

COPELAND CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN 2010-13

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Allan Holliday, Portfolio Holder
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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 residents to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change.

WHY HAS THIS REPORT COME TO THE EXECUTIVE?

At the meeting on the 9th March 2010, Executive agreed to receive a 2010-2013 Copeland Climate Change Action Plan following consultation.

RECOMMENDATION:

A 2010-2013 Copeland Climate Change Action Plan has been prepared in consultation with Members, Officers and key partners in support of the Cumbria Climate Change Commitment which the Council signed up to in March 2009.

Executive are requested to:

- a) Note and approve the 2010 – 2013 Copeland Climate Change Action Plan.
- b) Receive an annual progress report and refresh of the Action Plan in January / February 2011.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Following consultation with Members, Officers and key partners, a 2010-2013 Copeland Climate Change Action Plan has been prepared which supports the Council's commitment to the Cumbria Climate Change Commitment.
- 1.2 The Action Plan (appendix A) includes key priorities, links to targets, performance indicators, other plans and strategies and the Corporate Improvement Plan. It outlines delivery and monitoring mechanisms and opportunities for working in partnership.
- 1.3 The Executive in January 2009 signed up to a local version of the

Nottingham Declaration which committed the council to work with partners to develop plans and take the opportunity to lead activity at a local level, encouraging and helping local residents, local businesses and other organisations to reduce their energy costs, to reduce congestion, to adapt to the impacts of climate change, to improve the local environment and to deal with fuel poverty in our communities. In addition, the Council has stated its 'in principle' support of the development of carbon neutral energy sources as part of the Energy Coast Master Plan. These energy sources include Nuclear Power, tidal, off-shore wind power and micro-generation schemes such as Biomass and Hydropower. The Council have committed to monitor the progress of the Council's plans against the actions needed and publish the result.

2. ARGUMENT

- 2.1 A series of international, national and regional legislative commitments, targets, policies and programmes are in place to address the issue of climate change. Increasingly local authorities are being required to deliver on these commitments. Drivers include performance indicators and the Key Lines of Enquiry on use of natural resources.
- 2.2 As a member of the Cumbria Strategic Partnership, Copeland Borough Council signed up to the Cumbria Climate Change Commitment in March 2009 which assigned a number of actions to local authorities. Following consultation with Members and Officers, a report was prepared for Executive in March 2010 assessing our progress against the Cumbria actions and setting out some early priorities and actions for a Copeland specific action plan. Relevant key partners were then consulted on those early priorities and requested to give feedback on how the Council could work with partners, residents, businesses and communities to address climate change.

3. OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

- 3.1 Following consultation, Executive is requested to note and approve the 2010 Copeland Climate Change Action Plan.
- 3.2 The actions are informed by key priorities that are specific to Copeland. These priorities will be reviewed in 2013 and the actions reviewed on an annual basis by the Sustainability Group in consultation with Corporate Management Team and Overview and Scrutiny. This process will begin in November / December before reporting progress to the Cumbria Strategic Partnership in January.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The preparation of a Copeland specific Climate Change Action Plan demonstrates clear leadership in tackling climate change which is a key theme of the Cumbria Climate Change Commitment and Action Plan. The issue of climate change poses many challenges and opportunities for the residents, communities, partners, businesses and visitors to Copeland and this Action Plan will enable us to begin engaging with this issue on a strategic level.

5. WHAT ARE THE LEGAL, FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS?

- 5.1 Actions will be delivered by:
- Using existing staff and resources.
 - Working in partnership to maximise resources.
 - Reviewing current policies, practices and procedures.
 - Maximising grant opportunities.
- 5.2 The UK Government has placed an emphasis on local authorities setting a leading example on climate change. Action by local authorities will be critical to the achievement of the Government's CO₂ reduction targets.

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

- 6.1 The Action Plan will be placed on the Covalent Performance Management System. Progress will be monitored quarterly by the Sustainability Group and reported to the Head of Development Strategy 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. Risk assessments will be undertaken for each action and acted upon as appropriate.

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

- 7.1 A key outcome is reduction in CO₂ emissions from the Council's own operations and across the borough. Detailed outcomes and outputs are in the appended Action Plan.

List of Appendices

Appendix A – 2010-2013 Copeland Climate Change Action Plan

List of Background Documents:

Executive Report 090310 Item 11, Priorities for a Copeland Climate Change Action Plan 2010-2013.

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

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:

Council Members and Officers that attended the workshops.

Cumbria Climate Change Task Group.

Key partners – we have received responses from Cumbria County Council, Cumbria CVS, Environment Agency, Cumbria and Lancashire Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre, Natural England, West Cumbria Tourism, Invest in Cumbria, LDNPA, Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency.

2010 – 2013 Copeland Climate Change Action Plan

1. Introduction

A series of international, national and regional legislative commitments, targets, policies and programmes are in place to address the issue of climate change. Increasingly local authorities are being required to deliver on these commitments.

The 2010-2013 Copeland Climate Change Action Plan has been prepared in consultation with Members, Officers and key partners in support of the Cumbria Climate Change Commitment which the Council signed up to in March 2009.

The actions are informed by key priorities that are specific to Copeland. These priorities will be reviewed in 2013 and the actions reviewed on an annual basis.

2. Links to our Corporate Improvement Plan

The Copeland Climate Change Action Plan supports our approach to promoting prosperity; delivering quality of life for Copeland residents; and providing leadership on climate change to enable transformational change across the borough. The 2010/11 Corporate Improvement Plan includes specific actions on tackling climate change under 'Transformational Leadership'. This plan also supports our work as an active partner in delivering the Energy Coast Masterplan.

3. Strategic Objective and Key Priorities

The strategic objective of the Climate Change Action Plan is that:

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

The key priorities in the Copeland Climate Change Action Plan are set out below. The detailed actions for 2010/11 to ensure that we meet these priorities are set out in the appended Action Plan.

Our key priorities are to:

- Reduce the Council's carbon footprint and adapting our services and activities to the impacts of climate change
- Support the provision of affordable and sustainable housing while addressing fuel poverty

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- 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.
- Play our part in support of the Energy Coast Masterplan.

4. Key Targets and Performance Indicators

In March 2009, the Council signed up to the Cumbria Climate Change Commitment which specifically commits the Council to:

- Taking immediate action to draw up a carbon reduction programme for our operations reducing our emissions by 25% by 2014.
- Publicly reporting annual progress.
- Investing in low carbon sources of energy including renewables.
- Championing action on climate change through a programme of communication and information.
- Taking action to build and embed adaptive capacity and contingency planning within our organisations.
- Producing a risk based adaptation strategy and action plan to reduce vulnerability to climate change.

The following national indicators are related to climate change:

NI185 – Percentage CO₂ reduction in from local authority operations.

NI186 - Per capita reduction in CO₂ emissions in the local authority area – this is an indicator in the 2008-11 Cumbria Local Area Agreement and sets a target of reducing Cumbria's carbon emissions by 11.5% on a 2005 baseline.

NI187 – Tackling fuel poverty – indicator in the 2008-11 Cumbria Local Area Agreement.

NI188 – Planning to adapt to climate change.

The Audit Commission's Key Lines of Enquiry on use of natural resources assesses Councils performance on reducing carbon emissions.

5. Links with other key strategies and action plans

Copeland Borough Council:

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- Local Development Framework
- Asset Management Plan
- Sustainable Procurement Policy and Action Plan
- Copeland Draft Fuel Poverty Strategy 2009-2011
- Business Continuity Plan
- Budget Plans.

External and partners

- Cumbria Strategic Partnership Climate Change Commitment and Action Plan 2009 - 2014
- Rising to the Challenge – A Climate Change Action Plan for England's North West 2010-2012.
- Cumbria Local Area Agreement 2008 – 2011
- Cumbria Community Strategy
- Future Generation – West Cumbria Community Strategy 2007 – 2027
- Energy Coast Masterplan
- Low Carbon Lake District
- Scope for Renewable Energy in Cumbria August 2009.

6. Working in partnership to tackle climate change

We will work with our partners on areas such as:

- Communication, engagement and training
- Locality planning
- Procurement
- Planning policy
- Business support
- Affordable warmth and fuel poverty.

We will use the Copeland Local Strategic Partnership as a mechanism for tackling climate change.

7. Delivery and Monitoring

Actions will be delivered by:

- Using existing staff and resources
- Working in partnership to maximise resources
- Reviewing current policies, practices and procedures
- Maximising grant opportunities.

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

Where necessary, actions 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 reviewed on an annual basis before reporting our progress against the Cumbria Climate Change Action Plan in January. The actions will be reviewed by the officer led Sustainability Group in consultation with Corporate Management Team and Overview and Scrutiny. This process will begin in November / December. Specific actions may be scrutinized by the O&S.

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Priority - Reduce our carbon footprint and adapt our services to the impacts of climate change				
Action	Measure of success and outcome	Links to strategies / PI's	Lead	2010/11 Target
Implement a Carbon Management Plan on completion of the Carbon Trust's Local Authority Carbon Management Programme.	Year on year reduction in carbon emissions (energy, travel and fuel consumption)	Asset Management Plan, Service Plans NI185 – % reduction in carbon emissions	Sustainability Group	25% reduction target against our 2008/09 carbon baseline by March 2014.
Adopt a sustainable construction / refurbishment standards policy for Copeland Borough Council building stock or land allocation.	Lower running costs and CO2 emissions.	Asset Management Plan NI185 – % reduction in carbon emissions	Development Operations	Development Standards/policy incorporated into Asset Management Plan.
Organise a training programme for Managers and Members on sustainability and climate change.	Participation levels. Managers and Members are clear what their roles are.	Workforce Development Plan	Sustainability Group	Training programme delivered.
Ensure the Council's events/meetings are sustainable e.g. encourage sustainable transport options, waste minimisation etc.	Reduced mileage, waste and carbon emissions.	NI185 – % reduction in carbon emissions	Sustainability Group	Council procedures reviewed.
Complete a risk based assessment of the Council's services and their vulnerabilities to weather events and climate change.	Priority list of risks and adaptation responses.	Business Continuity Plan. NI188 – Adapting to climate change	Sustainability Group	Completion by 31 st March 2011

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Priority – Support the provision of affordable and sustainable housing while addressing fuel poverty				
Action	Measure of success and outcome	Links to strategies / PI's	Lead	2010/11 Target
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.	Number of houses built to Code for Sustainable Homes level 3 and above.	Private Sector Housing Strategy, Housing Strategy, Local Investment Plan for Cumbria	Strategic Housing Panel	Ongoing
Monitor Copeland's Registered Social Landlords progress on tackling climate change, sustainability and fuel poverty.	Year on year action and improvement	RSL's Strategies and Plans NI187 – Tackling Fuel Poverty	Strategic Housing Panel	Carry out a review of RSL's progress and report to the SHP.
Continue to promote energy efficiency measures and renewable energy opportunities to private homeowners, private landlords and particularly low income and potentially fuel poor households.	Ensure front line staff can offer basic advice on energy efficiency; refer to further advice and understand the Financial Assistance Policy for private sector housing. Evidence of partnership working with Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre, contractors and other agencies that support vulnerable groups.	Private Sector Housing Strategy, Housing Strategy, RSL's Strategies and Plans NI187 – Tackling Fuel Poverty	Housing	Key staff received training through Impact Housing's Green Ways to Work training programme and briefings. Include energy efficiency as a standing brief at the Landlords Forum. Launch the HeatSeekers thermal imaging survey in winter 2010/11

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Action	Measure of success and outcome	Links to strategies / PI's	Lead	2010/11 Target
Identify and target 'Hard to Treat' homes for special measures to improve energy efficiency through practical means and funding.	Number of measures installed in 'Hard to Treat' homes. Number of community heating schemes installed.	RSL's Strategies and Plans NI187 – Tackling Fuel Poverty	Housing	'Hard to Treat' homes in the borough identified through the 2011 Stock Condition Survey.
Target vulnerable groups and the elderly to ensure they are supported in benefit entitlement, fuel switching and grant funding.	Evidence of partnership working e.g. combined tendering with Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre, contractors and other agencies that support vulnerable groups. Number of free home surveys completed.	Housing Strategy RSL's Strategies and Plans NI187 – Tackling Fuel Poverty	Housing	Development Strategy A Fuel Switching Open day held with energy advice and agencies representing the elderly and vulnerable. Quantify the costs of eradicating fuel poverty through increasing average SAP ratings above 65 across the borough's housing stock and factoring them into a potential long term budgetary framework.

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Priority – Use our Local Development Framework as a strong tool for tackling climate change				
Action	Measure of success and outcome	Links to strategies / PI's	Lead	2010/11 Target
Use the renewable and low carbon evidence base for Cumbria to inform Copeland's planning policy.	Application of evidence to inform planning policy.	LDF Core Strategy, Development Management Policies NI186 – per capita CO2 emissions in Copeland	Strategic Planning	Publication of Core Strategy and Development Management Policies in 2011.
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.	Application of evidence to inform planning policy.	LDF Core Strategy, Development Management Policies, S106/Planning Obligations SPD. NI186 – per capita CO2 emissions in Copeland.	Strategic Planning	Integrate policy into the S106/Planning Obligations SPD.
Include the provision of allotments in the LDF's Community Infrastructure and Open Space Assessment.	Full utilization of allotments and expansion if evidence supportive	West Cumbria Health Improvement Plan and Healthy Food and and Healthy Weight Strategy.	Leisure and Environmental Services	Completion of Community Infrastructure and Open Space Assessment.

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Priority - Engage effectively with Copeland residents, communities, partners, businesses and visitors to help them mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change.				
Action	Measure of success and outcome	Links to strategies / PI's	Lead	Target
Proactively signpost community groups to support and advice for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy installations.	Number of measures installed. Reduction in CO2.	NI186 – per capita CO2 emissions in Copeland	Development Strategy	Produce guidance package for distribution via funding fairs, Neighbourhood Forums etc. Identify community champions. Compile a list of Copeland case studies.
Organise an event as part of the Cumbria Green Build Programme to showcase our energy efficiency/use of renewable technologies.	Feedback from attendees	Asset Management Plan	Sustainability Group	Hold event during Cumbria Green Build Fortnight 11 th – 26 th September 2010
Proactively offer clear and consistent guidance on the application of low carbon technologies, buildings regulations, grant schemes and qualified installers.	Number of enquiries; feedback and project completions	NI186 – per capita CO2 emissions in Copeland	Development Operations	Launch of Building Control mini website.
Signpost businesses to environmental business support e.g. the Carbon Trust, Cumbria Business Environment Network, Envirolink etc.	Number of referrals. CO2 reduction.	NI186 – per capita CO2 emissions in Copeland	Economic Development	Include referrals as part of business support procedures.
Work with CBEN to offer low carbon business grants in Copeland.	CO2 reduction	NI186 – per capita CO2 emissions in Copeland	Economic Development	Allocate all grant funding by March 2011.
Investigate the potential for a Copeland green business cluster / initiative.	Level of engagement.CO2 reduction	NI186 – per capita CO2 emissions in Copeland	Economic Development	Complete assessment of need and potential.
Introduce an Environmental Performance Business category into the Copeland Pride Awards.	Number and quality of applicants	Regeneration Plan	Leader of the Council	Incorporate into 2010/11 Awards

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Action	Measure of success and outcome	Links to strategies / PI's	Lead	Target
Engage with partners to address West Cumbria Water Resource Zone issues	Water efficiency savings. Evidence of partnership working with United Utilities and other agencies.	United Utilities West Cumbria Water Efficiency Programme 2010-15.	Leisure and Environmental Services	Target private water supply users with information on water efficiency. Prepare a programme of activities in conjunction with partners.
Develop a Communications Plan to ensure effective engagement with residents, communities, partners, businesses and visitors.	Level of engagement.	All Climate Change PI's	Sustainability Group	Implement a Communications Plan.