

## **PRIORITIES FOR A COPELAND CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN 2010-13**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Councillor Allan Holliday, Portfolio Holder  
**LEAD OFFICER:** Julie Betteridge, Head of Development Strategy  
**REPORT AUTHOR:** Rachel Osborn, Sustainability Officer

### **Summary and Recommendation:**

Executive are requested to:

- a) Note and consider the objective and early priorities for a Copeland Climate Change Action Plan; progress against the Cumbria Climate Change Action Plan and potential Copeland specific actions in Appendix B.
- b) Agree the objective and early priorities of a three year 2010 – 2013 Copeland Climate Change Action Plan in section 2.2.
- c) Receive the detailed Action Plan at Executive in May 2010 following consultation.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In March 2009 the Council signed up to the Cumbria Strategic Partnership's Climate Change Commitment which was accompanied by 146 actions across 11 themes. Of those 146 actions which comprise the 2009-2014 Cumbria Climate Change Action Plan, 62 apply directly to local authorities.
- 1.2 A report was presented to Executive on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2009 recommending that resources were allocated to co-ordinate, progress and deliver the relevant Cumbria actions and develop a Copeland Climate Change Action Plan, which was subsequently approved. A Sustainability Officer was appointed in November and this area of work has been prioritised.
- 1.3 A timetable for developing a Copeland Climate Change Action Plan is set out in Appendix 1. The first stage of the process has been completed which was to undertake a series of workshops with Members and Officers. The aim of the workshops was to discuss and agree the context and priorities for developing a Copeland specific Climate Change Action Plan and identify some Copeland specific actions that can be consulted upon.
- 1.4 The workshops also helped to assess our progress against the actions in the Cumbria Climate Change Action Plan. A monitoring report was sent to the Cumbria Strategic Partnership on the 29<sup>th</sup> January with details of our progress. Sixty one of the actions have already been completed or are in progress.

## **2. ARGUMENT**

- 2.1 Copeland Borough Council has a number of roles to play in terms of tackling climate change. These can be summarized as follows:
- Internal role - getting our own house in order
  - Partner
  - Communicator
  - Advocate and campaigner
  - Facilitator, influencer and leader

At the final workshop, the group was asked to consider these roles in order to establish an objective and priorities for a Copeland Climate Change Action Plan, as well as the specific actions that were identified in the preceding workshops.

- 2.2 An objective has been developed with Members and Officers:

“Copeland Borough Council will work closely in partnership to tackle climate change in its operation and service delivery.”

Our early priorities are agreed as:

- Reducing the Council’s carbon footprint and adapting our services and activities to the impacts of climate change;
- Supporting the provision of affordable and sustainable housing while addressing fuel poverty;
- Using our Local Development Framework as a strong tool for tackling climate change
- Playing our part in support of the Energy Coast Masterplan.
- Engaging effectively with residents, communities, partners and businesses to help them mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change.

## **3. OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED**

- 3.1 Executive are asked to note and consider the objective and early priorities for a Copeland Climate Change Action Plan; progress against the Cumbria Climate Change Action Plan and potential Copeland specific actions in Appendix B.
- 3.2 A detailed 2010-2013 Copeland Climate Change Action Plan with outcome and performance targets will be brought to Executive in May 2010 following consultation. An annual refresh of the Action Plan will be

undertaken by the Sustainability Group and reviewed by the Corporate Management Team and Safer and Stronger Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The plan will be appropriately assessed for impact across the cross cutting agendas of the Council and its corporate priorities.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 Copeland Borough Council is making good and steady progress against the Cumbria Climate Change Action Plan. Copeland Borough Council have made a previous commitment to assess and understand its opportunity to build on this work and prioritise our own actions, within the Cumbria commitments, to tackle climate change across the borough, working closely in partnership and leading by example.

#### **5. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOURCES OF FINANCE)**

- 5.1 The development of the Copeland Climate Change Action Plan will be co-ordinated by the Sustainability Officer with the support of the Sustainability Group.

The financial and human resource implications of individual actions will be assessed on a case by case basis. Grant funding opportunities will be maximised where possible.

#### **6. PROJECT AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 The Sustainability Group will co-ordinate the development of the Copeland Climate Change Action Plan and perform a monitoring role. The Actions will involve services from across the Council.

Each action will be accompanied by a project brief, programme and management arrangements. Risk assessments will be undertaken for each action and acted upon as appropriate.

The Action Plan will be placed on the Covalent Performance Management System and monitored quarterly by the Sustainability Group and reported quarterly to the Head of Development Strategy and Portfolio Holder who are corporately championing our climate change commitments.

#### **7. IMPACT ON CORPORATE PLAN**

- 7.1 The Copeland Climate Change Action Plan will underpin our approach to promoting prosperity, delivering quality of life for Copeland residents and provide leadership on climate change to enable transformational change across the borough. It will support our work as an active partner in

delivering the Energy Coast Masterplan. The 2010/11 Corporate Improvement Plan includes specific actions on tackling climate change under 'Transformational Leadership'.

### List of Appendices

Appendix A – Timetable for the development of a Copeland Climate Change Action Plan.

Appendix B - Priorities for a Copeland Climate Change Action Plan.

### List of Background Documents:

Copeland Borough Council's Cumbria Climate Change Action Plan 2009-14 Monitoring Report, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

Copeland Borough Council Sustainable Procurement Policy and Action Plan 2010 – 2013.

Executive Report 210409 Item 10, The Cumbria Climate Change Action Plan and Commitment.

Cumbria Climate Change Action Plan 2009-2014 and Commitment.

Rising to the Challenge, A Climate Change Action Plan for England's Northwest 2010-2012.

### List of Consultees:

Consulted: Members and Officers that attended workshops.

To be consulted: Cumbria Climate Change Task Group, Key Partners, Locality Pilots.

### CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Impact on Crime and Disorder            | Not applicable.  |
| Impact on Sustainability                | Mitigating and adapting to climate change will be a key objective of the Action Plan.      |
| Impact on Rural Proofing                | Each action will be assessed for impacts on rural services and communities.                |
| Health and Safety Implications          | Some actions will aim to mitigate the health impacts of climate change.                    |
| Project and Risk Management             | Each action will be accompanied by a project brief, programme and management arrangements. |
| Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues | The Action Plan will undergo an equality impact assessment.                                |
| Children and Young Persons Implications | Actions on climate change may target children and young people e.g. healthy food schemes.  |
| Human Rights Act Implications           | The impacts of climate change could  |

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
|                              | have detrimental effects on people's quality of life.  |
| Monitoring Officer Comments  | No comments.   |
| Section 151 Officer Comments | The Revenue Budget for 2010/11 includes an allocation for climate change activities funded through the Area Based Grant allocation – this supports officer time. Carbon reduction initiatives provide opportunities for cost savings. Investment may be required for some schemes and the opportunity to secure external funding to assist should be sought. The Climate Change Action Plan demonstrates commitment to this and should help the Council in evidencing bids for external support for schemes. |

Please say if this report will require the making of a Key Decision    No

## **Appendix A**

### **Timetable for the development of a Copeland Climate Change Action Plan**

| <b>Activity</b>   | <b>Who</b>                                      | <b>Deadlines</b>            |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Climate Change workshops                                    | Key Members and Officers                        | January/early February 2010 |
| Priorities for a Copeland Climate Change Action Plan report | Sustainability Group, CMT, Executive            | 9 <sup>th</sup> March       |
| Consultation  | Key statutory and non statutory bodies/partners | March / early April         |
| Draft Copeland Climate Change Action Plan                   | S&S OSC, CMT and Executive                      | May                         |
| Final Copeland Climate Change Action Plan                   | Full Council                                    | June                        |
| Annual monitoring and refresh of Action Plan                | Sustainability Group, CMT and S&SOSC            | June 2011                   |

## **Appendix B**

### **PRIORITIES FOR A COPELAND CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN**

This report sets out the objective, early priorities and potential actions for a Copeland Climate Change Action Plan identified in workshops with Members and Officers in January/February 2010. The report has been prepared using the key themes in the Cumbria Climate Change Action Plan and gives an overview of our progress against the Cumbria actions that are relevant to Copeland Borough Council.

#### **Objective**

“Copeland Borough Council will work closely in partnership to tackle climate change in its operation and service delivery”.

#### **Early priorities**

Our priorities will be to:

- Reduce our carbon footprint and adapt our services and activities to the impacts of climate change.
- Support the provision of affordable and sustainable housing while addressing fuel poverty.
- Use our Local Development Framework as a strong tool for tackling climate change.
- Play our part in support of the Energy Coast Masterplan.
- Engage effectively with Copeland residents, communities, partners and businesses to help them mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change.

#### **Energy**

Seven of the eleven Cumbria Climate Change actions that apply to Copeland Borough Council relate to reducing the carbon emissions associated with our operations. Under the new performance framework, local authorities have to report on indicator 185 (percentage reduction from local authority operations). In line with the indicator, the Council has collated energy and fuel data associated with our buildings and transport/travel activities to establish a carbon baseline for 2008/09. A 10% carbon reduction target against this baseline has been incorporated into our 2010/11 Corporate Improvement Plan. To help us achieve this target, a 4 year energy efficiency budget was approved in 2009 and work has

commenced with the installation of an Air Source Heat Pump in our Moresby Parks Depot. This work also supports our 2009/10 Corporate Improvement Plan action of improving the energy rating of at least two of our public buildings. There is an opportunity to showcase these and other achievements as part of the Cumbria Green Build programme organised by Cumbria Action for Sustainability. To help us plan and manage how we reduce our carbon emissions, the Council is currently undergoing the vetting process for joining Phase 8 of the Carbon Trusts Carbon Management Programme. This is a free eight month programme that will help us and our facilities operators (Kier, NCL and Capita) plan for how we reach the Cumbria Climate Change Commitment headline target of reducing our carbon footprint by 25% by 2014.

In line with the Energy Coast Masterplan, our LDF Core Strategy and Development Policies Preferred Options document supports the objective of encouraging renewable and low carbon energy generating capacity in Copeland. Cumbria Vision's Renewable Panel published 'The Scope for Renewable Energy in Copeland' in August 2009. While this document gives an economic perspective on the potentials for renewable energy in Cumbria, a more detailed evidence base of potential renewable projects in Copeland would help inform planning and strategic decision making. There is the opportunity to use planning powers like Section 106 agreements to support the development of community scale renewable schemes.

| Cross Ref. to CSP Actions & NIs | Copeland Specific Action  | Timescale |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------|
| EO3<br>NI186                    | Collate an evidence base of the potential practical application of renewable energy schemes in Copeland to help inform the LDF process and regeneration planning.   | 2010/11   |
| EO7<br>NI186                    | Use the Housing Needs Survey to inform our decision whether or not to increase the use of Section 106/Community Infrastructure Levy agreements for renewable energy installations in public and community buildings as part of the LDF Infrastructure Plan. | 2010/11   |
| EO5.3<br>NI186                  | Organise an event as part of the Cumbria Green Build Programme to showcase our energy efficiency/use of renewable technologies.   | Sept 2010 |

### **Housing and Buildings**

Planning policy is recognised as a key tool for tackling climate change in relation to new and existing housing and buildings. The Government's Code for Sustainable Homes has marked a step change in improving the sustainability of

new developments with a target of all new homes being zero carbon from 2016. Copeland's Local Development Framework presents an opportunity to instigate a progressive change in the way new developments are located and constructed to meet these targets. It is particularly important our standards reflect those in the Lake District National Park Core Strategy. At this stage in the LDF preparation, policy DM12 on Sustainable Development Standards sets out how this will be achieved. It includes requirements for on-site renewable energy generation in new development proposals, except where thresholds are stipulated and improvements to existing buildings to increase energy efficiency and incorporate renewable energy generation.

Increasingly sustainable building standards are being applied to developments where government funding is attached. We have recently specified an 'Excellent' sustainable design standard for the Albion Square Development. We have an opportunity to sustain this ambition when constructing new and refurbishing the Council's building stock.

The Council is working with local strategic partners to tackle the causes and effects of fuel poverty and this was picked up as a key priority for the Copeland Climate Change Action Plan. A Fuel Poverty Action Plan has been prepared and will form part of the Climate Change Action Plan to be presented to Executive in May. This will set out actions for working with both the social and private sector to improve the energy efficiency of homes.

| <b>Cross Ref. to CSP Actions &amp; NIs</b> | <b>Copeland Specific Action</b>   | <b>Timescale</b> |
|--|---|------------------|
| HB04, WTRO 1.2 EO2 NI185                   | Adopt sustainable construction standards policy e.g. BREEAM for any new or major refurbishment of Copeland Borough Council building stock.                    | 2010/11          |
| HB02.1 & 2 NI186                           | As a member of the Cumbria Housing Group, lobby to deliver investment that will meet the costs of higher sustainability standards in social housing.          | Ongoing          |
| HB03.4, 6,7 NI186, NI187, NI188            | OSC S&S to scrutinise Copeland's RSL's progress on tackling climate change and the sustainability agenda.   | Ongoing          |
| HB03.3 NI186                               | Proactively offer clear and consistent guidance on the application of low carbon technologies, buildings regulations, grant schemes and qualified installers. | Ongoing          |
| HB03.3&6 NI187                             | The 2010-2013 Fuel Poverty Action Plan will form part of the Copeland Climate Change Action Plan.   | June 2010        |

**Industry and Commerce**

Although the Cumbria Climate Change Action Plan has no specific actions for local authorities on Industry and Commerce, we do have an important role to play in supporting and encouraging local businesses to tackle climate change. Our role in delivering the Energy Coast Masterplan is a further driver for this work. Our 2010/11 Corporate Improvement Plan includes actions to offer business grants to at least 5 businesses to assist them reduce their carbon footprint and to achieve the Cumbria Business Environment Network Bronze Award for environmental management by 2011, sending a clear signal that we want to support local businesses and lead by example.

The Council has a role to play in helping to maximise the free environmental business support available to businesses in Copeland and incentivise businesses through existing schemes like the Copeland Pride Awards, the bi-annual Business Summit and the Future Jobs Fund.

| Cross Ref. to CSP Actions & NIs | Copeland Specific Action  | Timescale |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------|
| ICO1<br>NI186                   | Signpost businesses to environmental business support e.g. the Carbon Trust, Cumbria Business Environment Network, Envirolink etc.        | Ongoing   |
| ICO1 NI186                      | Work with CBEN to offer low carbon business grants in Copeland.   | 2010/11   |
| ICO 4<br>LCEO 2<br>NI186        | Introduce an Environmental Performance Business category into the Copeland Pride Awards.  | 2010/11   |
| ICO4.2<br>LCEO 1.4<br>NI186     | For the Copeland Bi-Annual Business Summit, co-ordinate an assessment of corporate social responsibility reports from local businesses.   | 2010/11   |
| EO5 NI186                       | Encourage West Cumbria Vision to develop relevant skills training in the Environmental Technologies Sector in addition to nuclear sector. | Ongoing   |
| NI186,<br>NI188                 | OSC ED to scrutinise local businesses progress on tackling the climate change and sustainability agenda.                                  | Ongoing   |
| LCEO1.5<br>NI186                | Incorporate sustainability/climate change awareness training and projects into the Future Jobs Scheme.                                    | 2010      |

## **Health**

Copeland Borough Council is already addressing health issues in relation to climate change through existing services and programmes including tackling air quality, fuel poverty, providing allotments, promoting walking, cycling and healthy eating and responding to the impacts of extreme weather events like flooding. NHS Cumbria jointly funds a Health Improvement Officer post with Copeland

Borough Council to support health improvements in priority areas and our own workforce. In addition, our Environmental Health Team revise their service plan annually to reflect updated evidence, experience and forecasting of public health risks. Understanding of the links between climate change and our health is likely to improve and will require us to work jointly with health authorities, environmental agencies and vulnerable groups.

| <b>Cross Ref. to CSP Actions &amp; NIs</b> | <b>Copeland Specific Action</b>  | <b>Timescale</b> |
|--|--|------------------|
| HO3.2<br>NI186                             | Include the provision of allotments in the LDF's Community Infrastructure and Open Space Assessment and consult on the requirement for allotments. | 2011             |
| HO3.1<br>NI186                             | Lobby for funding towards healthy food schemes in Copeland.  | Ongoing          |
| HO2.1<br>NI188                             | Contribute to response plans that assess the impacts of climate change on health e.g. flooding etc   | Ongoing          |

### **Procurement**

Copeland Borough Council approved a Sustainable Procurement Policy and Action Plan at Executive in February 2010 which will form part of our Copeland Climate Change Action Plan. Reducing the carbon emissions associated with our operations and reducing the carbon content of goods, services and major infrastructure contracts reflect the relevant Cumbria Climate Change Actions. Copeland Borough Council is a member of the Effective Procurement in Cumbria group which was established to meet the requirements of the National Procurement Strategy and achieve efficiencies in procurement. This group is progressing a number of work programmes on sustainable procurement that support our own Sustainable Procurement Action Plan.

### **Spatial Planning**

Copeland is currently at the "Preferred Options" stage of the LDF, which explains what policies and proposals Copeland Borough Council is thinking of adopting for development over the next 15-20 years. Once adopted, those policies will form the Core Strategy. Climate change and the drive for greater sustainability is one of four key drivers of the spatial vision for Copeland and policies are being formed to reflect this. There is an opportunity to consult and give further guidance on specific policies that relate to sustainability standards to ensure that they are embedded in the LDF.

| <b>Cross Ref. to CSP Actions &amp; NIs</b> | <b>Copeland Specific Action</b>   | <b>Timescale</b> |
|--|---|------------------|
| SPO2<br>NI186                              | Consult on the potential for setting local Sustainable Development Standards as part of the LDF Preferred Options consultation and subsequently develop further guidance in the form of Supplementary Planning Documents. | 2010             |
| SPO 2.2<br>NI186                           | Consult on the size of development that will require a Green Travel Plan during the LDF Preferred Options stage.  | 2010             |
| SPO 4.2<br>NI188                           | Commission an up to date Strategic Flood Risk Assessment to inform the LDF Site Allocations documents.  | 2010/11          |

### **Transport**

All of the transport Cumbria Climate Change actions that apply to Copeland Borough Council relate to getting our own house in order. While we do already have a number of travel and transport procedures and initiatives in place to help us reduce our carbon footprint, there will be the opportunity to explore further opportunities as part of the Carbon Management Programme which will start in May. However, we also have an important role to play in terms of engaging with transport planners and providers to support sustainable transport.

| <b>Cross Ref. to CSP Actions &amp; NIs</b> | <b>Copeland Specific Action</b>   | <b>Timescale</b> |
|--|---|------------------|
| TO1.9<br>NI185                             | Investigate the potential for introducing electric pool cars for Copeland BC use as part of the Carbon Management Programme.                                    | 2010/11          |
| TO10<br>NI186                              | Have a specific Copeland LSP event on transport. Request public transport operators and agents for school transport to become members of the Copeland LSP.      | 2010/11          |
| TO8.3<br>NI186                             | Assess our potential for supporting the LDNPA Sustainable Transport Framework and initiatives. This can be prioritised by the proposed Transport Working Group. | 2011/12          |

### **Waste, Water and the Natural Environment**

Waste and water Cumbria Climate Change actions that apply to Copeland Borough Council are mainly concerned with our own arrangements for minimising waste and water consumption.

The Council is progressively increasing its internal recycling rates and further improvements will be picked up under the Cumbria Business Environment Network Award process. Waste minimisation is also a cross cutting action in our recently developed Sustainable Procurement Policy. On a service basis, the Council is a member of the Resource Cumbria Partnership and so will be involved in delivering the Cumbria Climate Change actions that relate to the partnership.

There is currently no requirement under the performance framework to monitor our water consumption and we need to improve our data collation in this area. Further opportunities for reducing our water consumption will be progressed against the Cumbria Business Environment Network Award process. In terms of services, the Council has an important role to play against the Cumbria Climate Change actions on flood protection and the consequences of dealing with flood incidents. Examples include the role our Housing Services play in helping to re-home families and the disruption to our waste collection services.

The natural environment Cumbria Climate Change Actions that relate to Copeland Borough Council focus on the role of planning policy. Our 'Preferred Options' LDF Document includes a series of strategic objectives under the heading of Environmental Protection and Enhancement that include minimising, adapting and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

| <b>Cross Ref. to CSP Action &amp; NIs</b> | <b>Copeland Specific Action</b>  | <b>Timescale</b> |
|---|--|------------------|
| WTRO2<br>NI188                            | Collate evidence in support of reporting progress against actions in the Pitt review on Flooding - flood defence, emergency arrangements | Ongoing          |
| HO2 &<br>WTRO 3<br>NI186                  | Target private water supply users with information on water efficiency. Lobby utility companies to give information and support.         | 2011             |

### **Leadership, Communication, Engagement**

In response to Copeland Borough Council signing the Cumbria Climate Change Commitment in March 2009, we have begun the process of developing a Copeland Climate Change Action Plan and incorporating targets into our annual Corporate Improvement Plans. There are a number of potential 'quick wins' for us in terms of communicating and engaging with our staff, members, residents and communities that can form the basis of an ongoing programme.

| Cross Ref. to CSP Actions & NIs             | Copeland Specific Action   | Timescale |
|---|--|-----------|
| LCEO 2.1<br>NI186                           | Proactively signpost community groups to grant opportunities for energy efficiency improvements to buildings.  | Ongoing   |
| LCEO2.1<br>NI186                            | Use our website to inform the public of what we are doing about climate change and how we can advise them.   | Ongoing   |
| LCEO2.1<br>NI186                            | Introduce a regular sustainability articles into Copeland Matters.   | 2010      |
| LCEO1.5<br>NI185<br>NI186<br>NI187<br>NI188 | Organise a training programme for Managers on sustainability and climate change to establish what their roles are in delivering the Copeland Climate Change Action Plan. | 2010/11   |
| LCEO 1.5<br>NI185<br>NI186                  | Organise a series of visits for Members and staff to visit Cumbria's best practice environmental/sustainable projects.   | 2010      |
| LECO 4<br>NI185                             | Ensure that Copeland BC events/meetings are sustainable e.g. encourage sustainable transport options, waste minimisation etc.  | 2010/11   |
| LECO 5.2<br>NI186                           | Introduce an Environmental Performance Schools category into the Copeland Pride Awards.  | 2011      |
| NI186                                       | Establish climate change as a priority for the Copeland LSP.   | 2010      |