
TEES VALLEY CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

**Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Nick Wallis, Sustainable
Environment & Climate Change Portfolio**

**Responsible Director – Richard Alty, Assistant Chief Executive
(Regeneration)**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Cabinet approval of the revised Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy (Appendix 1).

Summary

2. The Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership (TVCCP) has revised the Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy to reflect substantial changes in national legislation and to align the strategy with the economic development of the City Region.
3. The Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy (TVCCS) provides a framework for revising the Darlington Climate Change Action Plan

Recommendation

4. It is recommended that :-
 - (a) Members endorse adoption of the Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy;
 - (b) Members support launching the Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy.

Reasons

5. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons :-

- (a) The Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy is a sub-regional, strategic document which supports the climate change work already being undertaken by the Council;
- (b) Working in partnership through the TVCCP has the potential to maximise funding opportunities for the Council.

Richard Alty
Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration)

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Paula Jamieson : Extension 2920

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no specific implications for Crime and Disorder
Health and Well Being	Delivery of the TVCCS will improve health and well being across the Borough by tackling the issue of fuel poverty
Sustainability	The TVCCS supports the delivery of the Darlington Climate Change Action Plan.
Diversity	N/A
Wards Affected	N/A
Groups Affected	N/A
Budget and Policy Framework	No change to the budget or policy framework is proposed
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The TVCCS directly contributes to the delivery of the SCS priority 'A low carbon Borough tackling climate change'.
Efficiency	Tackling the cause and effect of climate change has the potential to improve efficiencies in the longer term

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

6. The Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership (TVCCP) was formed in 2005 and includes the 5 Tees Valley Local Authorities, the Environment Agency, RENEW, TADEA, the Energy Savings Trust, Teesside University and the Primary Care Trusts. The vision of the TVCCP is one of 'creating prosperous and resilient communities in a low carbon economy'
7. Under the Climate Change Act 2008, the UK is legally obliged to reduce carbon emissions by 80% by 2050 and the first carbon budgets have committed the UK to reduce emissions by 34% by 2022.
8. The first Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy (TVCCS) was adopted in 2007. The Strategy has been revised to reflect major changes in the national policy context and the need to engage with other sectors. The revised TVCCS has been aligned with NI186 (per capita CO2 emissions in local area) to allow for consistency in reporting mechanisms at the local authority level.
9. The target in the revised TVCCS is a 21% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2020, based on a 2005 baseline, which mirrors the targets signed up to by the Council under the Covenant of Mayors. This equates to a 34% reduction from 1990 levels and is therefore in line with the UK Carbon Budgets.
10. The TVCCS has 5 key strands. 'Business', 'Transport' and 'Housing' cover the emissions monitored under NI186. The 'Our Local Environment' strand captures elements of NI188 (Planning to adapt to climate change), and the final strand, 'Communication and Awareness Raising' supports the delivery of all climate change activity both at the Tees Valley level and the local borough level.
11. The main actions under the Business strand are to:-
 - (a) Lead by example in improving the energy efficiency and resilience of the buildings we are responsible for, and install low carbon technologies in our own buildings wherever we can. Good practice will be shared and promoted across the Tees Valley.
 - (b) Drive energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy through the planning system. This will help to create local jobs in insulation, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and adapting buildings.
 - (c) Help businesses to adapt to climate change.
 - (d) Promote sustainability through public sector procurement processes.

- (e) Encourage and support businesses in the Tees Valley to improve their resource efficiency, adapt to climate change and reduce their emissions through free advice and the Green Business Network Environmental Award Scheme.

12. The main actions under the Housing strand are to:-

- (a) Improve home insulation and install energy efficient boilers as a priority because it reduces fuel poverty as well as reducing emissions.
- (b) Ensure all social housing stock achieves maximum practicable energy efficiency by 2020. However, this accounts for less than 10% of all homes in the Tees Valley, so we will also target private landlords and owner occupiers to promote home energy efficiency
- (c) Develop a communication campaign for the Tees Valley sub region that will specifically target households according to tenure.
- (d) Maximise opportunities for retrofitting during refurbishments of housing stock, such as Decent Homes improvements.
- (e) Encourage and support the retrofit of homes that have been affected by flooding for example by raising ground level electrical sockets and improving surface drainage, to reduce the impacts and costs of future events.
- (f) Investigate options for introducing district heating (and cooling) in the Tees Valley.

13. The main actions under transport are to:-

- (a) Prioritise improving public and sustainable transport in Local Transport Planning, and increase the provision of facilities for cyclists throughout the Tees Valley.
- (b) Develop travel plans to influence people's travel behaviour towards more active and sustainable options such as walking, cycling and the use of public transport
- (c) Prioritise active and sustainable travel. Public sector organisations will improve the environmental impact of their fleet vehicles.
- (d) Include climate change impacts in Transport Asset Management Plans and ensure that footpaths and cycle routes are maintained in good condition so that people are encouraged to use them.

14. The main actions under Local Environment are to:-

- (a) Go beyond minimum requirements to integrate renewables in new developments where feasible, and will consider how building design can be optimised to reduce emissions as well as adapt to climate change.
- (b) Promote the implementation of the Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy to help us deal with the impacts of climate change, for example

- by increasing trees in urban areas, to provide shade and absorb carbon emissions.
- (c) Consider future climate change when deciding the most appropriate species to plant now, taking into account the biodiversity impact of the species chosen.
 - (d) Optimise areas to increase flood attenuation, and create opportunities for biodiversity to adapt to climate change by improving wildlife corridors and habitats.
 - (e) Ensure there are adequate maintenance plans for debris clearance from streams, rivers, becks, and surface water drainage to prevent localised back-up flooding.
 - (f) Use public sector procurement processes to increase the demand for locally produced, organic and fair-trade products.
 - (g) Investigate the feasibility of promoting local food production at a sub regional level, for example through organic box schemes and farmers markets.
15. The main actions under Communication and Awareness Raising are to:-
- (a) Conduct periodical surveys to determine the extent of knowledge and action on climate change in the Tees Valley and use this to assess progress on communication and awareness-raising.
 - (b) Ensure that householders and businesses living in flood warning areas are aware of potential disruption caused by flooding, and will improve community preparedness for severe weather events.
 - (c) Increase the number of schools participating in Eco-Schools and the Climate Change Lead Schools project
 - (d) Build on existing networks of professionals and volunteers to engage with local communities on climate change, especially hard-to-reach and vulnerable groups.
16. The TVCCS is based on the short term actions included in each of the 5 local authority climate change action plans. These actions are already being implemented by Local Authorities and other members of the TVCCP, or are planned for 2010. Tees Valley Unlimited will publish annual progress reports to monitor progress on implementation.

Outcome of Consultation

17. The TVCCS has been presented to Directors of Regeneration, Directors of Environment, Heads of Housing, Heads of Planning, Chief Engineers and Local Strategic Partnerships. Directors of Environment and Directors of Regeneration endorsed the proposal that the medium term implementation of the strategy will be achieved by integrating the strategy into the existing delivery mechanisms contained in the Tees Valley Unlimited Business Plan.