

REPORT



REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
CHIEF EXECUTIVE	CABINET	15 TH NOVEMBER 2006	LATE ITEM

NORTHWEST CLIMATE CHANGE CHARTER

Public Item

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

Summary

This report presents a request which has been received from the North West Development Agency (NDWA), via its sponsored organisation, Sustainability Northwest, for public and private sector organisations to commit themselves to the principles of Climate Change Charter.

Recommendation

1. That the Council offers its commitment and support to the North West Climate Change Charter.

Cabinet Portfolio

The item falls within the following Cabinet portfolio: Streetscene : Councillor T Ashton

Report

1. Sustainability Northwest (SNW) is an independent charitable organisation, supported by the NWDA and private companies working in the northwest, which advocates and promotes sustainable solutions to issues of social concern such as renewable energy, transport, regeneration, climate change and waste.
2. In the advent of the recently published Stern Report and the publication of the NWDA's Climate Change Action Plan, SNW has invited stakeholder organisations in the northwest to sign-up to the Northwest Climate Change Charter.

Continued....

3. A copy of the Charter is attached at Appendix A, which gives details of the underlying acknowledgements, commitments and objectives of the Charter, which stakeholder organisations are being asked to support.
4. The philosophy of the Charter is very much in keeping with the Council's current priorities and actions as indicated in:
 - The 2006/07 Corporate Plan, which includes a proposal to produce a comprehensive energy conservation strategy for the Borough;
 - The Action Plan of the Environmental Enhancement Working Group of the LSP which envisages the development of a Sustainable Energy Strategy;
 - The Council's supporting role in the FLOWE project initiated recently by the MP.
5. On the basis of the above, it is clear that the current priorities of the Council are very much in accordance with the aspirations of the Charter. It is therefore recommended that the Council signs-up to the Northwest Climate Change Charter.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	None arising directly from the report.
Legal	None arising directly from the report.
Community Safety	None arising directly from the report.
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising directly from the report.
Sustainability	The principles of sustainability are inherently contained within the body of the report and the appendix.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising directly from the report.

Report Author	Tel	Date	Doc ID
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List of Background Papers		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Northwest Climate Change Charter	Nov. 2006	Attached to the report

Climate Change: Your Business, Your Responsibility...

"We can debate this or that aspect of climate change, but the reality is that most people now accept our climate is indeed subject to change as a result of greenhouse gas emissions. If we are going to carry on growing... we have to find a way of doing it sustainably. If that is true, we have to manage that process co-operatively, and if we do manage it co-operatively then we can get the gains and the benefits far more quickly than up to now people have anticipated."

Tony Blair,
November 2005

© The Charter...

The England's Northwest Climate Change Charter is a major initiative, spearheaded by Lord Thomas of Macclesfield CBE and Sustainability Northwest, to get Northwest organisations to commit to tackle climate change. By signing up to the Charter, your organisation:

Acknowledges:

That climate change will profoundly influence the environmental, social and economic conditions in the Northwest of England and will continue to be a critical factor throughout the 21st Century. You have a responsibility to lessen the destructive effects of this phenomenon, in the interests of your own organisation and the region.

Commits to:

- Taking action to mitigate and adapt to climate change

- Acknowledging that action needs to take place at all levels – global, international, European, national, regional and locally

- Helping the region to achieve the national goal of reducing CO₂ by 60% by 2050 (based on 1990 levels)

- Supporting better ways to co-ordinate action on climate change across the region

Agrees to take on the climate change challenge by:

- Putting climate change at the heart of your internal decision-making process

- Taking all practical steps to limit CO₂ emissions and responding to the challenges posed by the impacts of climate change

- Setting up organisation-wide and effective CO₂ measurement and monitoring arrangements and comparing your results with appropriate benchmarks

- Working with others to communicate your progress and successes and encourage others to take action to ensure that England's Northwest becomes a champion for climate change activity

© Sign up today...

To sign up to the England's Northwest Climate Change Charter, and to receive your formal Charter certificate, **complete this form** and return it by post to Sustainability Northwest.

By signing this, our organisation acknowledges the importance of climate change and commits to implementing the Charter.

Name*: _____

Job title: _____

Organisation Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Web address: _____

* The Charter must be signed by the Chief Executive or someone with the authority to commit the organisation to the actions listed in the Charter.