

REFRESH OF THE COPELAND CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Allan Holliday
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WHAT BENEFITS WILL THESE PROPOSALS BRING TO COPELAND RESIDENTS?

The 2010-2013 Copeland Climate Change Action Plan aims to help Copeland reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

WHY HAS THIS REPORT COME TO THE EXECUTIVE?

To update the Executive on progress against the Copeland Climate Change Action Plan, and to seek approval for refreshed actions for 2012/13.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

A refresh of the Copeland Climate Change Action Plan has been prepared in support of the Cumbria Climate Change Commitment which the Council signed up to in March 2009.

Executive are requested to:

- a) Note the progress against the Copeland Climate Change Action Plan.
- b) Approve refreshed actions for 2012/13.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Climate change is a long-term threat to our prosperity and wellbeing. Councils are uniquely placed to tackle climate change, acting as a link between international and national legislative commitments and local community action.
- 1.2 Following consultation with Members, Officers and key partners, a three year Copeland Climate Change Action Plan was agreed in June 2010 by Executive which supports the Council's commitment to the Cumbria Climate Change Commitment.
- 1.3 The Copeland Climate Change Action Plan sets out a strategic objective to work with partners and the Copeland community to address climate change and is accompanied by a series of Copeland specific priorities to:
 - Reduce the Council's 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.
 - Engage effectively with residents, communities, partners, businesses and visitors to help them mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change and playing our part in support of Britain's Energy Coast.
- 1.4 These priorities are accompanied by individual actions and detail on how they will be measured and who will deliver them.
- 1.5 The Copeland Climate Change Action Plan supports and links with other Council strategies and work programmes including our Local Development Framework, Copeland Housing Strategy, Asset Management Plan, Regeneration Plan, our Copeland Partnership Plan and the 2012/13 Council Plan.
- 1.6 Notable achievements of the plan to date include the following:
- 1.7 The completion of a Carbon Management Plan with support from the Carbon Trust. The Plan covers emissions associated with the council's buildings, fleet mileage, business mileage and street lighting. The Plan sets a target of achieving a 25% reduction in carbon emissions by March 2015 and details how this will be achieved. A 7.6% reduction was made in 2010/11. Projects implemented to date include the installation of LED lighting, an air source heat pump and voltage optimisation technology, the upgrade of heating, lighting and I.T systems, business mileage reduction, changes in working and fleet management practices and the procurement of fuel efficient vehicles.
- 1.8 A number of projects have been delivered to increase the uptake of energy efficiency measures by householders. In 2010, 288 insulation measures were installed across the borough and in 2011 the Cumbria Warm Homes Project was launched offering free household energy surveys and free or subsidised energy efficiency measures.
- 1.9 The Council has worked closely with Cumbria Business Environment Network to encourage businesses to take up free advice on how to reduce their resource consumption. This work includes the delivery of a Copeland Low Carbon Business Grant which has enabled a range of businesses to install energy efficient equipment with an overall reduction of 90 tonnes of carbon.

- 1.10 Staff from across the Council have taken advantage of free training including advising householders on energy efficiency and renewable energy, a greener museums programme and fuel efficient driver training.
- 1.11 A summary of progress against the actions approved in 2010 is shown in appendix A.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to give an update on progress against the plan and to present refreshed actions for 2012-13. A progress report and refreshed action plan are provided as appendices to this report.
- 2.2 The refreshed actions will enable the Council to continue delivering on commitments made to tackling climate change and enable the Council to respond effectively to recent changes in policy, for example the government's Green Deal.
- 2.3 The plan will continue to deliver on our climate change priorities outlined in the introduction which were agreed by the Executive in 2010. This report recommends only refreshing the actions and not the priorities. The priorities will be revisited in 2013 which is the final year of the overall three year plan and will be done in consultation with our partners.
- 2.4 Actions will be delivered by using existing staff and resources, working in partnership, reviewing current policies, practices and procedures and maximising funding opportunities.
- 2.5 We will work in partnership on areas such as contract delivery e.g. North Country Leisure, training, locality planning, procurement, business support, regeneration delivery, our coastal initiative and delivering affordable warmth schemes.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

- 3.1 To deliver no new actions on climate change due to limited resources or changing priorities.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The issue of climate change poses many challenges and opportunities for the residents, communities, partners, businesses and visitors to Copeland Refreshing our Climate Change Action Plan demonstrates leadership in tackling climate change and moving the borough towards a low carbon and sustainable future.

5. STATUTORY OFFICER COMMENTS

- 5.1 The Monitoring Officer's comments are: No further comment
- 5.2 The Section 151 Officer's comments are: No further comment
- 5.3 EIA if Applicable

The existing Copeland Climate Change Action Plan EIA has been updated to reflect new actions. No major changes.

- 5.4 Other consultee comments, if any: None

6. HOW WILL THE PROPOSALS BE PROJECT MANAGED AND HOW ARE THE RISKS GOING TO BE MANAGED?

- 6.1 Progress will be monitored by the officer led Sustainability Group, Head of Regeneration and Community and Portfolio Holder who are corporately championing our climate change commitments.
- 6.2 Where necessary actions will be accompanied by a project brief, programme and management arrangements.

7. WHAT MEASURABLE OUTCOMES OR OUTPUTS WILL ARISE FROM THIS REPORT?

- 7.1 The actions aim to deliver a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, the uptake of energy efficiency and renewable energy measures, evidence of addressing fuel poverty and making adaptations to the impacts of climate change.
- 7.2 Detailed outcomes and outputs are in the appended Action Plan.

List of Appendices

Appendix A - Copeland Climate Change Action Plan Review 2010-12
Appendix B – Copeland Climate Change Action Plan 2012-13

List of Background Documents:

Executive Report, Copeland Climate Change Action Plan 2010-13 - 29.6.2010
Executive Report, Priorities for a Copeland Climate Change Action Plan 2010-2013 – 9.3.2010.
Cumbria Climate Change Action Plan 2009-2014 and Commitment.

Priority - Reduce our carbon footprint and adapt our services to the impacts of climate change		
Action	Status	Progress review
Implement a Carbon Management Plan on completion of the Carbon Trust's Local Authority Carbon Management Programme. The Carbon Management Plan covers buildings, fleet transport, business mileage and street lighting.	Green	The Carbon Management Plan was completed and approved in April 2011. The plan sets a 25% carbon reduction target against a 2009/10 baseline by March 2015. A 7.6% reduction was made in 2010/11. Projects implemented range from the application of LED lighting at the Beacon to the use of refuse vehicles with electric bin lifts. Achieved the Cumbria Business Environment Network Bronze Award for environmental management.
Adopt a sustainable construction / refurbishment standards policy for Copeland Borough Council building stock or land allocation.	Green	The adopted Asset Management Plan makes reference to sustainability, energy and environmental performance and is supported by the Carbon Management Plan which includes a programme of energy efficiency improvements in Council buildings.
Organise a training programme for Managers and Members on sustainability and climate change.	Green	The Council has taken advantage of free external training programmes provided by the North West Climate Change Local Area Support Programme (CLASP), Cumbria Action for Sustainability, Greenways to Work, and the Energy Saving Trust. The Beacon participated in the Greener Museums Programme.
Ensure the Council's events/meetings are sustainable e.g. encourage sustainable transport options, waste minimisation etc.	Amber	Video conferencing facilities in place. Can now use teleconferencing and webinars. Free driver training delivered to staff that do high mileage. Recycling facilities provided in the Copeland Centre. Still areas to improve.
Complete a risk based assessment of the Council's services and their vulnerabilities to weather events and climate change.	Amber	Risk assessment not completed however these areas are identified in the Council's Business Continuity Plan. Each service area also reviews risks as part of service planning.

Priority – Support the provision of affordable and sustainable housing while addressing fuel poverty		
Action	Status	Progress review
As a member of the Cumbria Housing Group, lobby to deliver investment that will meet the costs of higher sustainability standards in social and private housing.	Amber	This work is delivered through the Copeland Housing Strategy which includes a priority and actions to focus attention on the energy efficiency of existing stock. Year 1 of the strategy has been completed.
Monitor Copeland's Registered Providers progress on tackling climate change, sustainability and fuel poverty.	Green	Reports are regularly received by the Strategic Housing Panel from Home Group. A number of programmes are underway or in development e.g. Greenbank and Woodhouse Community Energy Savings Programme with British Gas and Home Group.
Continue to promote energy efficiency measures and	Green	Housing and Environmental Health staff received training on fuel poverty through

APPENDIX A Copeland Climate Change Action Plan 2010-12 Review

renewable energy opportunities to private homeowners, private landlords and particularly low income and potentially fuel poor households.		Impact Housing's Green Ways to Work training programme. The 2010 insulation scheme resulted in 288 insulation measures being installed in Copeland. The Cumbria Warm Homes Project launched in Nov 2011 which offers free household energy surveys and free or subsidized energy efficiency measures. Copeland's Landlords Forum are kept updated with projects.
Identify and target 'Hard to Treat' homes for special measures to improve energy efficiency through practical means and funding.	Amber	Data collected through the Stock Condition Survey and Cumbria Warm Homes Project will help to identify these homes. This data will be used to inform future schemes.
Target vulnerable groups and the elderly to ensure they are supported in benefit entitlement, fuel switching and grant funding.	Green	A Keep Warm, Keep Well campaign was delivered with Age UK West Cumbria and the Cumbria Affordable Warmth Project giving energy efficiency advice and contacts. Affordable Warmth programmes have been targeted at areas identified as excess cold spots, fuel poor and with low levels of energy efficiency. The Citizens Advice Bureau is now delivering advice sessions from the Copeland Centre.

Priority – Use our Local Development Framework as a strong tool for tackling climate change (The Core Strategy and Development Management Policies have been developed and gone through the preferred options consultation phase over this period. Climate change and sustainability are key drivers and have shaped the content of these documents. Sustainability appraisals and Habitats Regulations Assessments are also statutory requirements and have been completed).		
Action	Status	Progress review
Use the renewable and low carbon evidence base for Cumbria to inform Copeland's planning policy.	Green	The Cumbria Renewable Energy Study was completed in 2011 and has been used to inform the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies.
Use the Housing Needs Survey to inform our decision on how to increase the use of Section 106 and other planning agreements for renewable energy installations in public and community buildings.	Green	The Housing Needs survey and the Strategic Housing Market Assessment was completed in October. A planning contributions SPD is in development.
Include the provision of allotments in the LDF's Community Infrastructure and Open Space Assessment.	Green	The outcome of the Open Space Assessment was reflected in the Open Spaces Strategy.

Priority - Engage effectively with Copeland residents, communities, partners, businesses and visitors to help them mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change.		
Action	Status	Progress review
Proactively signpost community groups to support and advice for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy installations.	Green	Signposting to advice and support given by Localities, Community Development Team and Sustainability Officer.
Organise an event as part of the Cumbria Green Build Programme to showcase our energy efficiency/use of renewable technologies.	Green	A visit to see the Air Source Heat Pump in operation at Moresby Parks depot took place. Low numbers but good feedback.
Offer clear and consistent guidance on the application of low carbon technologies, buildings regulations, grant schemes and installers.	Amber	Training sessions delivered to relevant staff. Building Control staff participated in training on Part L (energy conservation) of the Building Regulations. Building Control Manager qualified as a BREEAM assessor for commercial buildings. Mini Building Control website was set up. New council website to give detail.
Signpost businesses to environmental business support e.g. the Carbon Trust, Cumbria Business Environment Network, Envirolink etc.	Green	The following partnership events have provided environmental business support: 2 Council Procurement Workshops, 3 Business Network Events. CBEN advice leaflets were mailed with business rates letters.
Work with CBEN to offer low carbon business grants in Copeland.	Green	The Low Carbon Grant Scheme was launched in April 2011 using LABGI funding. Nine Copeland businesses received grant funding to help them become more energy efficient: Parkside Hotel, Mawsons, Kershaw Health Foods, Irton Hall, Romar Innovate, New Image Hairdressers, Ropers Fish and Chip Shop, Sounds Electrical and Millom Recreation Centre. Total grant funding was £25,000 and the projects will save over 90 tonnes of carbon per annum.
Investigate the potential for a Copeland green business cluster / initiative.	Amber	The BEC Blueprint will include actions on supporting green business initiatives and helping businesses to access energy efficiency and renewable markets.
Introduce an Environmental Performance Business category into the Copeland Pride Awards.	Green	This was incorporated into the 2010/11 Awards.
Engage with partners to address West Cumbria Water Resource Zone issues.	Amber	Partnership meeting held with United Utilities to understand water resource issues. Information used to inform our LDF evidence base. Programme ongoing.
Develop a Communications Plan to ensure effective engagement with residents, communities, partners, businesses and visitors.	Green	Communications work has focused largely on projects e.g. affordable warmth projects, low carbon business grants etc.

Appendix B Copeland Climate Change Action Plan 2012/13

Priority – Reduce our carbon footprint and adapt our services to the impacts of climate change				
Action	Measure of success / outcome	Links to strategies / PI's	Lead	2012/13 Target
Implement our Carbon Management Plan which covers carbon emissions from our buildings, transport fleet, business mileage, street lighting.	25% reduction target against our 2009/10 carbon baseline by March 2015	Asset Management Plan, Service Plans Reporting on GHG emissions.	Carbon Management Team and Board	5% reduction against 2011/12 emissions. Compile our 2011/12 carbon footprint. 5% reduction in business mileage.
Raise awareness of sustainability and climate change amongst Staff and Members	Evidence of implementation e.g. service plans, briefings etc	Workforce Development Plan, Service Plans	Sustainability	Focus on Green Deal and adapting to climate change.
Retain the Council's Gold 'Green at Heart' Environmental Award.	Number of points awarded in audit report.	Carbon Management Plan	Sustainability, Managers, staff	Increase the number of points awarded by the scheme.
Ensure the Council's events/meetings/training sessions are sustainable.	Reduced mileage, waste and carbon emissions.	Carbon Management Plan	All staff	Increase the use of telephone & video conferencing. Focus on providing sustainable transport options.
Implement our sustainable procurement policy	Application of sustainability in contract procedure and purchasing.	Sustainable Procurement Policy and Guidance	Corporate Resources and Sustainability	Ensure the Council's sustainable procurement commitments are transferred to new procurement arrangements.

Priority – Support the provision of affordable and sustainable housing while addressing fuel poverty				
Action	Measure of success / outcome	Links to strategies / PI's	Lead	2012/13 Target
Monitor Copeland's Registered Providers progress on tackling climate change, sustainability and fuel poverty.	Year on year delivery and improvement	Copeland Housing Strategy, Registered Providers Plans	Strategic Housing Panel	Request reports on the delivery of programmes from Impact, Two Castles and Home Group.
Promote the uptake of energy efficiency measures amongst private homeowners.	No. measures installed, carbon savings, SAP and fuel poverty figures.	Copeland Housing Strategy	Housing and Sustainability	To deliver a 5% increase in energy efficiency measures through the Cumbria Warm Homes Project against the 2010 insulation scheme figure.
Promote the uptake of energy efficiency measures amongst private sector landlords.	No. measures installed, carbon savings, SAP and fuel poverty figures	Copeland Housing Strategy	Housing and Sustainability	Use the Landlords Forum to promote energy efficiency schemes and prepare landlords for the Green Deal.
Identify the Council's role in delivering the Green Deal	Level of participation in delivery of the Green Deal	Copeland Housing Strategy	Housing and Sustainability	Move towards a partnership arrangement with the Cumbria Affordable Warmth Partnership
Identify and target 'hard to treat' private sector homes for special measures to improve energy efficiency through practical means and funding.	Quality of data, uptake of energy efficiency measures.	Copeland Housing Strategy	Housing, Sustainability and GIS	Use the 2011 Stock Condition Survey and other available data to create a 'heat map' of Copeland to help inform programmes of work. Develop a programme around energy efficiency in Park Homes/Residential Sites.
Work with partners to ensure vulnerable groups, and the elderly access available support, helping to address fuel and child poverty.	Level of activity with support agencies and uptake of advice.	Copeland Housing Strategy, West Cumbria Child Poverty Strategy	Housing and Sustainability	Co-ordinate training and advice on fuel switching, grant funding etc.

Priority – Use our Local Development Framework as a strong tool for tackling climate change				
Action	Measure of success / outcome	Links to strategies / PI's	Lead	2012/13 Target
Concentrate the majority of new development in Whitehaven, Cleator Moor, Egremont and Millom in order to minimise the need to travel and ensure new dwellings have access to public transport and are accessible to pedestrians and cyclists.	Adoption of policies and site allocations Application approvals in these settlements.	LDF Core Strategy & Site Allocations DPD Annual monitoring report	Planning Policy	Complete the SHLAA evidence base document. Core Strategy found sound at Public Examination. Publish and consult on the Site Allocations Preferred Options
Supporting large scale renewable and low carbon energy generating development in the borough	Adoption of policies Renewable energy capacity installed.	LDF Core Strategy & Development Management Policies DPD Annual monitoring report	Planning Policy	Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD found sound at Public Examination
Support improved telephone and broadband connections minimising the need to travel	Adoption of policy Number of schemes	LDF Core Strategy & Development Management Policies DPD	Planning Policy	Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD found sound at Public Examination
Establish clear guidance for developers on sustainable low carbon development.	Adoption of policies.	LDF Core Strategy LDF Design SPD	Planning Policy	Ensure sustainability aspects are embedded in the scheduled Design SPD, Adoption of the SPD
Adapting to climate change by minimising the risk and impact of flooding in Copeland	Adoption of policies Number of planning applications permitted contrary to Environment Agency (EA) advice	LDF Core Strategy LDF Development Management Policies DPD	Planning Policy	Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPDs found sound at Public Examination
Improving connectivity of habitats, allowing biodiversity to adapt to climate change.	Adoption of policies	LDF Core Strategy LDF Development Management Policies DPD	Planning Policy	Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPDs found sound at Public Examination. Seek full involvement in Cumbria

Appendix B Copeland Climate Change Action Plan 2012/13

				Local Nature Partnership work. Continue to be involved with biodiversity partnerships.
Use green infrastructure evidence base to inform planning policy and the Planning Contributions Framework SPD.	Adoption of policies and SPD.	LDF Core Strategy, Development Management Policies and SPD.	Planning Policy	Ensure evidence base is reflected in the SPD Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPDs found sound at Public Examination Adoption of the Planning Contributions Framework SPD.

Priority – Engage effectively with Copeland residents, communities, partners, businesses and visitors to help them mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change and play our part in supporting Britain’s Energy Coast				
Action	Measure of success / outcome	Links to strategies / PI’s	Lead	2012/13 Target
Signpost community groups to support and advice for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy installations in community assets.	Number of measures installed. Carbon savings.	Locality Plans	Sustainability, Localities and Community Development	Compile a list of Copeland case studies.
Raise awareness of sustainability and climate change through Locality Partnerships	Integration of sustainability projects into Locality Plans	Locality Plans, Sustainable Community Strategy	Sustainability and Localities	Consult with Locality Partnerships on how they wish to respond to the Copeland Climate Change Action Plan
Offer guidance on the application of low carbon technologies, buildings regulations, grant schemes and qualified installers.	Number of enquiries, feedback and project completions.	Service Plans	Development Control & Building Control	Upload guidance and information to the new website. Brief local developers and builders.
Signpost businesses to environmental business support e.g. the Carbon Trust, Cumbria Business Environment Network.	Number of referrals. Carbon savings.	Regeneration Strategy	Economic Development, Sustainability	Include referrals as part of business support procedures.
Support Copeland’s businesses in taking up green business opportunities.	Level of engagement. Carbon savings	West Cumbria Economic Blueprint	Regeneration and Community	Work with Britain’s Energy Coast to develop green business initiatives.
Work in partnership to deliver a low carbon energy	Completion of project,	West Cumbria	Regeneration and	Work with localities and

Appendix B Copeland Climate Change Action Plan 2012/13

initiative.	carbon savings	Economic Blueprint	Community, Locality Team	Britain's Energy Coast to deliver one rural low carbon energy initiative.
Engage with partners to address West Cumbria Water Resource Zone issues	Evidence of partnership working with United Utilities and other agencies	West Cumbria Water Efficiency Programme 2010-2015	Environmental Health, Sustainability	Work with UU on how they tackle leakages. Agree a partnership led work programme.
Continue to encourage residents to re-use, reduce and recycle through provision of appropriate services (kerbside collections, bring sites) education and enforcement.	% household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting	NI192	Waste Services	45% of household waste to be sent for reuse, recycling and composting.
Facilitate a sustainable transport project.	Level of engagement, completion of project	Cumbria Transport Plan	Regeneration and Community	Assist one project through the Copeland Coastal Initiative.
Ensure our residents, communities, partners, businesses and visitors can access information on climate change and sustainability initiatives.	Level of engagement	Communications Strategy	Sustainability Group	Develop a cycle of communications activity.