

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet
2.	Date:	22 May 2013
3.	Title:	Rotherham Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan Review 2013
4.	Directorate:	Resources

5. Summary

This report asks Cabinet to approve changes to the Council's Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan and to sign up to the 'Climate Local' commitment to reducing CO² emissions and improving the environment.

Rotherham Council approved the Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan in August 2011. A number of significant changes including new legislation; Council restructure and economic situation have resulted in the requirement to review and update the Strategy and Action Plan.

'Climate Local' is a Local Government Association initiative that commits local authorities signing up to the initiative to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the affects of our changing climate.

6. Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to:

- **Endorse the revised Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.**
- **Commit and sign up to the Local Government Association Climate Local Scheme.**

7. Proposals and Details

Rotherham Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan have been through a review process to revise and update as a result of new legislation, RMBC restructure, changes to roles and responsibilities and the economic situation we are currently experiencing. Key stakeholders; lead officers and Members have been consulted and workshops and one to one meetings have been held resulting in a number of amendments to the Strategy and Action Plan. The revised Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan are at **Appendix A**.

In November 2007, Rotherham Council signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change. 'Climate Local' is a Local Government Association initiative that replaces the declaration and commits signatories to:

- Set out actions to reduce carbon emissions and respond to changes in the climate.
- Set targets; method of monitoring and performance management.
- Demonstrate achievements and share with other councils and national partners:
 - Actions undertaken to achieve our targets.
 - Our progress
 - Learning from our experiences and achievements.

All of the requirements required by signing Climate Local are included in the revised Environment and Climate Change Strategy. Monitoring and performance management will be done through the Members Environment and Climate Change Group.

Further details about Climate Local are at **Appendix B**.

8. Finance

There is no additional cost directly associated with the review and update of this strategy.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The main risk and uncertainty is ensuring that Rotherham Council work to continue to improve our environmental performance and comply with environmental legislation.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan will drive environmental improvements; carbon dioxide emission reductions and measures to adapt to climate change in accordance with the Corporate Plan.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Contributions from a wide range of stakeholders including officers and Members have been included in the revised Strategy and Action Plan.

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