

Summary Note of the meeting of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Group.

1. Introduction

The Environment and Climate Change Strategy Group held its introductory meeting on Wednesday 12th December 2012, 11.30 am – 1 pm, Committee Room 2, Town Hall.

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Wyatt with Cllr Mannion and Cllr Wallis. Apologies were received from Cllr Beck.

2. Agenda

The preliminary agenda included a welcome from Cllr Wyatt explaining the purpose of the meeting which was to review the council's approach to environment and climate change through examining the scope of the existing Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2011 – 2015. It was expected that this would then lead to a refreshing of priorities with member input and a resultant renewed outcome focused action plan. The plan to be actioned by officers but overseen by the Environment and Climate Change Strategy Group who would review the action plan at quarterly meetings.

3. Rotherham's Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2011 – 2015.

The Group reviewed the Strategy and action Plan (attached) to assess the continued relevance of each the section and made suggestions for changes.

The overall view was that the number of individual actions and targets should be reduced to a more meaningful data set and be made more specific with measurable and quantifiable targets.

Specific comments included:

Strategy – Sign up to “Climate Local” – the Local Government Association to drive, inspire and support council action on a changing climate.

Policy – the Strategy and Action Plan to focus on the councils' efforts both to reduce carbon emissions and also to improve their resilience to the affects of our changing climate and extreme weather.

Leadership – Strong member steer and championing needed across all portfolios as the agenda is all encompassing including housing, transport, jobs and economy, fuel poverty, community resilience, and protecting the natural environment.

Built and Natural Environment – impact on drainage system leading to floods due to surface water run off as result of loss of green spaces and gardens, greater density of development.

Transport – Need to engage SYPTE as a key strategic partner and make links to any similar work they are undertaking.

Engagement, Education and Awareness Raising – continued need and importance of working with schools and business sector. Also the importance of making links to local environment groups given the significant number of people involved local biodiversity, climate change, and environmental issues.

Housing – seeking an up date on Warm Front application.

Procurement – this was an area of strength for the council with green measures built into the whole procurement cycle.

It was agreed that officers would submit an updates and revised action plan to the next meeting.

4. Date of Next meeting.

Wednesday 30th January 2013, Committee Room 2, Rotherham Town Hall,
12.30 pm to 2 pm.