document was too complex, detailed and lengthy, with a need to simplify the strategy. This 'refresh' overhauls the original strategy and changes the focus to much broader aspirations.

3. Equalities Impact Assessment Outcomes

- 3.1 No affected groups have been identified.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 That West Berkshire Council adopts the Sub-Partnership's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

*The Nottingham Declaration is now superseded by the Climate Local agreement, although WBC is still to sign up to this. The Climate Local agreement does not require Council's to have a Climate Change Strategy; however it does require Council's to set out an action plan of commitments.

Appendices

Appendix A - Climate Change Strategy - Final Version 2.0

Appendix B - CCS Action Plan Final Version