

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

REPORT TITLE:
NOTTINGHAM DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

REPORT OF:
HEAD OF WASTE STRATEGY AND CONTRACTS

FOR SUBMISSION TO:
AUTHORITY MEETING

DATE:
**26th September
2008**

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

This report provides a summary of the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change, a charter for action on climate change which was originally launched in 2000, at a local government conference in Nottingham. The report outlines the key aspects of the declaration which six out of the seven constituent borough councils have already signed. It provides details of the implications and requirements which would be imposed upon the Authority if it signed the declaration and recommends that the Authority does so in order to both demonstrate its commitment to tackling the causes of climate change and as a way of providing a framework for action going forward.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Authority is recommended to:

- i) approve the signing of the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change;
- ii) note that Officers will prepare draft implementation actions and a reporting regime, liaising where appropriate with the Chair and Group Leaders, the constituent borough councils and the Mayor of London; and
- iii) note the likely 2009/10 budget requirement of up to £20,000.

**Signed by Head of Waste Strategy
and Contracts**

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Date:

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1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Climate change poses a significant and genuine threat to the planet, and one which national government is seeking to address through a range of measures such as the Climate Change Bill and the Renewable Energy Strategy, the latter which is covered elsewhere on this Authority agenda. At a regional level also the Mayor of London has a Climate Change Action Plan which outlines three major strands of action for London:
- the development of a decentralised energy solution for London, to be delivered through planning policies and the London Climate Change Agency.
 - the introduction of cross cutting policies and projects to address climate change particularly within the 'big carbon producing sectors – energy, waste, transport and water'.
 - actions to tackle carbon emissions from domestic homes and to show leadership on the same.
- 1.2 The scale of the challenge means that all sectors of the community need to be involved if we are to sufficiently reduce the emissions which are causing climate change and also adapt to the already unavoidable consequences of climate change. The Authority has a key role to play in responding to this challenge because the ways in which waste is transported, treated and disposed can have different effects from a climate change perspective. For example, waste disposed in landfill will produce landfill gas, which is principally methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. Weighted by global warming potential, methane accounted for about 7.5 per cent of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions in 2006.¹
- 1.3 The Nottingham Declaration is a voluntary pledge to address the issues of climate change. It represents a high-level, broad statement of commitment that any local authority can make to its own community. The declaration was originally launched in October 2000 at a conference in Nottingham with 200 leaders, chief executives and senior managers of UK local government.
- 1.4 Over 160 local authorities have signed the declaration to date including six North London Waste Authority constituent borough councils: Barnet, Camden, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest. A copy of the Nottingham Declaration is attached as Appendix 1.

¹ Source: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/globalatmos/gagccukem.htm> Methane emissions from landfill have reduced by 61% since 1990.

2.0 BENEFITS TO THE AUTHORITY OF SIGNING THE DECLARATION

- 2.1 Climate change is now at the top of the political agenda as demonstrated by the Stern Review published in October 2006. Local Authorities have a crucial role to play in responding to the challenge posed. Tackling climate change requires that we reduce our emissions of greenhouse gases (Mitigation) and adapt to the changes in climate that will occur (Adaptation). By developing a coherent approach to mitigation and adaptation, authorities can also benefit in terms of saving energy and money, improving overall environmental performance, enhancing the living conditions of local residents and protecting local people from the threats posed by our changing climate.
- 2.2 Addressing the effects of climate change can bring social, environmental and financial benefits for a local authority. Action to adapt to climate change can help protect citizens against the risk of climate change, including those associated with extreme weather events, such as flooding.
- 2.3 In addition, signing up to the Nottingham Declaration is viewed as an indication of commitment to addressing climate change by the Audit Commission.
- 2.4 A clear commitment to climate change mitigation and adaptation could also potentially play a key role in successful funding bids. It can demonstrate to funding agencies the level of knowledge the organisation has of its activities and where the opportunities for improvements are. Performance against climate change indicators could also be reported in the Annual Report for the Authority and, in the absence of a mandatory carbon dioxide National Indicator (NI) for the Authority, would also provide information to both the constituent boroughs and other stakeholders in terms of local performance and setting out our ambitions for carbon.

3. NEXT STEPS

- 3.1 By signing the Declaration the Authority next needs to demonstrate commitment by:
 - either producing a climate change strategy;
 - or by fully incorporating climate change issues into existing and future workstreams.

As the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the North London Joint Waste Strategy (NLJWS) evaluated both the impact of delivering the NLJWS in terms of carbon dioxide emissions (carried out as part of the WRATE – Waste and Resources Assessment Tool for the Environment – assessment of the strategy) and also incorporated monitoring approaches to measure the impact of the delivering the strategy going forward, it is felt that the latter approach will be more appropriate for the Authority.

- 3.2 The more detailed recommended stages of working to deliver on the requirements of the Nottingham Declaration are as follows:-

- **Getting Started** - Building political support for action and identifying who in the Authority and beyond should be involved in formulating and delivering the Action Plan;
- **Assessing the Current and Likely Future Situation** - What information do we have available and do we need to collect more information to address adaptation and mitigation? What policy support is available for action?;
- **Developing a Strategic Approach** - Drawing on the information available and the views of stakeholders, what are the priority areas for action on adaptation and mitigation?;
- **Preparing an Action Plan** - Pulling together our assessment of the current situation and the strategic objectives and developing a coherent plan of action, with a timetable for completion and an allocation of who is responsible for the delivery of each element of the Plan;
- **Implementing the Action Plan** - Launching our Action Plan, taking forward and co-coordinating actions and communicating the aims of the plan to councillors, employees and the wider community. Over time, assessing whether the actions set out in the Plan have been achieved and what barriers there were to progress, and how future plans can be improved.

3.3 Therefore, whilst signing the Nottingham Declaration is an important starting point, the Authority would also need to develop an action plan including a baseline survey and targets for future change to ensure that the intentions outlined in the Declaration turn into reality. Officers will therefore prepare draft implementation actions and a reporting regime, liaising where appropriate with the Chair, Group Leaders, constituent borough councils and the Mayor of London.

3.4 A formal monitoring process is not required for signatories to the Nottingham Declaration, and as the declaration is non-statutory there are no sanctions if an Authority has not delivered on a particular aspect of the declaration although the Government's national indicator regime may change this.

4. COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING A STRATEGY ON CLIMATE CHANGE

4.1 Authorities work flexibly to implement their strategies after signing up to the Nottingham Declaration. Therefore expenditure can also vary considerably. Given that implementation of the NLJWS will largely be through any new contract(s) commencing post 2014, when the Authority's contract with LondonWaste Ltd comes to an end, evaluation criteria will be developed to ensure that any new contract(s) procured will reduce the Authority's climate change impacts, and that additional expenditure would be proportionate. However, before 2014 it may be necessary to procure consultancy services to assist in the development of climate change indicators, a baseline survey and challenging but achievable targets for future impact reductions and adaptations. It is anticipated that the costs of this support would be no more than £20,000 for financial year 2009-10 and would be put forward for Member approval as part of the 2009-10 budget proposals going forward.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The Authority is recommended to:

- i) approve the signing of the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change;
- ii) note that Officers will prepare draft implementation actions and a reporting regime, liaising where appropriate with the Chair and Group Leaders, the constituent borough councils and the Mayor of London; and
- iii) note the likely 2009/10 budget requirement of up to £20,000.

6.0 COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER

6.1 The Financial Adviser has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no comments to add.

7.0 COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER

7.1 The Legal Adviser has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no further comments to add.

Local Government Act 1972 – Access to information

Documents & websites used:

North London Joint Waste Strategy, Mayor's Draft, September 2004

Directive 2001/42/EC – the Strategic Environmental Assessment (or 'SEA') Directive

A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, September 2005, available at <http://www.communities.gov.uk>

The Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change, H M Treasury, October 2006
http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/independent_reviews/stern_review_economics_climate_change/stern_review_report.cfm

Action Today to Protect Tomorrow - The Mayor's Climate Change Action Plan, Mayor of London, February 2007
http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/environment/climate-change/docs/ccap_fullreport.pdf

Carbon Disclosure Project - <http://www.cdproject.net/>

Defra e-Digest Statistics about Climate Change
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/globalatmos/gagccukem.htm> (accessed 16/09/08)

Contact Officers:

Andrew Lappage, Head of Waste Strategy & Contracts
&
Barbara Herridge, Policy and Development Manager

Lee Valley Technopark
Unit 169, Ashley Road
Tottenham
N17 9LN

Tel: 020 8489 5730

Fax: 020 8365 0254

E-mail: post@nlwa.gov.uk

The Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change

We acknowledge that

- Evidence shows that climate change is occurring.
- Climate change will continue to have far reaching effects on the UK's people and places, economy, society and environment.

We welcome the

- Social, economic and environmental benefits which come from combating climate change.
- Emissions targets agreed by central government and the programme for delivering change, as set out in the UK Climate Change Programme.
- Opportunity for local government to lead the response 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.
- Endorsement of this declaration by central government.

We commit our Authority from this dateto

- Work with central government to contribute, at a local level, to the delivery of the UK Climate Change Programme, the Kyoto Protocol and the target for carbon dioxide reduction by 2010.
- Participate in local and regional networks for support.
- Within the next two years develop plans with our partners and local communities to progressively address the causes and the impacts of climate change, according to our local priorities, securing maximum benefit for our communities.
- Publicly declare, within appropriate plans and strategies, the commitment to achieve a significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from our own Authority's operations, especially energy sourcing and use, travel and transport, waste production and disposal and the purchasing of goods and services.
- Assess the risk associated with climate change and the implications for our services and our communities of climate change impacts and adapt accordingly.
- Encourage all sectors in our local community to take the opportunity to adapt to the impacts of climate change, to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions and to make public their commitment to action.
- Monitor the progress of our plans against the actions needed and publish the result.

The North London Waste Authority acknowledges the increasing impact that climate change will have on our community during the 21st century and commits to tackling the causes and effects of a changing climate on our borough.

Signatories

..... – Chair of the Authority

..... – Clerk to the Authority

Phil Woolas MP - Minister of State Environment, DEFRA

Parmjit Dhanda MP - Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, CLG

Report Ends