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**CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Stephen Harker,  
Consumer and Environmental Services Portfolio**

**Responsible Director - John Buxton, Director of Development and Environment**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. To seek Members' approval of a draft Climate Change Strategy.

**Information and Analysis**

2. Climate change is now widely accepted as one of the most pressing long-term challenges we face. The Council is already taking a number of actions that contribute to combating climate change (including increased recycling, Town on The Move, energy procurement) and has signed the Darlington Declaration, thereby committing to taking action against climate change.
3. Darlington's Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) has led the development of a draft Climate Change Strategy, attached as **Appendix 1**. The strategy has been produced by a working party reporting to the Economy, Environment and Transport Themed Group of the LSP. The Council has had a major role in developing the strategy and will be a key partner in its implementation.
4. The draft strategy sets the following vision, 'Darlington's community will be protected from climate change' and the following objectives designed to work towards the vision:
  - (a) Reducing the emission of gases that are causing climate change.
  - (b) Ensuring that we adapt to the level of climate change that is already occurring.
  - (c) Measuring the effectiveness of our actions and revising and developing further actions to ensure we continue to be effective.
  - (d) Raising awareness throughout Darlington of the impacts of climate change, the adaptation measures and greenhouse gas reduction measures.
5. The strategy goes on to identify a number of key issues against which a detailed action plan will be developed. These fall under two broad areas; mitigation (reducing climate change) and adaptation.
6. The draft strategy represents Darlington's response to climate change and will be supportive of (and supported by) the emerging Tees Valley strategy, which will provide a regional response.

## **Outcome of Consultation**

7. A draft of the strategy has been presented to the Environment Scrutiny Committee and the Economy Environment and Transport Themed Group of the LSP. Comments made have been incorporated into the current draft.

## **Legal Implications**

8. 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**

9. 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**

10. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework.

## **Decision Deadline**

11. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.

## **Recommendation**

12. It is recommended that the Climate Change Strategy be endorsed.

## **Reasons**

13. The recommendations are supported to facilitate the Council, as a key partner within the Local Strategic Partnership to contribute to combating climate change.

**John Buxton**  
**Director of Development and Environment**

## **Background Papers**

There were no background papers used in the preparation of this report.

## **Appendix 1**

Climate Change Strategy

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BAH