



PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND WELLBEING

TOPIC - CARBON REDUCTION: DEMONSTRATING COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 4, Section 22 of the Council's Constitution provides for a decision to be made by an individual member of Cabinet.

In accordance with the Procedure Rules, the Chief Operating Officer, the Chief Executive and the Chief Finance Officer are consulted together with Chairman and Vice Chairman of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any other relevant overview and scrutiny committee. In addition, all Members are notified.

If five or more Members from those informed so request, the Leader may require the matter to be referred to Cabinet for determination.

Contact Officers:

Case Officer: Eloise Appleby, Assistant Director (Economy and Communities), tel 01962 848 181, email eappleby@winchester.gov.uk

Democratic Services Officer: Nancy Graham, tel 01962 848235, email ngraham@winchester.gov.uk

SUMMARY

- This is an amended version of PHD660 previously circulated to include an Appendix 3 (which was inadvertently omitted in the previous version).
- In April 2015, Cabinet approved considered a Report examining the progress of the District towards national and European targets for the reduction of carbon emissions. Members approved the following three recommendations:
 1. That the statutory national target of 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (from a 1990 baseline) be recognised by Members.
 2. That it be noted that the total emissions from the Winchester District need to reduce by 40% or 25,000 tonnes CO_{2e} per annum (relative to the 2004 baseline) by 2020 as the District's minimum share towards the above target;

3. That residents, businesses and other organisations be actively encouraged by the Council to play their part in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions, in order to meet this target;
- The Council receives an annual report on its own carbon emissions. In general, carbon emissions are decreasing. This is in no small part due to the improvements made to the Council's properties, ranging from a comprehensive programme of changing to LED lighting to upgraded insulation and new boilers in Council homes. Results for 2013/14 are currently being re-examined, due to an apparently exceptional increase in mileage by the waste freighters. They will be published on the Council's website shortly.
 - The Low Carbon Board has also been presented with a report on the carbon emissions of the wider Winchester District for 2013, which show that overall emissions for the District have declined by 14.3% since first captured in 2005 – despite significant population growth during this time. In fact, domestic emissions are steadily declining but businesses are still lagging behind – even when compared to other parts of the South East of England.
 - When the Council adopted its Route Map for a Low Carbon Economy in ([CAB2586](#) – Route Map for a Low Carbon Economy, 5 June 2014 refers), one of the three objectives agreed was for the Council to demonstrate 'low carbon leadership and support the growth of the green business sector'.
 - Whilst the Council has demonstrated leadership in reducing its own carbon emissions and setting itself challenging targets for the future, there is scope to do more. The 'Solar City' project currently being developed by Winchester Town Forum is an example where the Council might be able to facilitate action by the wider community.
 - A series of opportunities have recently presented themselves which would enable the Council to show its leadership in this area:
 - a) Letter to the Prime Minister: Winchester Action on Climate Change has drafted a letter to David Cameron urging him to continue his support for a binding global carbon reduction agreement at the United Nations Climate Summit in Paris in November 2015. Their hope is that this will be signed by a wide cross-section of local organisations and individuals. It is proposed that Cllr Frank Pearson, as Portfolio Holder for Environment, Health and Wellbeing, be designated to sign the letter as attached at Appendix 1, in support of this initiative.
 - b) On Sunday 29 November 2015, WinACC is organising a 'Procession for Paris' through the centre of Winchester, once again intended to show community support for a binding global carbon reduction agreement as above. They hope to encourage a range of stakeholders to join them for this wholly peaceful community event. The Portfolio Holder for Local Economy will be wishing them well in the Abbey Gardens as they set out,

and a smaller delegation will continue on after the procession to deliver the letter to the Prime Minister in London.

- c) Following the report to Cabinet setting out new targets for the Council, officers committed to drafting and bringing back to Members an action plan to ensure that the Council could meet these targets. Officers have worked with Winchester Action on Climate Change to draft Twelve Actions for a Lower Carbon Council which can be found at Appendix 2. Members are asked to approve these as a basis for more detailed work by officers and consideration as part of the Portfolio Planning cycle for 2016/17.
- d) Hampshire County Council has invited Winchester and other districts to be part of [Hampshire Climate Local](#), which is in turn part of the national [Climate Local](#) initiative of the Local Government Association. Climate Local aims “to drive, inspire and support council action on climate change”, seeking to help councils both to reduce carbon emissions and to increase resilience to a changing climate. Again, this initiative provides a platform for councils to promote activity on climate change and demonstrate leadership locally and nationally. In signing up to Climate Local, Winchester City Council has to make a series of commitments as follows:
- i) We will work to reduce carbon emissions from our estates, services and staff travel through energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, waste management and recycling and encouraging behaviour change in our colleagues and partners;
 - ii) We will work to encourage and support communities and businesses across Hampshire to save money and reduce their carbon emissions through adopting energy efficiency and renewables;
 - iii) We will work to identify the risks and increase the resilience of our organisations to climate and severe weather impacts such as flooding, drought and storms.
 - iv) We will work to build resilience in communities and businesses across Hampshire to the impacts of a changing climate, including severe weather events such as flooding, heatwaves and drought.

The Council is active in all these areas, with work ranging from its ‘Great Waste’ campaign to its emergency planning partnerships. A summary of work underpinning each of these commitments can be found at Appendix 3. It is proposed that the commitments be formally approved and authority given for the Council to join the Climate Local initiative.

- The Winchester District Community Strategy includes an objective to “work towards a lower carbon District”. The Council can show leadership to the wider community by supporting all four of the measures set out in this

Decision Notice, encouraging other individuals, businesses and neighbourhoods to consider what they are doing to help achieve this goal.

DECISION

That:

- a) the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Health and Wellbeing be authorised to be a signatory to the letter from Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC) to the Prime Minister, as set out at Appendix 1;
- b) the Twelve Actions for a Lower Carbon Council at Appendix 2 be approved as a basis for more detailed work by officers and consideration in the current Portfolio Planning cycle for 2016/17;
- c) the four Hampshire Climate Local Commitments be approved and the Assistant Director (Economy and Communities) authorised to confirm the Council's participation in the Climate Local initiative based on work already being done as shown in Appendix 3.

REASON FOR THE DECISION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The proposals in this report clearly support the recommendations of the Council's own Route Map for a Low Carbon Economy, as well as reaffirming its commitment to the objective in the Community Strategy objective of reducing the carbon footprint of the District. As such, no alternative options have been considered at present.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

There are no immediate resource implications arising from this Decision Notice. However, if Portfolio Holders wish to bring forward new actions from the list at Appendix 2 these may have a cost attached, and will therefore require individual appraisal to determine how they can be funded and whether there is a cost payback. Any budget growth proposals would need to be considered as part of the usual annual budgeting cycle.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN ON THE DECISION

All the initiatives set out in this Decision Notice have been discussed with the Winchester District Low Carbon Board, which includes officers, Members and stakeholders involved in reducing the carbon footprint of the District.

Member views have also been tested through Member Briefings and a recent Member Tour of renewable energy facilities.

**FURTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED
FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION
NOTICE**

Councillor Byrnes proposed a change to the wording of Appendix 2, Point 10 as follows:

“We will carry out a mid-term review of the parking policy in 2016, seeking to align it more closely with the Council’s economic strategy including its aspirations to build a local carbon economy.”

This was agreed by the Portfolio Holder.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY THE DECISION MAKER OR A MEMBER OR OFFICER CONSULTED

None.

DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

n/a

Approved by: (signature)

Date of Decision: 03.12.15

Councillor Frank Pearson – Portfolio Holder for Environment, Health and Wellbeing

WinACC

Winchester Action on
Climate Change

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Dear Prime Minister

Winchester Action on Climate Change and all the undersigned, as representatives of the people of Winchester District, support the pledge you made in February to seek a fair, strong, legally binding, global climate deal which limits global temperature rise to below 2°C as the world comes together at the international conference in Paris this November.

As you have made clear, climate change is one of the most serious threats facing the world today. It is a threat to the environment, to global security, to health and prosperity and the eradication of poverty. 2015 offers a unique opportunity to act to reach an agreement on tackling climate change.

We hope you will see this as a real opportunity to demonstrate British leadership in Europe and the wider world.

The Paris conference agreement is vital to the future of life on this planet. We urge you and your Government to make sure that Britain does all in its power to ensure a successful outcome.

Yours sincerely

Appendix 2: Twelve Actions for a Lower Carbon Council

1. We buy the most energy-efficient latest equipment and fittings for our buildings.
2. Our staff and Councillors will be trained in eco-driving that cuts miles per gallon.
3. We are working with our waste collection service to review routes to reduce emissions from their lorries.
4. We install solar panels on the Council estate whenever this makes financial sense and the location and structures are suitable.
5. Sustainability underpins the Local Plan Parts 1 and 2.
6. In planning, specifying, assessing or making decisions on new major developments, we always ensure that one of the criteria is the development's contribution to cutting the carbon footprint of the District and shifting from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy.
7. We will reduce the carbon footprint of the proposed new leisure facilities to as close to zero as financially and technically feasible, in respect of the use of the whole site, its construction, running emissions and user travel emissions.
8. We will facilitate the introduction of renewable energy initiatives, including solar and hydro-power, whether Council-owned or as community projects.
9. Where the City Council is responsible for commissioning public transport, we specify reduced emissions whenever a new contract is advertised and agreed.
10. We will carry out a mid-term review of the parking policy in 2016, seeking to align it more closely with the Council's economic strategy including its aspirations to build a local carbon economy.
11. We encourage other organisations, both public and business, to reduce their carbon footprint and shift from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy.
12. We require organisations that are awarded grant aid and / or commissions to make a commitment to reducing their emissions in the Winchester District, and to report on their progress.

October 2015

Appendix 3: Hampshire Climate Local Commitments

Winchester City Council has had targets for CO₂ reduction across the District since 2009. In 2015 it re-affirmed its commitment to reducing its own footprint in line with current national and international targets, as well as encouraging local residents and organisations to do the same, and it also noted the need to meet renewable energy targets. The City Council has been funding community based carbon reduction activities for over seven years and has installed energy saving measures in its offices and housing.

i) We will work to reduce carbon emissions from our estates, services and staff travel through energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, waste management and recycling and encouraging behaviour change in our colleagues and partners.

Winchester City Council is reducing the carbon footprint of its buildings and transport. The seventh independent annual progress reports on its carbon footprint (2015) show a reduction of 12.8% based on its absolute emissions against the baseline year of 2009. Examples of actions taken include: reduction in waste vehicle travel; installation of LED lighting in car parks and offices; water saving WC flushes; electric bikes and cars for staff use; bringing Council housing up to recent standards for loft insulation; replacement of old space and water heating in Council housing. The Council is looking at the benefits of solar PV.

ii) We will work to encourage and support communities and businesses across Hampshire to save money and reduce their carbon emissions through adopting energy efficiency and renewables;

In 2014, Winchester City Council adopted a route map to a low carbon economy and is now implementing the related action plan. The City Council commissions an energy-efficiency accreditation programme for organisations which is now in its third year. So far in 2014/15 40 organisations have been accredited by Carbon Smart, and the Council has plans to extend work with businesses in the coming year. The City Council funds Winchester Action on Climate Change, a locally based charitable company, to raise awareness and encourage action by local residents. 'The Great Waste' is the City Council's corporate theme for 2015/2016, with a year-long programme of community awareness-raising and educational activities to cut waste and increase recycling other projects include "Cool Communities" where household set targets for their own CO₂ savings. standards for loft insulation; replacement of old space and water heating in Council housing. The Council is looking at the benefits of solar PV.

iii) We will work to identify the risks and increase the resilience of our organisations to climate and severe weather impacts such as flooding, drought and storms.

The Council works in partnership with Hampshire County Council throughout the year to develop and refine its emergency plan, providing regular training for

staff to ensure an effective response to severe weather impacts. The corporate risk management programme includes consideration of such impacts. A culture of 'lessons learnt' also ensures that the Council improves its preparedness: for example, staffing changes in two teams this year seek to provide more capacity to deal with future flooding incidents. There has been investment in additional portable flood defence structures for the District, as well as in large-scale community infrastructure improvements such as the 'big pipe' in Hambledon which is being delivered in partnership with the County Council and Environment Agency.

iv) We will work to build resilience in communities and businesses across Hampshire to the impacts of a changing climate, including severe weather events such as flooding, heatwaves and drought.

The Council's emergency plan is designed to be implemented in close collaboration with other agencies, including local flood action groups the development of which both the City and County Councils have been actively encouraging since the severe flooding events of 2014. Following a programme of parish hall 'flood clinics' in the spring of 2014, the Council delivered £341,000 in grant aid to 80 homes and businesses from the Government's 'Repair and Renew' programme to increase their resilience to future flooding events. Business advice is provided throughout the year to small and medium businesses by officers, and also through the Sustainable Business Partnership and Winchester Action of Climate Change – both of which the Council funds.

ⁱ Final total to be confirmed via external validation now in hand.