
TEES VALLEY CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2006 - 2012

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

Responsible Director - John Buxton, Director of Development and Environment

Purpose of Report

1. To seek endorsement of the Tees Valley 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. In September 2006, Darlington's Climate Change strategy was supported at Cabinet. The strategy, and the Darlington Declaration commit the Council to producing a Climate Change Action Plan.
4. Darlington Borough Council is working in partnership with many organizations on a wide range of initiatives aimed at reducing energy consumption, promoting the use of renewable energy, increasing recycling as well as mitigating and adapting to climate change. Until now, this has not been widely promoted or taken place through a co-ordinated strategy.
5. The Darlington Partnership is supporting the development of a Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy, and the Council is contributing to funding a fixed term post to develop the sub regional strategy and to provide technical expertise to the Tees Valley authorities in developing their own strategies and action plans.
6. Darlington became part of the Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership in August 2005 and has part-funded the appointment of a Tees Valley Climate Change Co-ordinator. An outcome of the Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership has been the production of a Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy (attached as **Appendix 1**), which provides sub-regional co-ordination.

Tee Valley Climate Change Partnership

7. The Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership (TVCCP) was established in 2005 in response to the threat of climate change. The Partnership consists of nine funding partners:-

- (a) The five Tees Valley Local Authorities
 - (b) Environment Agency
 - (c) Tees and Durham Energy Advice (TADEA)
 - (d) Renew Tees Valley
 - (e) Scottish Power
8. Tackling climate change requires action at a local level. The Tees Valley is taking a lead in establishing an effective sub-regional strategy for tackling change and in raising awareness at the local level. This has ensured a consistent and co-ordinated approach across the sub region and avoids duplication of effort.
9. The strategic aims of the TVCCP are:-
- (a) To develop a Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy that will enable the development of local carbon reduction and climate adaptation plans.
 - (b) To set challenging but achievable emission reduction targets that can be attained over a 25-year period.
 - (c) To develop an effective emissions reporting protocol and methodology that will help to analyse the Tees Valley's role in contributing to climate change.
 - (d) To build upon the pioneering work of Middlesbrough Borough Council in relation to their award-winning Climate Change Community Action Plan, through the development and implementation of similar action plans across the other Local Authorities in the sub-region.
 - (e) To raise awareness of climate change amongst the population of the Tees Valley and to highlight the economic, societal and environmental benefits of adopting a low carbon economy.

Emissions Inventory

10. From the outset, the Partnership recognized the importance of establishing a baseline and consistent methodology for the Tees Valley, allowing for comparisons of emissions over time. Using data from the DTI, DEFRA and the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit, on energy use, waste and transport, Emissions Inventories have been developed for each local authority, as well as the Tees Valley as a whole.
11. This emissions baseline will be used to inform Darlington's Climate Change Action Plan, to ensure that actions are targeted correctly.

The Climate Change Strategy

12. A climate change strategy for the sub-region has been developed and represents a high level, comprehensive approach to documenting the current situation in the Tees Valley. It also commits the sub region to achieving both short term and long term carbon dioxide emissions targets:
- (a) A minimum 8.75% reduction below 2000 levels from 2006-2012

(b) A further minimum 27% reduction from 2012-2030.

13. These targets are cumulative over the whole of the sub region and over the time period of the strategy. This means that whilst action is needed in each of the local authority areas, it is not the sole responsibility of the individual authority to reach these emission reduction targets as there are nine Partners in the TVCCP.
14. Working in conjunction with the Environment Agency, the Partnership has been able to disaggregate emissions from industry from Local Authority area sub-totals, ensuring that the Environment Agency has the remit, through national legislation, to achieve emissions reduction within industry.

Outcome of Consultations

15. No consultation was necessary for the production of this report.

Legal Implications

16. 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

17. 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

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

Decision Deadline

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

Conclusions

20. The TVCCP is a pioneering sub-regional initiative which provides a strategic approach to tackling the effects of climate change in the Tees Valley

Recommendation

21. It is recommended that the Tees Valley Climate Change strategy be endorsed and the work of the Partnership supported.

Reasons

22. The recommendation is supported because Darlington Council's membership of the Partnership has enabled access to technical expertise within the field of climate change, particularly in developing the emissions inventory and baseline data.

John Buxton
Director of Development and Environment

Background Papers

Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy 2006 - 2012

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