

**BETTER PLACES PARTNERSHIP****Tackling Climate Change in Haringey:  
Discussion Paper on Developing a Climate Change  
Action Plan and Projects****JUNE 2006****1. BACKGROUND**

Climate change is a global issue which has serious implications at local level. It is recognised that the Council and other agencies have a key role to play in reducing carbon emissions and mitigating against climate change, and in adopting measures which will reduce the impact of climate change.

In March 2006, the Better Places Partnership discussed climate change issues and agreed the development of an action plan for mitigating and adapting to impact of climate change and development of practical projects on climate change at local level. It also agreed to allocate NRF funding to these activities, and recommended the Council to sign the Nottingham Declaration on climate change.

Parallel to that process, the Council's Executive Advisory Board agreed in March 2006 the approach to be taken for developing a climate change action plan, and carrying out a climate change audit for Council's activities and services.

It might seem that this man-made climate change would be a positive thing for the UK, giving us warmer summers and fewer cold winters. But hotter summers and less rain in the south and east would mean water shortages, forest fires and damage to crops and wildlife. In the north and west there could be much heavier rain and more flooding, and as the polar ice caps continue to melt, rising sea levels will threaten many coastal communities.

Rising temperatures could lead to an increase in insects, with scorpions and poisonous spiders becoming a feature of life in a hotter UK. There could also be an increase in pest infestations and diseases.

Overall, the cost to society, the environment, our health and the economy is likely to far outweigh any benefits. In the last 40 years, weather related economic losses have increased more than 10 fold. Top scientists predict that over the next 50 years Britain may see increases of:

- 10,000 extra cases of food poisoning every year
- 5,000 extra cases skin cancer every year
- 2,000 extra cases of cataracts every year

Other changes that may occur, if we don't take action:

- by 2080 sea levels may rise by as much as 60 - 86 cm

- greater risk of tropical diseases
- increase in weed growth and garden pests
- water shortages

Climate change is a new issue for local authorities, and the work around developing the action plan will require capacity building, promotional activities, partnership building, securing ownership and commitment from partners, businesses, and individuals.

## **2. APPROACH**

### **A) Partnership Working**

Many public agencies, organisations and business in the borough have key role to play in reducing fossil-fuel based energy use. Partnership working is an essential part of the process of developing the action plan. Better Places Partnership is a key platform for championing the work on “climate change “across the borough.

### **B) Process is important**

Climate change is a new issue, and will require capacity building, promotional activities, partnership building and securing ownership and commitment from many partners, businesses, and individuals. Therefore the process of developing the plan both within and outside the council is as important as the final Action Plan document itself.

### **C) Developing a Climate Change Action Plan for Haringey**

It is suggested that the development of the Climate Change Action Plan for Haringey should be a two-stage process. The first stage is to develop a Climate Change Action Plan for Haringey Council. This will build upon the Council’s community leadership role and will set out proposals for actions and measurable improvements that the Council can implement within its resources to reduce fossil-fuel based energy use.

The second stage will be to work with other key stakeholders and community groups to achieve their commitment to actions against climate change across the borough. HSP partners represented at the Better Places Board will play a key role in this process.

This will include

- Climate change audit for the Council activities
- Analysis of the audit outcomes and identification of key actions (It is proposed that the Plan will initially focus on actions and projects which are deliverable within a short period of time, will have significant effect on carbon emissions, are cost-effective, will build upon existing practice with the aim of improving it, and which will have high profile to help raising awareness on climate change issues across the borough )
- Adopting the Climate Change Action Plan for Haringey Council
- The Council to sign up to the Nottingham Declaration
- Widening the Climate Change Action by involving HSP partners (Many public agencies, organizations and business in the borough have key role to play in reducing fossil fuel based energy use. Better Places Partnership and the CEF is a key platform for championing the work on “climate change “across the borough.)

### **B) Developing and Implementing practical projects**

It is important to complement the Action Plan development with borough-wide projects which:

- help to raise awareness on climate change issues, technologies and solutions among borough residents,

- build capacity for use of renewable energy, and
- can be used to demonstrate a range of solutions available for reducing energy use and carbon emissions.

Such projects which can be funded via NRF funding could include:

- Grants to householders for renewable energy options
- Grants to schools and community centres for use of renewable energy options
- Communication strategy, competitions, events etc. to disseminate climate change related information as widely as possible
- Working with schools
- Commissioning energy strategies for proposed major developments sites
- Work with neighbourhood managers on area based project for awareness raising
- Training for small builders for sustainable design and construction

We aim to implement a number of projects in 2006/7 including:

- Guidelines for developers for Sustainable Design and Construction
- Guidelines for front gardens
- Educational package for schools on quality of built environment and climate change
- Residents survey on attitudes to use of grants for renewable energy etc.

For other practical projects, a feasibility study and capacity building is needed. A feasibility study will identify the most practical and cost effective projects and their long term resource implications and ability to be implemented. Use of an external organisation for project development and feasibility is a possibility. Organisations such as Solar for London, CEN , local energy centres can help develop and implement householder grants projects as well as bringing technical expertise and additional funding for project implementation.

#### **D) Monitoring energy use/carbon reductions**

One of the problems that we most likely to encounter is how we measure the effectiveness of the Action Plan. Measuring energy use and carbon emission across the borough for every relevant activity is difficult. Therefore, there will be a special emphasis in the Action Plan on identifying the most relevant methodology for measuring energy use across the borough and for monitoring carbon reductions. Partnership working will also provide an important basis for monitoring activities.

### **3. RESOURCES**

Full time staff - for the action plan development, coordination, partnership working and monitoring

Other staff – project and policy development

External expertise - for feasibility study, development and implementation of projects

Community consultation - additional council staff input

Promotional activities

#### **4. ESTIMATED FUNDING REQUIREMENT**

<b>Source of Funding (state internal or external) *</b>	<b>Year 1 £'000</b>	<b>Year 2 £'000</b>	<b>Year 3 £'000</b>
Climate Change Action Plan and related activities	70	70	70
Project development and implementation	85 (150)	100 (150)	150

#### **5. MILESTONES**

<b>No</b>	<b>Milestone(s)</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
1	Project approach discussion at Better Haringey/CEF	June 06
2	Finalise Climate Change Audit for Haringey Council (draft)	July 06
3	CEMB report agreement on climate change audit and setting up a cross-service working group	July 06
4	Haringey officers roundtable discussion	Autumn 06
5	Progress report to Better Places/CEF	Autumn 06
6	Draft Climate Change Action Plan for Haringey Council	December 06
7	Haringey Council to sign up to Nottingham Declaration, agree Action Plan and implementation for Haringey Council starts	Summer 07
8	Progress report to Better Places /CEF and also Climate Change event : Round table discussion at Better Places Partners input	Summer 07
9	Community event/consultation for borough-wide climate change strategy	Summer 07
11	HSP to adopt climate change action plan for partners	Autumn /Winter 07
12	Monitoring arrangements in place/in force/Review of action	Autumn 07
13	Pilot projects: Development and implementation	Summer 06 - Spring 08

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