
DARLINGTON DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

**Responsible Cabinet Member(s) - Councillor Stephen Harker,
Consumer and Environmental Services Portfolio**
Responsible Director(s) - John Buxton, Director of Development and Environment

Purpose of Report

1. To consider and seek approval for the **attached** Darlington Declaration on Climate Change.

Background

2. Darlington Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) has undertaken to develop a Climate Change Strategy for Darlington. To that end the LSP has set up a Climate Change Sub Group reporting to the Economy and Environment themed Group of the LSP.
3. As a precursor to developing a strategy the Climate Change Sub Group has proposed that the partners commit to a declaration: the Darlington Declaration on Climate Change (attached as **Appendix One**).
4. Based on the Nottingham Declaration, the Darlington Declaration provides a public statement confirming commitment to working to combat climate change. It should provide a useful public relations tool and demonstrate broad commitment from the partners, including Darlington Borough Council.

Outcome of Consultation

5. The LSP has already endorsed the Darlington Declaration. The Public Protection and Community Partnerships and the Environment Scrutiny Committees support the Declaration, as does the Darlington Environmental Forum.

Legal Implications

6. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

7. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Council Policy Framework

8. The issues contained within this report are required to be considered by Council.

Conclusion

9. The Darlington Declaration on Climate Change provides a demonstration of the commitment of the Darlington Partnership including Darlington Borough Council to recognise climate change and to take appropriate action.

Recommendation

10. It is recommended that Council endorse and support the Darlington Declaration on Climate Change.

Reasons

11. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:

- (a) To demonstrate the Council's commitment to combating climate change.
- (b) To support the Darlington Local Strategic Partnership in the lead it has taken on climate change.

John Buxton
Director of Development and Environment

Background Papers

- (i) Nottingham Declaration
- (ii) Public Protection and Community Partnerships Scrutiny Committee Minute PPCP/58/April/05
- (iii) Environment Scrutiny Committee Minute ENV73/April/05
- (iv) Darlington Environmental Forum Minute 34/March/05

Appendix

Darlington Declaration on Climate Change

Bill Westland : Extension 388557
CS