

Briefing: Update on Climate Change Strategy Review

The Climate Change Strategy (CCS) will reflect our corporate priority to care for the environment and the strategic action to reduce CO₂ emissions, along with our obligations under the Local Government Performance Framework, the Carbon Reduction Commitment, and the Nottingham Declaration.

A draft Action Plan, containing specific actions, targets and timescales is now being drawn up, and consultation on this is ongoing with key officers.

This short briefing note outlines recent activity that has taken place to develop the Draft Action Plan, and the results of the recent public consultation.

1) Recent activity:

Date	Activity
15 Nov 2008 to 12 Jan 2009	District Panel Consultation and online Staff Survey <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 800 local residents and website survey available to the public• HBC Staff Survey posted on intranet• Focused on:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The role of the council in tackling climate change• Suggestions for our priorities for action• Existing levels of activity and engagement in the community• Preferred means of communication• The results of the consultation have been collated and will contribute to the final version of the Action Plan (see below)
01 Dec 2008	Organisation Improvement and Environment Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report presented by Acting Head of Environment• Commission invited to participate in consultation
15 Dec 2008 to 09 Jan 2009	Consultation with Action for Environment Group <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summary of Draft Strategy provided to group for response via questionnaire
19 Jan 2009	Survey results provided
Feb 2009	Collation of survey and consultation responses
19 Feb 2009	Environment Strategy Corporate Group <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group members invited to comment on Draft Action Plan• Consideration given to engagement with key officers

2) District Panel Consultation

In November 2008, a questionnaire was sent to 800 local residents and 100 subscribers to the Action for the Environment Group emailing list; and posted on the council's website and intranet (for use by council staff). The questionnaire sought to answer the following questions:

- What is the current level of understanding and awareness of climate change amongst residents, and if/how residents are engaged in addressing the issue
- What role do residents believe the council should have in tackling climate change
- What are the most effective actions that the council can take to reduce district-wide emissions
- What are the most effective means of communicating with residents and providing information and advice

Summary of key findings:

- 89% are "concerned about climate change" and are either doing all they can or don't know the best ways to address it
- 59% said they feel they are already affected by climate change
- 64% think their knowledge of climate change is either good or excellent
- 66% would turn to the council to get advice and information – 40% would use the website
- 73.9% said working with schools/youth groups was the best way to raise awareness within the community
- 79% said that both providing grants for renewable energy and providing energy saving advice were the top actions that the council could to help reduce household CO₂
- 30% of homes do not have a cavity wall (so can be regarded as "hard to treat" in terms of energy efficiency improvements)
- In an open question about activities that residents thought the council should do to reduce CO₂ district-wide emissions, the top three suggestions were: improve public transport, improve recycling and provide incentives/grants
- 60% said HBC has some influence on climate change and 12% said we had great influence. The UK Government and Industry were seen as the most influential

The full district panel results report is available in the Members' Room.

3) Next steps

Consultation with Departmental Management Teams, other relevant officers, and with the Cabinet Member (Environment) is taking place in March and April, in order to agree the actions listed in the draft action plan.

The final draft will be taken to CMT in April; and go forward for approval by the Cabinet in May.