

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

05 February 2008

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Council

1 REVISED CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

To endorse a revised version of the Climate Change Strategy following comments and amendments from the consultation phase.

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 The consultation phase for the Draft Climate Change Strategy is now complete and we have had comments from the following groups and individuals:

- Tonbridge and Malling Green Party
- Medway Internal Drainage Board
- West Malling Parish Council
- Tonbridge Civic Society
- Medway Valley Countryside Partnership
- The Society of Friends
- Kent County Council
- Platt Parish Council
- Stansted parish Council
- Cllr. Thornewell
- Cliff Millgate (Hildenborough resident)
- Jerry Diccox (Tonbridge resident)
- Peter Stibbard (Tonbridge resident)

1.1.2 Many of the responses were extensive documents and included a vast range of comments and suggestions. Generally respondents were pleased that the Borough Council has recognised the need to tackle the issue of climate change. However, the main concern related to the Sustainable Development section and sections relating to planning, development and transport. It is therefore these sections that have altered most significantly since the original draft. A copy of the revised strategy accompanies these agenda papers.

1.1.3 Attempts have been made to acknowledge within the revised strategy many of the suggestions from respondents, for example adding some information on the

impact of climate change locally, adding more references to walking and cycling and including information regarding flood risk.

1.2 The Scope of the Strategy

- 1.2.1 It is important that we are realistic with our targets and the impact we can have on climate change. We have tried to set out the contribution that we can make through the delivery of our key services and our leadership role within the community. Unfortunately, some of the comments received were beyond the scope of this strategy and therefore have not been considered within this document. We were also conscious of the need to keep the document as concise as possible as well as avoiding duplication of other Council plans and policies.
- 1.2.2 Actions within the Council's Climate Change Strategy will not be the only way we will be addressing climate change. The Local Development Framework will include minimising the impact of development on climate change and ensuring developments are designed to adapt to the consequences of climate change. This point has now been made clearer within the Climate Change Strategy.

1.3 Legal Implications

- 1.3.1 None

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.4.1 Any financial implications arising from the Strategy and its associated implementation plan will be met from existing budgets.

1.5 Risk Assessment

- 1.5.1 N/A

1.6 Policy Considerations

- 1.6.1 The Council's Local Development Framework will contain policies on sustainable development and sustainable transport. The emerging Managing Development and the Environment – Development Plan Document will detail policies on mitigation and adaptation to the effects of climate change.

1.7 Recommendations

- 1.7.1 That the Climate Change Strategy **BE ADOPTED**.

Background papers:

contact: Gill Fox

Draft Climate Change Strategy – Consultation Responses.

David Hughes
Chief Executive