

Working for you

Harrogate District Climate Change Strategy



September 2009





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PART ONE : SETTING THE SCENE

Part One outlines the reasons for adopting a climate change strategy, and summarises the relevant local and national policies, and the actions currently being undertaken by Harrogate Borough Council. We also show how we have performed against the targets in our existing strategy *Action for the Environment*, which is replaced by this plan.

1. WHY TAKE ACTION?

1.1 Outline of climate change and expected impacts

1.1.1 *The scientific background*

The causes of climate change, and the need to take action, are increasingly understood by scientists. The main principle is that gases in the atmosphere – known as greenhouse gases – trap heat and cause the Earth to warm up. This is a natural process, which keeps the Earth at a temperature that can sustain life. However, if the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere rises above natural levels, the average temperature of the Earth also increases and this changes the climate in a variety of ways.

Carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (NO_x) are all greenhouse gases. The amount of these gases in the atmosphere has increased markedly as a result of human activities since 1750 and now far exceeds pre-industrial values.

Carbon dioxide is the most significant greenhouse gas, and the global increases in CO₂ concentration are due primarily to fossil fuel use.

The increase in the concentration of greenhouse gases is resulting in climate change. Observations over time show that warming of the climate system is unequivocal. Evidence for this is seen in increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global average sea level.

The Royal Society, the UK's leading independent science body, states that "the international scientific consensus agrees that increasing levels of man-made greenhouse gases are leading to global climate change" and that "none of... the alternative explanations of global warming are well enough founded to make not taking any action the wise choice".

The main aim of this strategy is to set out how Harrogate Borough Council intends to reduce CO₂ emissions from our own operations, and how the council can help residents reduce CO₂ emissions.

Our ultimate aim is to make a 40% reduction in CO₂ emissions from the council's own operations by 2020 and an 80% reduction by 2050; and to help make a 40% reduction in CO₂ emissions across the district as a whole by 2020 and an 80% reduction by 2050.

Our first interim target is to make a 4% reduction in CO₂ emissions resulting from the council's own operations by 2011.

1.1.2 *International climate change impacts*

A warmer global climate will have many severe impacts across the world, including:

Melting glaciers:

Increased flood risk will be followed by strongly reduced water supplies, eventually threatening one-sixth of the world's population, predominantly in the Indian sub-continent, parts of China, and the Andes in South America.

Declining crop yields:

Especially in Africa, which could leave hundreds of millions without the ability to produce or purchase sufficient food. At mid to high latitudes, crop yields may increase for moderate temperature rises (2 - 3°C), but then decline with greater amounts of warming. At 4°C and above, global food production is likely to be seriously affected.

Changing disease patterns:

In higher latitudes, cold-related deaths will decrease. But climate change will increase worldwide deaths from malnutrition and heat stress. Vector-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue fever could become more widespread if effective control measures are not in place.

Rising sea levels:

Tens to hundreds of millions more people will be flooded each year with warming of 3 or 4°C. There will be serious risks and increasing pressures for coastal protection in South East Asia (Bangladesh and Vietnam), small islands in the Caribbean and the Pacific, and large coastal cities, such as Tokyo, New York, Cairo and London. According to one estimate, by the middle of the century, 200 million people may become permanently displaced due to rising sea levels, heavier floods, and more intense droughts.

Vulnerable ecosystems:

Around 15 - 40% of species will potentially face extinction after only 2°C of warming. And ocean acidification, a direct result of rising carbon dioxide levels, will have major effects on marine ecosystems, with possible adverse consequences on fish stocks. A number of studies suggest that the Amazon rainforest could be vulnerable to climate change, with models projecting significant drying in this region. One model, for example, finds that the Amazon rainforest could be significantly, and possibly irrevocably, damaged by a warming of 2 - 3°C.

1.1.3 *The damage from climate change will accelerate as the world gets warmer. Higher temperatures will increase the chance of triggering abrupt and large-scale changes.*

Warming may induce sudden shifts in regional weather patterns such as the monsoon rains in South Asia or the El Niño phenomenon - changes that would have severe consequences for water availability and flooding in tropical regions and threaten the livelihoods of millions of people.

1.1.4 *National climate change impacts*

In the UK a range of climate change impacts are expected, which are outlined below. The probability of each is shown, based on both expert judgment and consistency with other global climate models. All future changes are relative to the baseline period of 1961 to 1990.

The UK will continue to get warmer:

- By 2040, average annual temperature for the UK is expected to rise by between 0.5 and 1°C, depending on region. By 2100, average annual temperature for the UK is expected to rise by between 1 and 5°C, depending on region and emissions scenario (*high confidence*).
- There is expected to be greater warming in the south and east than in the north and west (*high confidence*).
- There is expected to be greater warming in the summer and autumn than in the winter and spring (*medium confidence*).
- The thermal growing season is expected to continue to lengthen (*high confidence*), but soil moisture levels in the summer and autumn are expected to decrease (*high confidence*).
- Summers will continue to get hotter and drier:
- By 2040, average summer temperature for the UK is expected to rise by between 0.5 and 2°C, depending on region.
- By 2100, average summer temperature for the UK is expected to rise by between 1 and 6°C, depending on region and emissions scenario (*high confidence*).
- By 2100, there is expected to be up to 50% less precipitation in the summer months, depending on region and emissions scenario (*medium confidence*).
- The number of days when buildings require cooling is expected to increase (*high confidence*).

Winters will continue to get milder and wetter:

- By 2040, average winter temperature for the UK is expected to rise by between 0.5 and 1 °C, depending on region. By 2100, average winter temperature for the UK is expected to rise by between 1 and 4 °C depending on region and emissions scenario (*high confidence*).

- By 2100, there is expected to be up to 30% more precipitation in the winter months, depending on region and emissions scenario (*high confidence*).
- Snowfall amounts are expected to decrease across the UK (*high confidence*), and large parts of the country are expected to experience long runs of winters without snow (*medium confidence*).
- The number of days when buildings require heating is expected to decrease (*high confidence*).

Some weather extremes will become more common, others less common:

- The number of very hot summer days is expected to increase, and high temperatures similar to those experienced in August 2003 or July 2006 (>3 °C above average) are expected to become common by the end of this century, even under the Low Emissions scenario (*medium confidence*).
- The number of very cold winter days is expected to decrease, and low temperatures similar to those experienced in February 1947 or January/February 1963 (>3 °C below average) are expected to become highly uncommon by the end of this century, even under the Low Emissions scenario (*medium confidence*).
- Heavier winter precipitation is expected to become more frequent (*high confidence*).
- Winter storms and mild, wet and windy winter weather are expected to become more frequent (*low confidence*).

Sea level will continue to rise:

- Global sea level is expected to continue to rise (*high confidence*), and by 2100 it could rise by as much as 80 cm around the UK coast, depending on region and emissions scenario (*low confidence*).
- There is expected to be greater sea-level rise in the south of England than in western Scotland due to variations in natural land movements (*medium confidence*).
- Extreme sea levels are expected to be experienced more frequently, and by 2100 storm surge events could occur up to 20 times more frequently for some coastal locations and emissions scenarios (*medium confidence*).
- The temperature of UK coastal waters is expected to increase, though not as rapidly as air temperatures over land (*high confidence*).

1.1.5 Yorkshire and Humber Regional climate change impacts

The UK Climate Impacts Programme has provided a number of expected impacts for the Yorkshire and Humber Region.

Warmer temperatures

The climate scenarios suggest that the region will be between 1 and 2.5°C warmer by the 2050s and between 1.5 to 4°C warmer by the 2080s. This warming will occur throughout the year with the greatest rises in the summer months of up to 4.5 degrees in the Humber Estuary by the 2080s, under the High Emissions scenario.

Wetter winters and drier summers will accompany this warming. Summers will be drier throughout the region and, along with drier springs and autumns, will lead to a reduction in average annual rainfall of up to 10%.

Sea level rise:

Rising sea levels are one of the most certain aspects of a changing climate. With the exception of the low lying fens around the Wash in Norfolk, the region has the largest area at risk from tidal flooding in the country. It also has the greatest value of assets at risk from flooding due to the lower standard of protection in the Humber compared to the Thames Estuary. The main impacts of climate change on the coastal zone will be:

- “Coastal squeeze.” Inter-tidal habitats that are important for birds and other species could be lost to the sea as they are trapped between rising sea waters and hard coastal defences.
- Increased risk of tidal flooding including the overtopping, bypassing and breaching of coastal defences due to sea level rise and possibly changes in storminess. Tidal gates and pumping stations will have to be operated more frequently with possible knock-on effects for estuarine and river ecology.
- A larger area of land within the 1 in 200 year tidal indicative floodplain map. This area is defined as “high” flood risk in Planning Policy Guidance note 25 (PPG25).
- An increase in drainage problems because drains into the Humber estuary will be “tide-locked” more frequently due to higher sea levels. There will be a greater need for pumping of drainage water from low lying land into the estuary with the knock-on effect of increased energy use.
- Disruption to coastal transport corridors due to increased frequency of flooding, particularly alongside the Humber Estuary.
- Increased rates of coastal erosion and land sliding leading to losses in agricultural land and property.
- Growing concern regarding tidal flood risks potentially leading to “insurance blight” for businesses and households and a reduction in inward investment into these priority areas due to the high risk of flooding.
- Changing sea temperatures that will affect the type and quantity of

fish stocks. The area has already seen a reduction in cod stocks and an increase in red mullet due partly to warming waters.

- A possible increase in the likelihood of algal growth in coastal waters.

Flood Risk Impacts:

- Increased river flows and flood risks during winter months in the region's lowland vales and estuaries.
- The emergence of a winter flood season that may require different forms of flood defences in some areas and different strategies to return floodplain agricultural land to washlands or water meadows in others.
- Changes in the pattern of flooding in other seasons.
- Increased winter rainfall intensities will lead to more urban drainage problems, increased urban flooding and more frequent sewer overflows into rivers in cities like Leeds and Bradford.
- Increased vegetation growth in channels may require more channel maintenance.

Water supply:

Wetter winters, drier summers and warmer temperatures will impact on the quantity and quality of water in our rivers and groundwater systems. The main impacts on water resources include:

- Greater average winter recharge to groundwater sources that is likely to increase the amount of water available and relieve the pressure on aquifers that are currently over-used.
- Higher river flows in the winter and much lower flows in the summer. This will provide positive benefits for water reservoirs but negative impacts on businesses that rely on abstracting from rivers in the summer months.
- A fine balance will need to be met between maintaining reservoir levels and pumping from rivers. Water companies need to optimise water management practices to minimise the impact on the environment of pumping water from rivers like the Derwent in summer, while reducing pumping costs and consequently their greenhouse gas emissions.
- Local seasonal and annual droughts may become more frequent. We need to use water more carefully during the summer months and water companies need to ensure that water can be distributed effectively throughout the region.
- Higher demands for water in the summer months from both households and some businesses.
- Agricultural needs for water will increase due to higher irrigation demand, particularly for potatoes, and increased demand nationally for seasonal salad products.

- In urban areas “hard won” water quality improvements may be lost if increased winter rainfall intensity leads to a greater frequency of urban sewer overflows into our rivers. Drainage systems in urban areas such as Bradford, Leeds and Sheffield need further investment to help improve water quality.
- In upland areas, including important drinking water reservoirs, water quality may deteriorate due to the release of organic soil materials that discolour water.

Evolving agricultural landscapes:

The main impacts of climate change on the region’s agricultural landscape include:

- Affects on food processing, one of the most important industries within the region.
- Some food manufacturers have located outside the region due to direct flood damages.
- The water demand of irrigated crops will increase in the summer months. Farmers reliant on abstraction from rivers will need to consider alternative water sources or develop small-scale on-farm reservoirs.
- There may be a greater demand for salad crops from local urban centres and external markets in the UK and Europe.
- Increased yields, employment and possibly profit in the forestry industry. There are opportunities for win-win situations to mitigate against and adapt to climate change in this sector.
- Shallow rooted broad-leafed trees such as beech will suffer from drought stress and decline in numbers.
- Afforestation and changing rural land use have important roles to play in adaptation strategies in other sectors, such as flood defence, water supply and recreation and tourism. If agricultural land is taken out of production in the right locations, changing land use could provide multiple benefits for conservation, recreation and the reduction of flood risks.

Changing Habitats:

Climate change will affect the region’s habitats in different ways. The habitats most at risk are upland heathlands, like the North York Moors, mudflats at risk from coastal squeeze and wetland and peat bog habitats that are dependent on water regimes that will change significantly over the next 50 years. Individual species may be most vulnerable to small changes in the spring rather than the “headline” larger changes in the winter and summer months.

The main impacts of climate change on the natural environment include: -

- Northward movement of species that can migrate which will mean some losses to the North East, e.g. Black Grouse, and some gains, e.g. range expansion of the Speckled Wood butterfly.
- Increased bracken invasion due to warming and drying of heathlands and moorlands.
- Increased fire risk on heathlands could lead to a larger number of closure days on the North York Moors.

1.1.6 *Economic Impacts*

In 2007, HM Treasury commissioned Sir Nicholas Stern to conduct an independent review into the economics of climate change. Stern's main finding was that "the benefits of strong, early action on climate change outweigh the costs".

Stern stated that taking action to reduce emissions must be viewed as an investment, a cost incurred now and in the coming few decades to avoid the risks of very severe consequences in the future. By analysing the risks posed by predicted climate change, Stern showed that, based on "business as usual" climate change will reduce welfare by an amount equivalent to a reduction in consumption per head of between 5 and 20%.

In order to stabilise emissions, Stern estimated that the cost is likely to be 1% of GDP by 2050. He stated that although challenging, reaching this cost is feasible, and can also offer opportunities for growth and job creation in some sectors and improved efficiency.

1.2 **Harrogate Borough Council's existing strategic commitments**

The council has made several high level commitments to ensure we continue to protect and enhance our natural and built environment.

1.2.1 *Harrogate Borough Council's Strategic Plan*

Our Strategic Plan clearly sets out the council's overall vision, priorities and strategic actions for the next three years.

In the Strategic Plan, Caring for the Environment is our top corporate priority.

The plan states that the council will enhance and protect the natural and built environment District-wide by:-

- Reducing the amount of waste generated and increasing the amount recycled.
- Ensuring that new housing development enhances the environment.
- Safeguarding the District's sensitive environments such as the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).
- Raising awareness in the local community about the environment and sustainability.

- Reducing litter, graffiti and dog fouling.
- Maintaining and, where possible, improving the quality of our public spaces – buildings, parks and open spaces.
- Reducing the Council's carbon footprint.

Strategic Action 11, and the council's Corporate Plan states that we will take steps to reduce the council's impact on the environment by implementing an action plan on our carbon footprint, complete this strategy, and establish targets for National Indicator 185.

1.2.2 *The Nottingham Declaration*

We have made a public commitment to reducing carbon dioxide emissions, by signing the *Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change*.

The Nottingham Declaration is a voluntary pledge which local councils throughout England have been invited to sign. Some of the main elements of the pledge include our intention to work with the Government and other bodies to cut CO₂ emissions and to put together an action plan for reducing domestic carbon dioxide emissions. This will involve helping to improve home energy efficiency, and encouraging greener forms of transport.

1.3 **Harrogate District Local Development Framework and AONB Management Plan**

The planning system plays an important role in protecting our towns, villages and countryside. It also has a key role in enabling the provision of homes and jobs in a way that is consistent with the principles of sustainable development.

Through Building Control, Development Control and Forward Planning, the council can influence how the district prepares for climate change and reduces CO₂ emissions.

The national Planning Policy Statement: *Planning and Climate Change*, indicates that the Government sees planning as a key mechanism for tackling climate change.

In the Harrogate District, our Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy sets out the strategic policies for development and conservation up to and beyond 2021.

Core Strategy Policy EQ1 (Reducing Risks to the Environment) is particularly relevant to climate change. This policy encourages energy efficiency and waste minimisation and sets out high standards for sustainable construction and design including the requirement for all homes to be zero carbon by 2016.

New developments of more than 10 dwelling or 1000m² of non residential floor space should secure at least 10% of their energy from decentralised and renewable or low-carbon sources.

Policy EQ1 recognises that partnership working, particularly between Forward Planning and the Action for the Environment Group will be key to the delivery of this policy.

The Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan encourages the development of small-scale renewable energy within the AONB.

1.4 National and International legislation and policies

In addition to our own corporate strategies, various pieces of UK and European legislation place a duty on local authorities to tackle climate change.

Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA)

- All local authorities are required to set home energy efficiency targets for their area with the aim of achieving a 30% energy efficiency improvement across all the housing sector by 2011 (against a 1995 baseline).
- Harrogate Borough Council achieved its own target to make a 27.3% improvement and has also exceeded the nationally set 30% target. The council is continuing to implement energy saving measures and monitor progress.

Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006

- The Government's *Energy Measures Report* was published as a result of this Act. All Local Authorities must have regard to the *Energy Measures Report* in exercising their functions.
- The *Energy Measures Report* outlines the sort of measures that councils should undertake to achieve better energy efficiency, more microgeneration, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and reduced fuel poverty.

Climate Change Act 2008

- The government's Climate Change Act became law in December 2008.
- Uniquely, the Act introduces national CO₂ reduction targets (up to 80% by 2050) and 5-year carbon budgets.
- Local Authorities are expected to play a significant part in meeting these targets, especially via the Carbon Reduction Commitment (see below).

Carbon Reduction Commitment

- All organisations that use over 6,000 megawatt hours of electricity annually (which includes Harrogate Borough Council) are required to participate in the UK's Carbon Reduction Commitment scheme.
- This is a carbon trading scheme, which will require the council to buy carbon allowances through an auction process.

- The amount of allowances available on the market will be controlled by the government and be gradually reduced, resulting in:
 - An increased cost per tonne of CO₂ and thus a financial incentive to reduce emissions
 - The ability for organisations to sell on carbon allowances that they have bought but not required at a profit, also a financial incentive to reduce emissions

EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive

- All buildings owned by a public authority or providing a public service, and with an area over 1000m² are required to show a Display Energy Certificate, which indicates the energy efficiency of that building.
- The assessor also provides suggested actions to take in order to improve energy efficiency.

Local Government Performance Framework

- Within the national Local Government Performance Framework, four National Indicators relate specifically to climate change.
- National Indicator 185: Reduction in CO₂ from local authority's own operations (measurement of emissions from energy use in buildings fleet mileage, and staff business mileage).
- National Indicator 186: Per capita CO₂ reduction in local authority area (emissions sources include: domestic, commercial, agricultural, road transport and some industry).
- National Indicator 187: Tackling Fuel Poverty (assessment of the energy efficiency rating of the housing stock amongst people who receive income related benefits).
- National Indicator 188: Adapting to Climate Change (requirement to annually assess performance on a 0-4 scale. The baseline: "level 0" indicates that the council has begun to assess the potential threats and opportunities to climate change. The top "level 4" shows that there is implementation, monitoring and continuous review of adaptation measures).
- We are required to annually monitor and report progress to the Government on these indicators.
- National Indicators 185 and 186 are also part of the current North Yorkshire Local Area Agreement.

Kyoto Protocol

- The Kyoto Protocol is now in force, and the UK has agreed a reduction of 12.5% in its Green House Gas emissions.

Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)

- CAA judges how well the council manages its natural resources, physical assets, and people to meet current and future needs and deliver value for money.
- One of the Key Lines of Enquiry in the CAA, focuses on the effective use of natural resources.
- We must be able to show that we understand and can quantify our use of natural resources and can identify the main influencing factors; manage performance to reduce its impact on the environment; and manage the environmental risks we face, working effectively with partners.

Energy White Paper (2007) and Energy Review (2006)

- The Energy White Paper refers to a number of initiatives which affect Local Authorities, including: the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT); work to address fuel poverty; planning policy on climate change; and smarter travel choices.

1.5 Summary

The reasons for adopting a defined climate change strategy are clear.

There is a strong scientific consensus on the principal causes of climate change, supported by the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Studies have shown that within the Yorkshire and Humber Region, and in the UK as a whole we can expect to see warmer and wetter summers and winters, with stormier weather as a result.

The global perspective shows that climate change will put pressure on resources and habitats throughout the world, the costs of which will be seen in social and economic terms. Mass migration from some areas may become prevalent.

Alongside these potential problems, there are positive opportunities resulting from the changing climate, especially in relation to changing agricultural practices, rural tourism, and establishing a secure, clean energy supply. The Stern Review shows that the benefits of taking strong early action on climate change outweighs the costs.

Within Harrogate Borough Council, our own corporate strategy has *Care for the Environment* as its top priority. One of our strategic actions is to produce this strategy. We have also signed the Nottingham Declaration, which makes the same commitment.

Our planning system has a vital role in reducing and protecting against climate change. The new Local Development Framework Core Strategy contains key measures that will help achieve this, including the important requirement that all new homes should be zero carbon by 2016.

These local strategies are backed up by UK Government guidance, and national and EU legislation, much of which expects and requires Local

Authorities to take a lead on tackling climate change.

Of particular relevance here are the Carbon Reduction Commitment, which will require the council to participate in a carbon trading scheme, with charges applied to every tonne of CO₂ emitted; the EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, which requires energy performance certificates for large public buildings; and the Local Government Performance Framework, which contains several National Indicators dedicated to climate change.

Section 2 outlines some examples of existing Local Authority action, and presents some of the work Harrogate Borough Council has already undertaken to address climate change.

2. LOCAL AUTHORITY ACTION

2.1 Climate Change Strategies in other local authorities

In preparing this draft strategy, we have learned from the activities being carried out by other local authorities.

Within North Yorkshire all councils have signed the Nottingham Declaration, and five have relevant strategies either in place or in development. A summary of best practice from these and other councils in the UK is provided in Appendix A.

2.2 What has Harrogate Borough Council done already?

Harrogate Borough Council is already undertaking work to address the issues associated with climate change.

2.2.1 The Local Agenda 21 Plan: “Action for the Environment”

In 2003 we adopted our Local Agenda 21 Strategy *Action for the Environment*. The new Climate Change Strategy will replace this.

Action for the Environment is a wide-ranging strategy. Following consultation we set a series of targets under the following headings:

- Energy Efficiency
- Waste & Recycling
- Water Conservation
- Biodiversity/Our Local Surroundings
- Transport
- Getting the message across

Appendix B shows how we have performed against our targets.

In summary, the council has achieved all of the targets set out in *Action for the Environment*, apart from target E2 - to reduce energy use in the

main Council buildings by 10% over a five year period from April 2003 - where although improvements have been made, they have occurred slower than expected partly due to the ever increasing demand for IT equipment and a significant increase in the size of the Harrogate International Centre site.

2.2.2 Tackling Waste and Recycling

Following a consultants' study, which considered life-cycle issues in waste management, it was shown that the largest contributor to CO₂ emissions arising from waste management is the quantity of biodegradable waste landfilled. Therefore, reducing reliance on landfill by alternative treatment and/or recycling (including composting) will have the greatest effect in reducing CO₂ emissions.

Currently, the waste collection service in the Harrogate District (weekly black sack refuse collection, fortnightly collection of cans, glass and newspapers and 30,000 properties on fortnightly green collections) is a net contributor of around 4,894 tonnes of CO₂ to the atmosphere. This is because our disposal method for non-recycled waste is currently landfill.

However, once new treatment facilities become available (via North Yorkshire County Council's disposal service); further expansion of garden waste and additional dry materials (such as card and plastic bottles) will be included and consultants believe that this will reduce CO₂ emissions by 1,119 tonnes.

A joint waste and recycling strategy – “Let's Talk Less Rubbish” – has been agreed by all the district councils in North Yorkshire, and North Yorkshire County Council.

As shown above, the issues of waste and climate change are linked, however, to avoid unnecessary duplication, waste and recycling have been placed outside the scope of this climate change strategy.

2.2.3 Key Achievements

Since the adoption of the Local Agenda 21 Plan the council's Environment Strategy Unit and other divisions have pioneered several projects that have achieved wide recognition. For example:

- We were the first local authority to install ground source heat pumps in council homes. Around 80 homes now have this technology fitted. This scheme has been nominated for and won numerous awards, including the Sustainable Landlord of the Year 2008, and the Micropower Council Public Sector Award 2009. Details about this project have been presented at a number of national seminars and conferences.
- We developed “Energy Efficiency Bingo”, a unique way of getting the energy saving message across. The game, which is played like normal bingo but with rhymes relating to energy saving tips, has featured as a national case study and has been adopted by many other councils and community groups.

- In two years, our schools project – the Climate Action Programme – has engaged over 40 local schools. The Programme has been endorsed by the national energy education charity CREATE. The project was part funded by the Harrogate District Strategic Partnership (via the NYCC Community Fund).
- We have shown our commitment by participating in the annual Environment Index survey, organised by Business in the Community, for the past six years.
- The Parks division has achieved ISO 14001 accreditation for good environmental management.
- In 2008 the whole council was awarded the Ackrill's Green Business Award.

2.3 Conclusion

Harrogate Borough Council's existing Agenda 21 plan *Action for the Environment* has stimulated a wide range of local activity, some of which has achieved national recognition. The council has achieved all but one of the targets set out in *Action for the Environment*.

The council has drawn on its own experience and that of other local authorities in preparing this draft strategy. This new strategy will build on, and replace the Local Agenda 21 Plan by focusing the council's environment strategy on addressing climate change, which is an overarching issue.

3. CONSULTATION ON THE CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

The views of the local community, council staff and other bodies have been sought in the preparation of this strategy to ensure that the strategy meets local needs and expectations

3.1 Consultation methods

Consultation has been carried out via a number of routes, including:

3.1.1 Residents' survey

- Questionnaire to 600 residents to find out levels of knowledge and understanding of climate change, and give an indication of local priorities for action.

3.1.2 Website and staff surveys

- Hosted on Harrogate Borough Council's website and intranet.

3.1.3 Action for the Environment Group

- The Action for the Environment Group (the district's environmental forum consisting of representatives from local groups, councillors and interested individuals) were provided with two earlier drafts in order to make more in-depth comments.

3.1.4 Departmental Management Teams and other council officers

- Council managers and other relevant staff have been consulted to draw up the detailed contents of the Action Plan, based on the priority areas for action.

The council's internal environment group, the Environment Strategy Corporate Group, chaired by the Chief Executive, received regular progress reports and advised on the development of this strategy.

Results from the consultation process have helped shape the final strategy, by influencing the priority areas for action. A summary of consultation responses is provided in Appendix C.

PART TWO : THE DRAFT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Having discussed the reasons for taking action, and the council's current policies in Part One, Part Two sets out our strategy and action plan for tackling climate change, and the actions we will take to meet the target CO₂ reductions.

4. THE SCOPE OF THE STRATEGY

4.1 What will the Climate Change Strategy do?

The Climate Change Strategy will outline:

- How the council intends to reduce its carbon emissions through its own operations.
- How the council can help reduce carbon emissions across the district (mitigation).
- How the council can prepare for inevitable changes to the climate (adaptation).
- How the council will approach its obligations under the new performance framework; and the Carbon Reduction Commitment and Comprehensive Area Assessment.
- How the council will monitor its progress towards these aims.

The council must take two main courses of action to address climate change. Firstly, we must mitigate climate change by reducing CO₂ emissions from our own operations and helping the wider community to do the same. Secondly, we must adapt to the inevitable changes to the climate, which are predicted by climatologists, and which will occur despite any changes in emission levels which take place today.

These twin approaches are known as mitigation and adaptation. Both offer opportunities for innovation and cost savings.

4.2 Key Issues for mitigation

Mitigation relates to work that we can do to reduce CO₂ emissions. Several Key Issues have been identified, which will help achieve this. The Key Issues are:

- ❖ **Energy Use** – for example, improving energy efficiency in homes, businesses and in the council's operations; promoting and using renewable and other low carbon energy sources.
- ❖ **Transport** – for example, improving vehicle efficiency in the council's fleet; promoting alternatives to private cars.
- ❖ **Purchasing** – for example, using our purchasing power to adopt sustainable procurement principles within the council.
- ❖ **Raising awareness and changing attitudes** – for example, working with schools and community groups; providing information to

householders in both public and private sector housing; providing assistance for local businesses, and raising awareness within the workplace.

4.3 Key Issue for adaptation

Careful planning is required in order to prepare the Harrogate District for inevitable changes to weather patterns. For example, flood management needs to be fully linked to planning, highways, waste services and other areas of work.

The adaptation component of this strategy is a new field of work. Therefore, the first task is to carry out a detailed assessment of what is required in order to ensure we are prepared for climate change.

The need to develop an adaptation strategy is reinforced by National Indicator (NI) 188 - Planning to Adapt to Climate Change.

Therefore our priority action for adaptation at this stage is:

- ❖ **Develop the adaptation action plan** – ensuring links are made with all relevant work areas such as emergency planning, highways, flooding and biodiversity. An outline of work required is given in section 4.4.

Once the adaptation action plan has been drawn up, it will be incorporated into this strategy.

4.4 Adaptation action plan – outline of work required

The intention of an adaptation plan is to address the impact of climate change in a planned way by working out the likely impact on homes, businesses and everyday life and determining a *hierarchy of disruption* for different sectors (e.g. transport, utilities, business, agriculture, schools and hospitals) and developing plans with various agencies based on best practice and damage limitation.

The initial work to develop an adaptation action plan will focus on achieving at least level 1 in NI 188 which requires the council to show “public commitment and prioritised risk based assessment” by assessing the local risks and likely impacts from the projected climate changes. This will include the following steps:

- Developing a database of significant weather events in the Harrogate District over the last five years by trawling the headlines of regional and local newspapers (using a methodology taken from the Nottingham Declaration Action Pack or that employed by Leeds City Council).
- Collating corresponding information on weather events from the UK Climate Impacts Programme and Met Office to identify patterns in seasonal trends using the Nottingham Declaration Action Pack to guide how this data can be reported graphically, to demonstrate past and predicted weather risks from Climate Change. This information will be used both internally and with the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

- Identifying lessons learnt and costs of previous events, by using existing reports and plans, so that the council can assess current vulnerabilities and decide what action is or could be taken to prevent or minimise future damage. A corporate approach will be taken, involving internal stakeholders (e.g. planning, emergency planning, highways and drainage) and external partners such as Yorkshire Water, the Environment Agency and the LSP.
- Developing an adaptation action plan for the district, including recommendations on how this can be improved in future years by adapting decision making processes in the Community Plan and by LSP, working with the LSP to work towards Level 3 of NI 188 (with Level 4 being achieved later as a demonstration of good performance with year on year improvement).

5. HEADLINE TARGETS

5.1 This strategy shows how the council will meet the following targets:

- **4% reduction in CO₂ emissions resulting from the council's own operations by 2011**
- **40% reduction in CO₂ emissions from the council's own operations by 2020 and an 80% reduction by 2050**
- **40% reduction in CO₂ emissions across the district as a whole by 2020 and an 80% reduction by 2050**

6. MONITORING AND REPORTING PERFORMANCE

It is important that we monitor our performance to ensure we are meeting our targets. This will be done using a combination of “hard” quantitative figures and “softer” qualitative approaches where appropriate.

Depending upon the action being monitored, one or other or a combination of both these methods will be used. For each action the proposed monitoring method and interval is set out in the draft action plan.

6.1 Quantitative monitoring

The main aim of all the mitigation actions is to reduce CO₂ emissions. Therefore wherever possible, the main way we will monitor our performance is to calculate changes to the real levels of CO₂.

In the case of energy use in buildings and transport fuel use, CO₂ emissions can be calculated using nationally available conversion factors. Where certain carbon reduction measures are installed or promoted, estimated savings can be calculated using guidance from the Energy Saving Trust and other organisations.

Some actions in the plan can be monitored using other statistics, for example the number of people engaged in environmental activities and the number of website visitors.

6.2 Qualitative monitoring

Where we seek to bring about attitude changes, provide training and information, and are required to carry out self-assessment and show partnership working, qualitative monitoring may be more appropriate.

In these cases, surveys and customer feedback will be used to assess our performance. There may be occasions when qualitative survey results can be translated into estimated CO₂ savings (for example people responding that they may be more likely to adopt certain energy saving behaviour), and if this is possible it will be done.

6.3 Reporting requirements

To ensure the effective management of the action plan, progress will be reported periodically. Some of the actions already require reporting, for example those relating to National Indicators. Where this is the case, duplication of reporting requirements will be avoided.

6.3.1 Reporting to the Cabinet and Corporate Management Team

An annual progress report on the Action Plan will be provided for the Cabinet and Corporate Management Team.

6.3.2 Reporting to the Environment Strategy Corporate Group

Regular progress reports on the action plan and individual progress reports within in will be provided for the Environment Strategy Corporate Group, which is chaired by the Chief Executive

7. THE CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

This action plan shows how the council will address the Key Issues identified in Section 4 and achieve the headline carbon reduction targets listed in Section 5. The action plan is for the period September 2009 to March 2012. The plan will be reviewed annually to take account of local, regional and national policy developments. The first review will be in March 2010.

Corporate Priorities delivered by the Action	Action	Target Output	Timescale	2009/10 Resources	i) Lead Officer ii) Lead Cabinet Member iii) Lead Group	Longer-term planned outcomes, including estimated CO ₂ savings if known	How will we measure the Impact?
Key Issue: Energy Use							
Improve energy efficiency NI 185 and 186							
Care for the Environment (Strategic action 11.1)	a) Reduce CO ₂ emissions resulting from energy use in council buildings by 4% between 2009-2011 [NI 185]	1. Implement energy efficiency measures as identified by consultant	Sep 2009 – Mar 2011	DDS budgets and staff resources	i) J Hayton ii) CM Resources iii) CMT/ESCG	All council properties as energy efficient as possible. Approx 280 tonnes CO ₂ saved	Annual: i) % reduction in CO ₂ emissions (kg/CO ₂ /m ²)
		2. Implement an energy saving campaign internally, using named "energy champions"	Sep 2009 – Sep 2010	DCS & DDS staff resources, Energy Champions	i) J Money ii) CM Environment iii) ESCG	Roll out and repeat if successful	Annual: i) Staff awareness survey or compliance audit ii) % reduction in CO ₂ emissions (kg/CO ₂ /m ²) iii) Quarterly report provided to energy champions
		3. Renew Energy Performance Certificates and Display Energy Certificates	Oct 2009 – Mar 2010	DDS budgets and staff resources	i) J Hayton ii) CM Resources iii) CMT/ Cabinet	Continue in accordance with EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive	Annual Certificates in place for relevant buildings

Corporate Priorities delivered by the Action	Action	Target Output	Timescale	2009/10 Resources	Lead Officer	Longer-term planned outcomes, including estimated CO ₂ savings if known	How will we measure the Impact?
Care for the Environment	b) Improve energy efficiency in council housing stock and ensure homes are "climate proof" [NI 186]	4. Increase number of council homes with SAP 65 or higher by certain percentage (to be confirmed)	To be confirmed by Dec 2009	DCS budgets and staff resources	i) A Jenks ii) CM Housing	Improved affordable warmth amongst tenants, reduced CO ₂ emissions from council homes	Annual: i) SAP ratings assessment
Care for the Environment	c) Implement and promote grants and discount schemes for household energy efficiency [NI 186]	5. Generate uptake of 100 home energy efficiency measures annually, increasing year on year	Ongoing	DCS budgets and staff resources	i) J Money ii) CM Environment & Housing	Increased uptake of measures, reduction in CO ₂ emissions, improved affordable warmth	Annual: i) Total number lofts and cavities installed ii) CO ₂ reduction
Participate in Carbon Reduction Commitment scheme NI 185							
Care for the Environment	a) Prepare for start of Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) in 2010	6. Assess financial implications of CRC (including achieving a 40% CO ₂ reduction by 2020) and prepare a strategy for participation	Jun 2009 Mar 2010	DCS, DDS & DR staff resources, DDC budgets	i) J Hayton ii) CM Resources iii) CMT	CRC operating	By 2010: i) CRC plan in place
Delivering First Class Services							
Promote low carbon/decentralised energy generation NI 186							
Care for the Environment	a) Investigate an Energy Services Company (ESCO) for Harrogate	7. Carry out feasibility study with partners	Ongoing to Mar 2011	DCS budgets and staff resources	i) J Money ii) CM Environment	Progress to implementation if feasible	By 2011: ESCO model adopted or rejected

Corporate Priorities delivered by the Action	Action	Target Output	Timescale	2009/10 Resources	Lead Officer	Longer-term planned outcomes, including estimated CO ₂ savings if known	How will we measure the Impact?
Care for the Environment	b) Install and monitor renewable energy in council homes	8. Evaluate the previous installations by the end of 2010, with a view to determining the cost benefits of extending GSHP to the remaining Council housing stock. 9. Participate in EST renewable research programme	Ongoing to Dec 2010	DCS budgets, CERT Funding and staff resources	i) Lead Officer ii) Lead Cabinet Member iii) Lead Group i) A Jenks ii) CM Housing		Units installed in certain % of council housing stock (to be confirmed)
			Ongoing to Mar 2012	DCS budgets and staff resources, EST, EA Technology	i) A Jenks ii) CM Environment & CM Housing	Research continues until 2012	End of project (2012): Detailed analysis of performance
Reduce Fuel Poverty NI 187							
Care for the Environment Safer and Stronger Communities	a) Reduce the number of households in receipt of income related benefits whose homes are rated less than SAP 35; and increase the number with SAP higher than 65 [NI 187]	10. Provide a local energy efficiency grant to residents over 60 in council tax band A, B or C 11. Carry out annual NI 187 survey in partnership with other NY councils, and set targets for future improvements	Ongoing to Mar 2010	DCS and RECG staff resources, Regional Housing Board funding, CERT funding	i) A Jenks ii) CM Housing	Estimated 112 tonnes CO ₂ reduction per year Continue roll-out if funding available	Annual: i) Number of lofts, cavities and heating improvements installed, ii) estimated CO ₂ saved
			Feb 2010	DCS budgets and staff resources, RECG	i) J Money ii) CM Housing	Improve on baseline figure; continue annual survey cycle	Annual: i) % household below SAP 35 and % above SAP 65

Corporate Priorities delivered by the Action	Action	Target Output	Timescale	2009/10 Resources	Lead Officer	Longer-term planned outcomes, including estimated CO ₂ savings if known	How will we measure the Impact?
Care for the Environment Safer and Stronger Communities	b) Increase the uptake of the energy efficiency grants	12. Carry out two mailshots each year, to increase take-up of energy grants and discounts	Ongoing	DCS and DR budgets and staff resources, RECG, EAGA Ltd, NY local authorities	i) J Money ii) CM Housing	Continued increases in uptake of Warm Front and other grants; estimated 318 tonnes CO ₂ reduction per year (via Warm Front)	Annual i) number of cavities lofts and heating measures installed ii) total number of Warm Front referrals
Work with partner organisations NI 186							
Care for the Environment	a) Work with the other councils in North Yorkshire and LSP partners to jointly deliver the Local Area Agreement climate change targets [NI 185/186]	13. In conjunction with others in the York and North Yorkshire area, Harrogate Borough Council will assist with the drawing up and implementation of joint action plans for climate change LAA indicators, sharing best practice throughout the County and the Region	Ongoing - Mar 2010	DCS budgets and staff resources, LAA partners	i) J Money ii) CM Environment iii) NY Sustainable Development Officers' Group	Lead authorities assigned; ongoing Implementation of plans; CAA	Annual: i) Joint action plan in place for North Yorks ii) LAA targets jointly met

Corporate Priorities delivered by the Action	Action	Target Output	Timescale	2009/10 Resources	Lead Officer	Longer-term planned outcomes, including estimated CO ₂ savings if known	How will we measure the Impact?
Care for the Environment	b) Work with local schools and businesses to generate CO ₂ reductions [NI 186]	14. Obtain 500 hits annually on Climate Action Programme web pages and 10 bookings for resources	Ongoing	DCS staff resources	i) J Money ii) CM Environment	Increased awareness of Climate Action Programme, use of resources as teaching aids in schools	Quarterly: i) Number of web hits Annual: ii) Number of bookings
		15. Provide one business advice event in Harrogate	Apr 2009 Apr 2010	DCS & RECG staff resources, NYCC Community Fund	i) J Money ii) CM Environment	Repeat event if funding available Increase level of support to businesses and improve website information and links	Annual: i) Number of businesses engaged ii) Estimated CO ₂ savings
Care for the Environment	c) Deliver talks and events and provide a toolkit to build community capacity to deliver CO ₂ savings	16. Visit 25 community Groups and schools and train 15 volunteers to support their own carbon reduction program	Ongoing - Apr 2010	DCS Environment Business Unit reserves NYCC Community Fund (via HDSP)	i) J Money ii) CM Environment	Rollout programme if successful	End of project i) Number of volunteers trained ii) Number attending events iii) Known CO ₂ reduction by participants

Corporate Priorities delivered by the Action	Action	Target Output	Timescale	2009/10 Resources	Lead Officer i) Lead Cabinet Member ii) Lead Group	Longer-term planned outcomes, including estimated CO ₂ savings if known	How will we measure the Impact?
Key Issue: Transport							
Reduce emissions from the council's vehicle fleet NI 185							
Care for the Environment	a) Improve the efficiency of the council's vehicle fleet	17. Investigate options for greener driver training to reduce CO ₂ fleet emissions by 2011 and quantify potential CO ₂ reduction targets.	Mar 2010 – Apr 2011	DCS resources and staff	i) D Rowe ii) CM Environment	Continue efficiency improvements	Annual: Reduction in average mpg
Care for the Environment	b) Bring fleet up to highest Euro standards	18. Specific outputs to be identified		DCS resources and staff	i) D Rowe ii) CM Environment		Annual: i) % of fleet meeting highest standard
Reduce emissions from staff car mileage NI 185 and NI 186							
Care for the Environment Traffic and Transport	a) Monitor and report on staff car mileage	19. Agree a mileage reduction target for NI 185	Apr 2010 - Apr 2011	N/A	TBC	Initiatives to reduce staff mileage	Annual: Reduction in total staff mileage

Corporate Priorities delivered by the Action	Action	Target Output	Timescale	2009/10 Resources	Lead Officer i) Lead Cabinet Member ii) Lead Group	Longer-term planned outcomes, including estimated CO ₂ savings if known	How will we measure the Impact?
Care for the Environment Traffic and Transport	a) Develop and implement a Staff Green Travel Plan	20. TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	Actions in Green Travel Plan	
Care for the Environment Traffic and Transport	c) Promote staff car sharing	21. Increase membership of internal car share scheme by 10%	Ongoing to Mar 2010	DCS resources and staff	i) J Money ii) CM Environment iii) ESCG	Increase membership Estimated 34 tonnes CO ₂ saved per year	Annual: i) Number of scheme members ii) Number of active sharers iii) Estimated CO ₂ savings
Promote alternatives to private car use NI 186							
Care for the Environment Traffic and Transport	a) Work with NYCC to promote cycle ways	22. TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC		TBC

Corporate Priorities delivered by the Action	Action	Target Output	Timescale	2009/10 Resources	Lead Officer	Longer-term planned outcomes, including estimated CO ₂ savings if known	How will we measure the Impact?
Care for the Environment Traffic and Transport	b) Promote district-wide car share scheme	23. Funding secured for the continuation of Harrogate District Car Share scheme. 5% increase of registered users	Ongoing	DCS staff and resources	i) J Money ii) CM Environment	Increase membership year on year Estimate 151 tonnes CO ₂ saved per year	Annual i) Estimated reduction in CO ₂ emissions ii) Number of members
Key Issue: Purchasing							
Implement Sustainable Procurement Principles NI 185 and NI 186							
	a) People with supply chain responsibilities to receive relevant training	24. Corporate training/briefings on sustainable procurement 25. Updated Environmentally Friendly Purchasing Guide	Apr 2010 - Mar 2011 Sep 2010 - Mar 2011	N/A N/A	TBC TBC	Continue as necessary Update as necessary	 By April 2012 Environmentally Friendly Purchasing Guide published By Apr 2010: Pre-qualification questionnaire approved
	b) Ensure suppliers are environmentally responsible	26. Adopt a standard pre-qualification questionnaire of suppliers' environmental policies and procedures for environmental management	Sep 2009 - Mar 2010		i) M Wrightson ii) CM Resources		

Corporate Priorities delivered by the Action	Action	Target Output	Timescale	2009/10 Resources	Lead Officer i) Lead Cabinet Member ii) Lead Group	Longer-term planned outcomes, including estimated CO ₂ savings if known	How will we measure the Impact?
Move towards including whole life costings in procurement decisions NI 185							
	a) Implement a pilot scheme	27. Resource needs to be established	Apr 2011- Mar 2012	N/A	i) M Wrightson ii) CM Resources		
Key Issue: Adaptation							
Develop an adaptation strategy NI 188							
Care for the Environment Delivering First Class Services	a) Achieve NI 188 (at least Level One standard) in financial year 2009/10 and ensure the Local Authority starts to prepare to manage the risks to service delivery, the public, local communities, local infrastructure, business and the natural environment from the changing climate	28. Demonstrate public commitment and prioritised risk-based assessment; carry out adaptation study	Sep 2009 - Jun 2010	DCS resources and staff	i) J Money ii) CM Environment	Progress to higher levels	Annual: Self assessment against NI 188 criteria
Care for the Environment Delivering First Class Services	b) Implement year-on-year improvements to adaptation strategy [NI 188]	29. Achieve Level Four by 2015	Ongoing	DCS Resources	i) J Money ii) CM Environment	Continual improvement to ensure the infrastructure is suited to changing climate	Annual: Self assessment against NI 188 criteria

Corporate Priorities delivered by the Action	Action	Target Output	Timescale	2009/10 Resources	i) Lead Officer ii) Lead Cabinet Member iii) Lead Group	Longer-term planned outcomes, including estimated CO ₂ savings if known	How will we measure the Impact?
Manage biodiversity in a changing climate NI 188							
Care for the Environment	39. Actions, targets and resources to be determined following adaptation strategy project		From 2012	N/A			
Key Issue: Raising Awareness and Changing Attitudes							
Improve awareness amongst council staff NI 185 and NI 186							
Care for the Environment Delivering First Class Services	a) Improve environmental training as part of Induction	30. All new staff to understand corporate environmental policies	Ongoing	DCS and DR staff and resources	i) J Money ii) CM Environment	Review induction training session and information provided at departmental inductions	Annual: Corporate Induction attendees
Care for the Environment Delivering First Class Services	b) Identify members of staff with environmental responsibilities and provide necessary training	31. Audit of staff requiring environmental training, and what training is available, including managers with supervisory responsibility	Apr 2010 - Mar 2011	N/A	i) J Money ii) CM Environment		Annual: Training provided where required
Improve awareness amongst elected Members NI 185 and NI 186							
Care for the Environment Delivering First Class Services	a) Provide environmental training to members	32. Hold leadership event on climate change	Sep 2009 - Mar 2010	DCS staff RIEP funding	i) J Money ii) CM Environment	Improved knowledge and understanding amongst elected members	After event: i) Number of members attending ii) Feedback from event

Corporate Priorities delivered by the Action	Action	Target Output	Timescale	2009/10 Resources	Lead Officer i) Lead Cabinet Member ii) Lead Group	Longer-term planned outcomes, including estimated CO ₂ savings if known	How will we measure the Impact?
Public Engagement NI 186							
Care for the Environment	a) Engage residents in environmental activities	33. Attend events and exhibitions, provide advice and generate publicity	Ongoing	DCS staff and external project funding/ sponsorship where available	i) J Money ii) CM Environment	Continue	Quarterly: Number of people engaged in environmental activities
	b) Undertake carbon reduction project	34. Provide toolkit for 25 community volunteers	Ongoing – Jun 2010	DCS Staff and HDSP funding	i) J Money ii) CM Environment	Permanent resource available for community groups	End of project: i) Estimated carbon saving achieved by participants ii) number of people engaged
Care for the Environment	c) Develop and promote Environmental Awards for schools, community groups and individuals	35. Hold biennial "BAFTERS" (Best Action for the Environment Roadshow) Awards	Ongoing – July 2011	DCS staff and external funding sources where available	i) J Money ii) CM Environment	Prepare for 2011 BAFTERS	Biennial: i) Feedback from participants; ii) Case studies available
Action for the Environment Group NI 186							
Care for the Environment	a) Facilitate Harrogate District Action for the Environment Group, including annual campaigns and public meetings	36. Group members to plan and implement up to two public campaigns each year, and raise awareness through LSP	Ongoing	DCS Staff	i) J Money ii) CM Environment	Active group campaigns, community engagement	Annual: Campaign monitoring

Corporate Priorities delivered by the Action	Action	Target Output	Timescale	2009/10 Resources	Lead Officer i) Lead Cabinet Member ii) Lead Group	Longer-term planned outcomes, including estimated CO ₂ savings if known	How will we measure the Impact?
Website NI 186							
Delivering First Class Services	a) Improve environmental information available on Harrogate Borough Council website	37. Review and update content, including Climate Action Programme content	Sep 2009 - Dec 2009	DCS resources and staff	i) J Money ii) CM Environment	Continual maintenance	Quarterly: i) Number of visits to Environmental Strategy pages ii) Number of "interactive" users
Care for the Environment							
Internal Environmental Management NI 185							
Care for the Environment	a) Participate in BITC Environment Index (subject to free participation)	38. Annual Environment Index submission	Jan 2010 - Mar 2010	DCS and DDS staff	i) J Money ii) CM Environment	Assistance with service planning	Annual: Ongoing improvements to Index score By April 2011 Risk management system in place
	b) Improve Environmental Risk Management	39. Extend Parks risk management system to one other service area	2010 - 2011	N/A	i) J Money ii) CM Environment	Other service areas to be integrated	

CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY REVIEW

RESEARCH INTO OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Web based research was undertaken looking for Environmental (ES), Climate Change (CC), Agenda 21 (LA21) and Sustainable Development (Sus Dev) strategies or action plans by other councils to help inform Harrogate Borough Council's Review.

Eight councils were chosen as they are in the North Yorkshire Sub Region, and so would require similar climate change adaptations; Ryedale and Richmondshire were researched in more detail. The nine Beacon Councils for climate change were researched next as examples of good practice, four were chosen for more detailed study. An example of each of the different types of council was included in the six that were used to inform these recommendations.

Recommendations for inclusion

1. LAYOUT

- Easily read by the general public rather than in council report format
- Structured with headings that stay consistent through the document and link to an Action Plan
- A separate Action Plan in table format
- Visually attractive

2. INTRODUCTION OR FORWARD

- Written by a key Partner
- Explanation of what the strategy is and who it is for
- Local information
- Inspiring
- Positive closing paragraph

3. SET CO2 REDUCTION TARGETS

Examples:

- 10% by 2011 & 20% by 2020 (from 2005 levels)
- 20% by 2010 & 60% by 2050 (from 1997 levels)

4. KEY THEMES

Introductory themes:

- The Problem - Climate Change
- UK Legislation and Drivers

Main themes:

- Energy
- Transport
- Resources (water and waste)
- Procurement
- Adaptation
- Education & Awareness

These themes were then split up into headings and in the documents with the best structure they were repeated under each theme

Headings:

- Where are we now?
- Objective
- Action
- Timescale
- Responsibility
- Resources

5. CONSULTATION

- Based on a draft framework
- Include existing surveys
- Display information at Public Libraries
- Public, Business and Organisations survey
- Advertised on the Web and in local media

6. MEASURING/MONITORING

Produce an annual report that will cover:

- Carbon Savings
- Costs and cost savings of projects implemented
- Progress
- Targets

7. APPENDICES

- Nottingham Declaration
- Sources of advice and (in some cases) Financial Assistance
- Potential monetary and carbon savings achievable
- Glossary of Terms
- References
- National Performance Indicators
- Supporting Documents

Table of Councils looked at and researched

North Yorkshire Sub Region	Signed Nottingham Declaration	Strategy	Action Plan	In Progress	Date	Used
Scarborough	✓					
Selby	✓			CC		
Hambleton	✓			CC		
York	✓	LA21				
Ryedale	✓		CC		Nov 2007	✓
Craven						
Richmondshire	✓	Sus Dev	Sus Dev		2005 -10	✓
North Yorks	✓		Sus Dev			
Other Local Councils						
East Yorks	✓					
Leeds	✓			CC		
Beacon Councils						
Middlesbrough	✓		CC			✓
Woking	✓	CC			2005	✓
Cambridgeshire	✓	Environment	Environment		2006/7	✓
Worcestershire	✓	CC			2005 -11	✓
Eastleigh	✓	CC	CC		2008 -12	
City of London	✓	CC Adaptation			2006	
Islington	✓	Web pages				
Sutton	✓	Env Sus			2005	
Barking & Dagenham	✓	Web pages				

LOCAL AGENDA 21 PLAN: “ACTION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT”

PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS (as at July 2008)

✓ = On course/target achieved ? = Doubtful/trend not yet apparent x = Target failed

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TARGETS

Target	Status	Latest data
<p>E1 Harrogate Borough Council will continue to implement a Home Energy Conservation Strategy with the aim of improving energy efficiency by 30% by 2011 (using 1996 as the base figure) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offering advice and information to the district's residents Undertaking awareness raising activities with at least 800 residents per year Raising the energy efficiency of the council's own housing to achieve an energy rating (SAP) of 60 by 2006 Working in partnership with others to encourage the uptake of energy efficiency measures 	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p><i>Percentage Energy Efficiency Improvement</i></p> <p>2006/07: Council's 27.3% target achieved</p> <p>Aim to achieve 30% for 2007/08</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p><i>Numbers engaged</i></p> <p>2006/07: 11,002</p> <p>2007/08: 15,355</p> <p><i>Housing stock SAP rating</i></p> <p>2007/08: SAP 70</p> <p><i>Energy Efficiency Measures</i></p> <p>2004/5: 1,840 individual measures installed</p> <p>2005/06: 1,883</p> <p>2006/07: 2,495</p>
<p>E2 Harrogate Borough Council will reduce energy use in the main Council buildings by 10% over a five year period from April 2003</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>CO2 per square metre performance:</p> <p>2004/05: 0.0516 t</p> <p>2005/06: 0.0554 t</p> <p>2006/07: 0.0533 t</p> <p>(New National Indicator measures CO₂ emissions)</p>
<p>E3 Action for the Environment Group will work with business, the voluntary sector, community groups and individuals to promote energy efficiency in the Harrogate district</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>Ongoing. The Group has recently been involved in the BAFTERS (Best Action for the Environment Road Show) Awards, held three times since 2004</p>

WASTE AND RECYCLING TARGETS

Target	Status	Latest data
R1 Harrogate Borough Council will increase household waste recycling rate to 14% by April 2004 and to 21% by April 2006 (in accordance with government Best Value Recycling and Compost Performance Standards)	✓	<i>Household waste recycled:</i> 2005/6: 21% 2006/07: 23.2% 2007/08: 26.9%
R2 Harrogate Borough Council will implement a trial house-to-house recycling scheme by 31 March 2003.	✓	Kerbside recycling implemented 2007/8: 86% properties offered kerbside recycling
R3 Harrogate Borough Council will undertake a internal waste audit with a view to developing targets for reducing its own internal waste. Purchasing will subsequently be reviewed to assess potential reduction of purchase of non-recycled goods or potential to increase the percentage of recycled goods	✓	Work is ongoing on this target. Key achievements: Purchasing policy for recycled paper. Introduction of office waste recycling scheme and consultant's analysis of waste stream Environmental Policy and purchasing guide produced Worked with Recycling Action Yorkshire on buying recycled building materials (see case study) 2008: trial Shred-it scheme in Springfield House to reduce waste
R4 Action for the Environment group will work with organisations to increase local recycling levels, through promotion of the 3 Rs (Reduce, Reuse & Recycle).	✓	Ongoing (e.g. The Group has recently been involved in the BAFTERS Awards) – held every two years 2007/08: Workshop on plastic bag free town

WATER CONSERVATION TARGETS

Target	Status	Latest data
W1 Harrogate Borough Council will review its water consumption with the aim of identifying water saving measures and achieve a 10% saving over a five year period from April 2003 (using 2000/1 as base data)	✓	2005/6: 0.8% decrease in water consumption across all main council Bog Hogs installed and buildings water consumption controlled
W2 Action for the Environment Group will work with organisations to promote water conservation issues in the district	✓	Ongoing (e.g involvement in BAFTERS Awards) – every two years

BIODIVERSITY/LOCAL SURROUNDINGS TARGETS

Target	Status	Latest data
B1 The Harrogate District Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Steering Group will undertake an audit on the local wildlife, habitats and species and develop a draft action plan for consultation and implementation in 2004/2005	✓	Draft launched for consultation July 2008 Biodiversity Group reconvened and internal group led by Cabinet Member (Housing) Shared Learning event planned for 2008
B2 The Action for the Environment Group will work with the Harrogate District BAP Steering Group to promote nature conservation and participation in preserving and enhancing the local environment	✓	Public information session on "wildlife gardening" held Regular column in local newspaper

TRANSPORT TARGETS

Target	Status	Latest data
T1 Harrogate Borough Council will encourage more people to make use of public transport and encourage more walking and cycling. In 2002/03 it will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with others to complete the new Harrogate bus station • Implement the Harrogate & Knaresborough cycling strategy • Undertake promotional work which will assist, facilitate and promote 'Greener Transport Choices' 	✓ ✓ ✓	Achieved Ongoing Recent lottery fund approved for cycleway Ongoing Car Share scheme successful. CO2 emissions saved by Harrogate Borough Council staff = 34 tonnes District scheme = 151 tonnes
T2 Harrogate Borough Council will phase in the use of cleaner fuels in Council vehicles	✓	Ongoing. Bio-diesel now purchased for vehicle fleet New Euro 5 Diesel engines on quarter of fleet
T3 The Action for the Environment Group will work with organisations and individuals in the business, community and voluntary sectors to facilitate an increase in Greener Transport choices through promotional events and collaborative schemes	✓	Ongoing (e.g. public meeting on 12/08/06 on Active/Green travel choices) Action for Environment Group members also promote Wheel Easy Group (cycling) Article in newspaper on Car Free Day

TARGETS FOR GETTING THE MESSAGE ACROSS

Target	Status	Latest data
M1 Harrogate Borough Council will provide sustainability training appropriate to meet the needs of the Councillors and employees	✓	Ongoing: Induction training to all new staff, Renewable energy training provided for councillors Inconvenient Truth video session held for officers in 2007 Six Energy Champions trained Internal training on GSHP Visit to Knabs Ridge Wind Turbines
M2 Harrogate Borough Council will engage at least 4,000 local residents in Local Agenda 21 related activities during 2004/2005.	✓	2004/5: 10,180 2005/6: 10,895 2006/7: 12,738 2007/8: 12,148
M3 Action for the Environment Group will review and regularly update the Action for the Environment pages of Harrogate Borough Council's web site, and facilitate at least one public event each year	✓	Email news bulletin distributed quarterly to members and other subscribers (free) Web pages updated monthly Regular articles in Ackrills newspaper At least five Action for Environment Group meetings held with at least one open to public Plastic bag workshop held

