

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1. Meeting:	Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel
2. Date:	11 March 2010
3. Title:	Climate Change: Scrutiny Review
4. Directorate:	Chief Executive's All Wards

5. Summary

Members are asked to confirm that they wish to undertake a scrutiny review into the Local Authority's response to climate change.

6. Recommendations

That Members:

- a. agree to undertake a half day review into the Local Authority's response to climate change ;**
- b. nominate members to be part of a small steering group to scope the review and determine who the panel wish to interview;**
- c. agree that the meeting scheduled for April 22nd, 2010 be used for evidence gathering.**

7. Proposals and Details

- 7.1 As part of its terms of reference, the Panel has responsibility for scrutiny of sustainable development and strategy. During this municipal year, the panel has received two presentations on tackling climate change. The first focused on Rotherham Environment and Climate Change Strategy and at its last meeting on January 28, 2010, the Panel examined "Tackling climate change in the community".
- 7.2 As part of these discussions, the Panel asked questions about how action is co-ordinated within the Local Authority and the wider strategic partnership. As a starting point, the Panel requested that a half day review be undertaken, perhaps focussing at Council-wide activity in the first instance.
- 7.3 The panel is asked if it still wishes to undertake this review. If so, it is suggested that a small steering group is set up to determine the scope of the review, identify witnesses and undertake background research. The scheduled panel meeting in April would be used as a 'select committee' to gather the evidence.

8. Finance

- The cost attached to the review will be met through existing resources.
- The financial implications of any recommendations emerging from the review will require further exploration by the Strategic Leadership Team on the cost, risks and benefits of their implementation.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Climate change and sustainable development has been identified as a key concern for members. The main risk and uncertainty is ensuring that Rotherham Council and Rotherham Partnership work jointly to continue to improve environmental performance and meet increasingly strict government targets.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implication,

It is clear that the Government sees local authorities as a key partner in tackling climate change. Through policy statements such as the Local Government Act 2000 and Climate Change Act 2008, Central Government is encouraging councils such as Rotherham to work with partners in addressing climate change. This issue is likely to remain a top priority for local authorities for the foreseeable future.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- Minute 45; 29, October 2009, Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel
- Minute 67; 28, January 2010, Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel

Contact:

Caroline Webb, Senior Scrutiny Adviser, direct line: (01709) 822765
e-mail: caroline.webb@rotherham.gov.uk