

## MEMBERS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP

**Venue:** Town Hall, Moorgate  
Street, Rotherham

**Date:** Friday, 31 October 2008

**Time:** 10.30 a.m.

### A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th September, 2008 (Pages 1 - 3)
3. New Measures to Increase Energy Efficiency in Homes and to Combat Fuel Poverty  
- Paul Maplethorpe, Affordable Warmth & Sustainable Energy Co-ordinator to report
4. Cutting through the Green Tape: The Powers Councils have to Tackle Climate Change (Pages 4 - 21)  
- presentation by Emma Bridge, Policy Officer
5. World Environment Day  
- Emma Bridge, Policy Officer, to report
6. Environmental Management System (Pages 22 - 23)  
- report of David Rhodes, Property Environmental Manager
7. Carbon Reduction Commitment Scheme Briefing (Pages 24 - 27)  
- report of David Rhodes, Property Environmental Manager
8. Local Action 21 (Page 28)  
- report of David Wilde, LA21 Officer
9. Policy Update  
- Emma Bridge, Policy Officer, to report
10. Future Agenda Items
11. Any Other Business
12. Date of Next Meeting

- 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2009 at 10.30 a.m.

**1 MEMBERS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP - 08/09/08****MEMBERS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP  
MONDAY, 8TH SEPTEMBER, 2008**

Present:- Councillor Wyatt (in the Chair); Councillors Doyle, McNeely, Pickering and Currie.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hodgkiss, Sangster and Walker.

**69. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 13TH JUNE, 2008**

It was noted that an All Members seminar was to be held on the National Environment and Rural Communities Act on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2008, at 10.00 a.m.

Agreed:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Members Sustainable Development Action Group, held on 23rd October, 2007, be accepted as a correct record.

**70. PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL TRANSPORT**

Vince Boulter, School Travel Plan Adviser, reported that all schools now had a travel plan so he now promoted sustainable travel. He gave a presentation via the School Travel Plans which was available on the Council's website which could be found under "Environment", "Transport", "School Travel Plans" and "Sustainable Schools".

He drew attention to:-

- Bus Map
- Journey Planner
- Maps of your Area
- Cycling proficiency was still provided on request
- Attempts were being made to include sustainability in the School Admissions Leaflet
- The Big Screen and inclusion of an article in the new Community Newsletter were suggested as ways of promoting sustainable transport.

**71. ABLE PROJECT**

Sue Budby, Principal Officer for Reintegration, presented a report on the ABLE Rotherham Project.

The project would transform an urban green space into a fully operational sustainable and ecological resource centre incorporating a fish farm, aquaponics, horticulture, an orchard, bee hives, rural crafts and an education centre whose key focus would be on the wider personal social health and citizenship development of disadvantaged people in the local area. The project would also encourage the development of small

enterprises. It would replicate a very successful project at Wakefield.

At Wakefield they employed an Education Co-ordinator and linked all the activities the young people did at the project with school and used within the school to contribute towards various levels of accreditation.

A visit was to take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> October to Wakefield in which Councillors McNeely, Pickering and Wyatt expressed an interest.

## **72. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

David Rhodes, Corporate Environmental Officer, presented an update report as follows:-

- ISOQAR audit had been passed
- The Environment Statement should be available for publication shortly
- EMAS work was continuing but had not been expanded throughout the Council due to resources
- Work was focussing on Display Energy Certificates. All buildings were in the process of being surveyed and hopefully would be complete by the 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2008, deadline. Not all the Certificates would be displayed by the deadline
- There was no accredited assessor at the present time due to the examinations that had to be taken
- Preparation work was taking place for the Carbon Reduction Commitment which came into force in January, 2009
- Due to other commitments, no progress had been made with NI185

Agreed:- That the report be noted.

## **73. LOCAL ACTION 21**

David Wilde (LA21's), presented a progress report highlighting the following issues:-

- Whole school assemblies at GreenCheck schools prior to successful external EMAS audits in line with Council's accreditation
- Dream Playground plans submitted by St. Ann's Primary to Learning Through Landscapes/RBS
- Supergrounds project celebrated at Kilnhurst Primary
- Ecological Footprinting workshops at NHS Rotherham as part of 'Bike Week' and at Todwick Junior School
- Development of housing related environmental project with Rotherham 2010 and RotherFed

Agreed:- That the report be noted.

## **74. CUTTING THROUGH THE GREEN TAPE: THE POWERS COUNCILS**

**3 MEMBERS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP - 08/09/08**

**HAVE TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE**

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

**75. POLICY UPDATE**

The Advisory Group noted the policy update.

**76. SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIP**

Agreed:- That the minutes of the Sustainability Partnership held on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2008 be noted.

**77. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Agreed:- That future agendas include the following:-

- Cutting through the Green Tape: The Powers Councils have to Tackle Climate Change
- Allotments

**78. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Agreed:- That a further meeting be held on Friday, 31st October, 2008, commencing at 10.30 a.m.

# Cutting through the green tape: the powers councils have to tackle climate change

# Overview

- LGA publication, part of wider campaign
- Encourages Councils to:
  - Take responsibility for reducing carbon emissions
  - Prepare for the consequences of more extreme weather in their areas
- Councils central to tackling climate change

# Purpose

- Highlight key powers
- Signpost tools, organisations and resources
- Practical examples



# Wellbeing powers

- Enables a LA to do anything it considers likely to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of its area
- Examples
  - Islington Council Climate Change Fund
  - Watford Council home energy efficiency project

# Powers to change own estate and operations

- Invest in more efficient and alternative energy systems
- Maintain and operate buildings at optimal environmental performance
- Change staff behaviour – within the work place, travel to work, interaction
- Examples
  - Brighton & Hove sustainable in-house postal and courier service
  - Decentralised energy generation

# Community leadership powers

- Land use policies – balanced communities, local
- Food policies – match gardeners with space, markets for local produce
- Energy efficiency standards
- Behaviour in energy use
- Examples
  - EST CAfE initiative

# Power of the people

- LGA poll – clear support across the country and all age groups for action to be taken at a local level
- Elected members can support this through neighbourhood forums, taking part in workshops, encouraging public participation in scrutiny, public opinion surveys

# Joint working powers

- Joint working through LAA and/or MAA
- LSP framework for joint work on climate change
- Joint committees with other LAs
- Examples
  - single planning framework for an area with a shared climate risk
  - Green Award Schemes
  - Association of Town Centre Management Business Climate Champions

# Planning powers

- Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 should be used to support initiatives designed to tackle climate change
- Section 39 - statutory duty re sustainable development
- Compulsorily purchase land to facilitate climate change infrastructure
- Impose climate change 'improvements' as part of other large scale capital projects

# Planning powers 2

- Statement of community involvement
- Mitigation and adaptation into LDF
- Community Infrastructure Levy/Section 106
- Examples
  - Enfield Council's sustainable design and construction policy
  - Uttlesford Council's SPD on home extensions

# Transport powers

- Local Transport Bill 2007/8 offers more powers:
  - Car, bike or van sharing
  - Fixed penalty notices for stationary idling
  - Congestion charging and workplace parking levy schemes
  - High occupancy vehicle lanes
  - Smarter driving
  - Park and ride
  - Section 106
- Example – Nottingham Workplace Levy



# Housing powers

- Provide shops/recreation grounds/other buildings in connection with housing provision
- Lay out streets/roads/open spaces in connection with housing provision
- Provide assistance for the purpose of improving living conditions
- Build in energy efficiency
- Fuel poverty and links to health
- Examples
  - Falmouth Beacon housing estate
  - Woking energy efficiency projects

# Financial powers

- Prudential borrowing e.g. energy efficiency, waste projects, mitigation and adaptation
- Trading and charging e.g. Woking's energy and environmental service company
- Housing Assistance e.g. interest free loans to residents installing renewable energy technologies

# Emergency planning powers

- Powers to incur expenditure and make grants or loans
- Facilitate investment in areas where potential climate change incidents are likely
- Examples
  - Cambridgeshire guidance on flood prevention and resilience for local business
  - Hampshire inquiry into impacts of climate change
- LA powers may change in future following Pitt Review

# Environmental protection powers

- Provide funding/support to local groups for promotion of environmental protection
- Link air quality and transport plans
- Range of powers, duties and functions which can help tackle climate change – air quality, pollution, litter, hazardous substances, smoke, emissions trading

# Sustainable Communities Act

- Opportunity for new thinking on challenges
- Channel for local people and councils to ask for best action for the area
- October 2008 – proposals invited from secretary of state
- More detail from LGA shortly

# Subsidiary powers

- Statutory duties, inc NERC Act 2007 and CC and Sustainable Energy Act 2006
- CC and/or environmental improvement targets
- Action plans by Secretary of State relating to promo of sustainability by LAs
- Communication and documentation of initiatives – FoI Act 2000
- Procurement – social and environmental
- School and education improvement

## Next steps/ challenges

- Development of borough wide Climate change Action Plan
- SD embedded in all service areas, not one or two “experts”
- Joint working/shared knowledge
- Integrate economic and environmental policies
- Awareness of/ preparedness for future requirements from government e.g. CAA

## Sustainable Development Advisory Group

### Environmental Management System

#### 1. Overview of the issue

Environmental Management within RMBC is prioritising legal compliance with The Energy Performance in Buildings Directive.

#### 2. Summary of key events in the period – up to 31 October 2008:

##### EMAS

The scheduled EMAS verification audit 28 – 31 July 2008 (Schools 18 June 2008) went very well and RMBC passed. This was primarily due to careful audit programming and does not reflect the true state of the EMAS system in the Council.

On receipt of the new certificate a presentation will be arranged for the 3 schools that have implemented EMAS namely Abbey School; St Mary's (Herringthorpe) RC Primary and Wath C of E Primary School. The intention is to arrange for the Mayor to present the pupil groups with a certificate for the schools and arrange for publication in the local press. This may be planned to coincide with a Council meeting so that all Members present can appreciate the efforts of the staff and children.

The Corporate Environmental Statement has been verified and printed and will be distributed.

A report has been submitted to CMT recommending the discontinuation of EMAS. No decision has been made to date. No work has been carried out on maintaining EMAS since July 2008 during the external audit.

##### Display Energy Certificates

Work has been focussed on compliance with the Energy Performance in Buildings Directive (EPBD). As an interim measure all Town Centre buildings are displaying a draft DEC. Surveys for all applicable buildings are approximately 80% complete. SC has now passed his DEC exam and awaiting ABBE to assess his portfolio prior to full accreditation.

On completion of accreditation, expected before the end of October all registered DEC's will be produced and displayed. This will be complete prior to the Christmas break. A programme will then be produced to update all certificates annually.

##### Energy Performance Certificates

Energy Performance Certificates are required for all new buildings or buildings that are being rented or sold. This has financial implications across the Council and relevant teams have been informed e.g. Moorgate Crofts has to produce an EPC each time they rent out an incubation unit. There are no accredited EPC assessors in the Council at the moment.



Steven Cope and David Rhodes should be accredited to carry out level 3 EPC's by December.

**Climate Change Action Plan / Environmental Policy**

A Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) is being developed and will integrate the Corporate Environmental Policy and Action Plan; EST draft Climate Change Action Plan; Carbon Management Action Plan and contribute to achieving NI 185/186.

**3. Key issues for Rotherham / how this fits in with Corporate priorities**

DEC production and CCAP development contribute to achieving the 2% reduction target for NI 185.

**4. Next Steps or action required.**

- Production and distribution of DEC's and advisory reports for all applicable buildings.
- Potential catch up on EMAS depending on CMT decision.
- Expansion of LAEF Funding.

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### **CRC Scheme General Proposals**

- The Carbon Reduction Commitment is an emission trading scheme and RMBC qualify for compulsory involvement. The scheme will begin with a 3 year introductory phase starting 1 April 2010.
- The Government aims to achieve savings of 1.2 million tonnes of carbon by 2020 from business and public sector organisations.
- Guidelines are expected mid 2009.
- The scheme will capture CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from operational buildings energy use and street lighting.
- Schools will participate in the CRC scheme with emissions being included in the RMBC emission report. A duty will be placed on schools requiring them to supply RMBC with annual energy use data.
- Private schools will only be included in CRC if their highest parent organisation passes the CRC inclusion threshold – of 6,000 MWhr / year of half hourly metered electricity use. Their electricity usage would have no bearing on local authorities' involvement in the CRC.
- Clarification will be needed for PFI and outsourcing contracts about who takes responsibility for energy supply and CRC obligations.
- Transport is not included.
- The first scheme compliance year will start April 2010 and run on a financial year. Annual government sale of allowances takes place in April (first in 2011) of each year with organisations reporting emissions and surrendering allowances at the end of October.
- Allowances will be distributed to participants by auction. Two types of auction are being considered are sealed bid and dynamic.

Projected emissions show cost of purchasing carbon allowances for 2010/11 & 2011/12 :

- 2010/11: 12 x 41,495 = £497,940
- 2011/12: 12 x 40,665 = £487,980
- Total = £985, 920

- Following the three-year introductory phase, a limit will be placed on the number of allowances available to participants in accordance with the emissions reduction path targeted to 2020, i.e. the number of allowances sold to participants will decrease each year. During the capped phases participants will be required to bid for allowances at auction. However, all other aspects of the scheme, such as the revenue recycling mechanism and the performance league table will be the same for both the introductory and capped phases of the scheme.
- Revenue raised by the sale or auction of CRC allowances will be recycled back to back to participants. The payment will be made in October, around six months

after the end of the emissions year to allow for reporting of emissions and reconciliation and to retain a sufficient gap between the auction and revenue recycling to maintain the signalling effect of the auction.

- In July, following the conclusion of the previous emissions year, the Government will publish a table which ranks qualifying organisations subject to the CRC based on their performance during that year. It is proposed that a bonus or a penalty (based on the recycling payment made in July) will apply to a qualifying organisation depending on its performance. The Government is consulting on the level of the penalty or the bonus that should apply and the metric that will be used to measure. Performance of participants will be shown in a Performance League Table that will differ over two phases. Position in the league table will depend on 3/2 metrics:

Phase	Metric	Explanation	weighting
1	Absolute savings	Reduction in CO <sub>2</sub> emissions	60%
	Early action	a. Installation of automatic meter systems (10%)	20%
		b. Energy accreditation (10%).	
Growth	Growth in size or revenue whilst demonstrating carbon reductions in real terms on a 5 year average	20%	
2	Absolute savings	Reduction in CO <sub>2</sub> emissions	75%
	Growth	Growth in size or revenue whilst demonstrating carbon reductions in real terms on a 5 year average	25%

- In terms of the Performance League Table, this means that performance within the first year (2010/11) of the scheme would now be based wholly on the “early action” metric. Emissions reductions within the Performance League Table would be measured against a rolling baseline of the preceding 5 years (since the start of the scheme for the first 5 years).
- Revenue recycling payments would be proportional to 2010/11 emissions with a bonus or penalty depending on league table position.
- Payments will be made via a simple BACS transfer and will be proportional to participants’ average annual emissions since the start of the scheme, with a percentage bonus or penalty based on their position within the performance league table. The final amount will be ‘proportional’ to annual average emissions since the start of the scheme because the payments across all participants will need to be multiplied by a ‘proportionality constant’.

*e.g.*

*Revenue recycling base payment calculation (ignoring bonus / penalty from the performance league table)*

*> RMBC has annual emissions over the first three years of the CRC Scheme of 1,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>, 900 tCO<sub>2</sub> and 800 tCO<sub>2</sub>.*

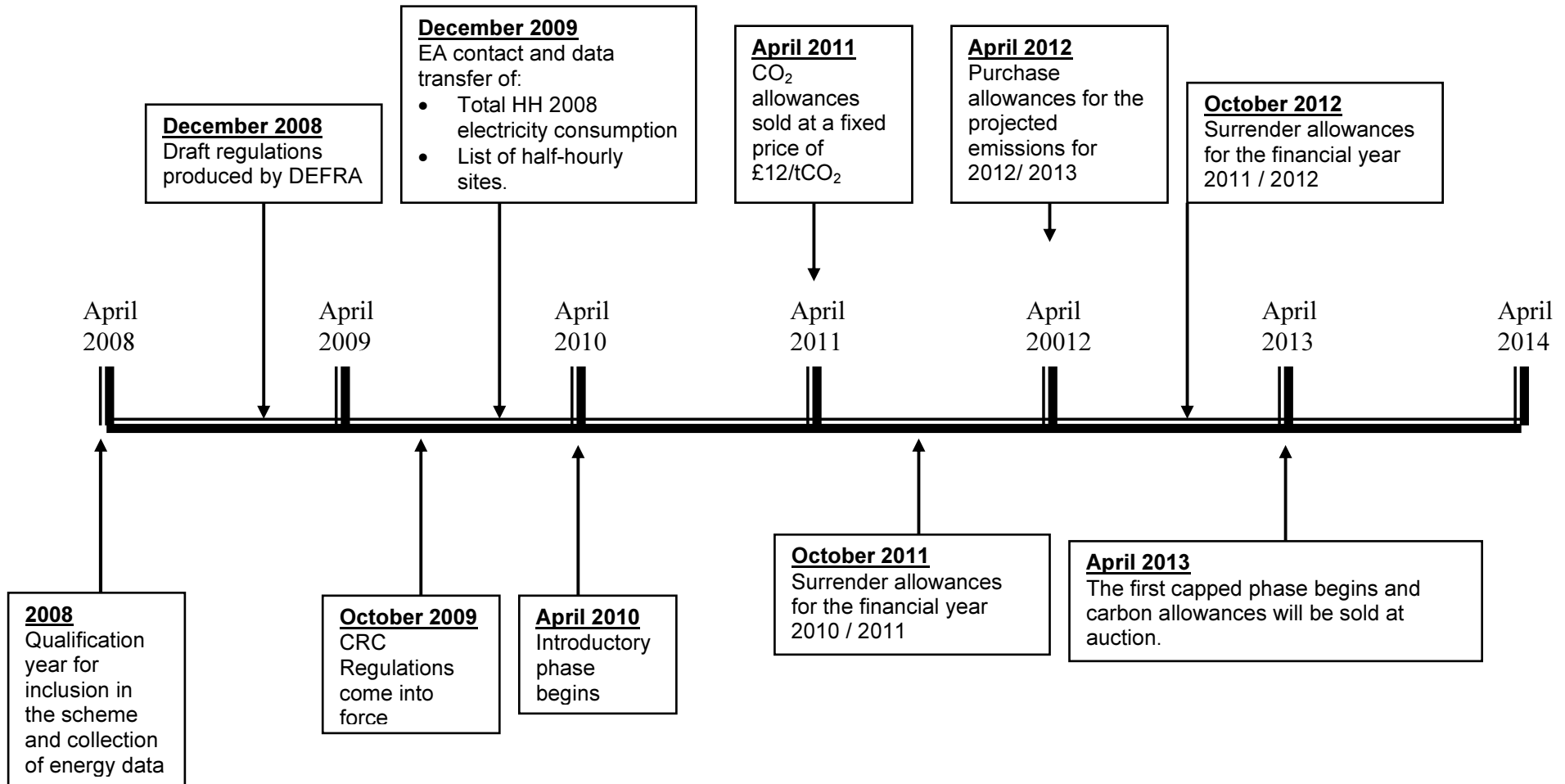
*> In year 3 of the Scheme RMBC's average annual emissions since the start of the scheme would be  $(1,000 + 900 + 800) / 3 = 900$  tCO<sub>2</sub>*

*> Therefore, in year 3 RMBC's share of the total revenue raised over the course of emissions year 3 (before the bonus or penalty based on its position in the performance league table) would be proportional to 900 tCO<sub>2</sub>.*

*> If the total annual average emissions from all participants since the start of the scheme equalled 9,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>, RMBC would, in year 3, receive a 10% share of the money recycled:  $(900 \times 100) / 9000 = 10\%$*

- At the end of the reconciliation period organisations holding more allowances than they need for compliance may wish to bank them for use or sale in future years and phases of the scheme. Banking helps to smooth abatement costs between phases, since organisations are able to realise the value of early abatement at a later date. This means banking adds an incentive for organisations to undertake early abatement action. One exception is that banking will not be allowed between the fixed price phase and the subsequent, capped phase of the scheme. Organisations will not be allowed to 'borrow' allowances from future years by using allowances bought from the auction at the start of the following emissions year.
- RMBC will be required to submit an annual data statement through an on-line registry identifying energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The data may be audited by the Environment Agency.
- The scheme aims to give organisations incentives to reduce carbon emissions by putting a price on carbon through trading carbon permits.
- **Green tariff electricity will be counted as grid electricity with no discount.** CRC is aimed primarily at improving energy efficiency and reducing emissions within the CRC sector, and therefore credit will not be given to offsetting schemes.

**Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Timeline**



**Members Sustainable Development  
Advisory Group  
Local Action 21 Progress Report**



**1. Overview of the issue(s) you are reporting on**

Progress of the LA21 project:

Specific Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) projects continue, particularly in relation to the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) Sustainable Schools Framework, together with more informal awareness raising sessions in the community. Ongoing support for projects contributing to sustainable development in Rotherham, particularly in relation to climate change and biodiversity.

**2. Summary of Highlights September 2008 to October 2008:**

- Sustainable Schools INSET day organised with the ESD Partnership at Kiveton Park and Wales Village Hall, alongside school travel plan awards event
- Successful biodiversity project with Aston CofE and Lodge Lane schools, linked to school grounds and Austen Park
- Successful 'global food' project at Herringthorpe Junior School
- Representation at Rotherham Show, via Green Spaces, Rotherfed and Play Pathfinder consultation
- Rotherham Environment Forum meeting, including consultation on Decent Homes environmental measures and walk around Canklow Woods
- Participation in 'Working Heroes' project with Redscope Primary, Kimberworth

**3. Key issues for Rotherham/how this fits in with Corporate priorities**

Continued focus specifically on climate change and biodiversity, in line with Council/Sustainability Partnership priorities. Continued implementation of sustainable development as a cross-cutting theme in the (Sustainable) Community Strategy, e.g. through attendance at the Rotherham Environment/Sustainable Development Partnership, Officers Group and as co-ordinator of the ESD Partnership and Rotherham Environment Forum (REF)

**4. Next Steps or action required**

- Progress implementation of St Ann's Primary School Dream Playgrounds plans
- Commence Supergrounds project with Dalton Listerdale Jandl School
- Rotherham Environment Forum meeting on Dec 9<sup>th</sup>, to feature consultation on Green Spaces Strategy
- Progress implementation of Action Plans at EMAS/Green Check Schools and celebrate school's successful external EMAS audits
- Start Green Check at Aston CofE
- Continued ESD activity as part of the DCFS Sustainable Schools initiative, e.g. build up to more school's involvement in next year's World Environment Day and organise continued INSETs
- Progress closer working with Children and Young People's Services and funding for next year

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