

# TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

## COMMUNITIES ADVISORY BOARD

13 December 2011

### Report of the Chief Executive

#### Part 1- Public

#### Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

#### **1 NEW NOTTINGHAM DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

**To update Members on the Nottingham Declaration consultation which has taken place and to outline our response and position for the future.**

#### **1.1 Background**

- 1.1.1 The Nottingham Declaration Partnership, which has been supporting the Nottingham Declaration, is in the process of re-launching the Declaration with revised commitments for signatories.
- 1.1.2 The Nottingham Declaration has provided a platform for local authorities and their partners to pledge to systematically address the causes and impacts of climate change. At Tonbridge & Malling we signed up a number of years ago and have targeted our efforts on climate change through the Climate Change Officer Study Group, the Climate Change Strategy, Managing Development in the Environment Development Plan Document and our work with KCC through the Climate Change Network.
- 1.1.3 It has been ten years since the original Nottingham Declaration was drawn up and they are now seeking to revise the Declaration to enable local authorities to identify, demonstrate, measure and improve their local action on climate change. All signatories were therefore encouraged to take part in an online consultation exercise which illustrated some of the key areas in which the new Nottingham Declaration will change. Attached as **Annex 1** to this report are the consultation papers and questions.

#### **1.2 Next Steps**

- 1.2.1 The results from the consultation will be considered by a group consisting of the original Nottingham Declaration Partnership and invited local authorities and climate change specialists. This group will decide how to take forward the objectives in the most appropriate way and this will then be communicated to all

signatories of the Nottingham Declaration Partnership. Until we receive a final version of the new declaration, it is very difficult to predict whether we will be able to sign up to the new version.

- 1.2.2 We felt it was important that any targets or ambitions that we might be asked to adopt should be relevant to district councils and should be deliverable in terms of any possible financial implications. This point was picked up throughout the questionnaire and we indicated that, local authorities should:

Q6 (b) Be able to pick and choose commitments that are most locally appropriate, and;

Q8 (b) Either separate declarations for District, Unitary and County Councils should be developed or, alternatively, all local authorities should be given the opportunity to sign up to a range of commitments and targets, allowing some to sign up to a few commitments and lower targets, and others to all commitments, higher targets and their own commitments.

- 1.2.3 If the above recommendations are not built into the new Declaration, it may be difficult for us to commit to all targets if we feel they are not within our remit or have unacceptable financial implications.

### **1.3 Legal Implications**

- 1.3.1 The existing Nottingham Declaration has always been a voluntary pledge, with no statutory function or reporting mechanism.

### **1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

- 1.4.1 N/A

### **1.5 Risk Assessment**

- 1.5.1 N/A

### **1.6 Equality Impact Assessment**

- 1.6.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

### **1.7 Recommendations**

- 1.7.1 A further report be submitted to the Communities Advisory Board once the detail of the revised Nottingham Declaration has been produced, and;
- 1.7.2 Tonbridge & Malling B.C sign up to the new Nottingham Declaration, providing that the points made in 1.2.2 have been adopted.

The Chief Executive confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

contact: Gill Fox

Nil

David Hughes  
Chief Executive

<b>Screening for equality impacts:</b>		
<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>	<b>Explanation of impacts</b>
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	Climate change affects all groups.
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	N/A	As Above
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		N/A

*In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.*