

## Climate Change Scrutiny Working Group

# Final Report



Councillor Terry Dix (Chairman of Staffordshire County Council and Climate Change Champion) and Councillor Erica Bayliss (Chairman of the Climate Change Scrutiny Working Group) receiving Carbon Trust accreditation from Iain Wright, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Department of Communities and Local Government).

## Foreword

I was asked to take on the role of Chairman of the Members' Climate Change Scrutiny Working Group in 2005. At that time there was a growing awareness that climate change was a serious issue, but it was one of many. Looking back to that time I realise that the County Council has come a very long way, both in its understanding of the issue, and in its response to the challenge.

At an early stage we recommended that the County Council should set itself the target of reducing its carbon dioxide emissions by 60% by 2050, measured from a 1990 baseline, and that recommendation was accepted. After little more than two years, the recorded reduction has been 41%. By any standard this is a magnificent achievement, of which the County Council can be proud, but we need to redouble our efforts. Scientific opinion now suggests that an 80% reduction target is needed, and this Council has committed itself to that challenge.

We concentrated, quite rightly, in putting the Council's own house in order at first, but we did not lose sight of our wider responsibilities to the communities of our county. The Staffordshire Declaration on Climate Change gave an opportunity for other potential partners to join us in committing to action to reduce their carbon emissions, and latterly the Local Area Agreement has demonstrated the real value of working in partnership.

My thanks are due to everybody who has contributed to our success so far, but in particular I must pay tribute to present and former colleagues who made such valuable contributions to the deliberations of the Climate Change Scrutiny Working Group: to Tim Corbett, Janet England, Richard Gorton, Jim Muir, Mike Poulter and Tony Wilkins. Thanks are due, too the core group of officers who have assisted me: to Sarah Garner, Steve Potter and Ian Wykes.

It has been notable that much of the effort that has resulted in our successes to date has been applied by a relatively small group of dedicated individuals, who are thanked elsewhere in this document. The challenge now is to embed thinking and action on climate change across the County Council as a whole; to make it as commonplace a consideration as is value for money or customer care. I hope that this report proves to be a catalyst for that action.



**County Councillor Erica Bayliss  
Chairman of the Climate Change Scrutiny Working Group**

## 1. Comments and Recommendations of the Climate Change Scrutiny Working Group

- 1.1 The focus of our recommendations is performance management, in line with the Working Group's wish to ensure that the actions that flow from "A Hard Rain" (the County Council's Climate Change Action Plan) and the Staffordshire Declaration on Climate Change are embedded in the County Council's business planning and performance management arrangements and also job roles and responsibilities.
- 1.2 The Staffordshire Declaration commits the County Council to declare publicly, within appropriate plans and strategies, the commitment to achieve a significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from its operations.
- 1.3 Headline performance indicators are included in the County Council's Sustainable Development Thematic Improvement Plan and progress against these is reported to Cabinet and the Corporate Policy Scrutiny and Performance Committee on a quarterly basis as part of the County Council's performance management framework.
- 1.4 The Working Group **recommend** that this provision is supported by the Corporate Policy Scrutiny and Performance Committee asking the Economic Prosperity and Sustainable Communities (EPSC) Scrutiny and Performance Panel, as climate change is within their remit, to consider, on the Committee's behalf, more detailed quarterly progress updates. These updates should include, but not be limited to, the:
  - implementation of "A Hard Rain", Staffordshire Declaration and supporting policies
  - continued exploration of the areas of the County Council's activity contributing to carbon dioxide emissions and how carbon emissions might be reduced
  - continued exploration of a variety of renewable energy developments and their potential part in a mixed energy economy in the county and in the County Council's response to climate change
  - promotion of the Staffordshire Declaration in regard to encouraging co-signatories
  - the development of the leadership role of the County Council in tackling climate change particularly in regard to: maintaining the profile of the subject; internal and external communications
  - the management of outcomes in regard to the relationship with co-signatories (especially those not Local Area Agreement partners).
- 1.5 In addition, we **recommend** that the County Council should develop the mechanism for performance management with the co-signatories to the Staffordshire Declaration, those within and without the Local Area Agreement, to evidence the shared contribution to reducing emissions and other progress in this area.
- 1.6 As climate change is an issue of cross cutting relevance, the Working Group **ask** the County Council to ensure that it is appropriately addressed across its hierarchy of plans. Discrete actions should appear in the relevant service and

team plans; corporate actions should appear in all appropriate plans at the thematic, service and team plan level. The Personal Performance Review process should pick up individual responsibilities and identify training and development needs in regard to this issue. The Working Group consider that it is particularly important to ensure that senior managers are equipped to embed thinking and action on climate change across the County Council. We also **recommend** that the job descriptions of County Council premise managers/those with premise management responsibility should be revised to include their responsibilities in regard to energy management and that the County Council ensures that any associated training needs are met.

- 1.7 We **recommend** that “A Hard Rain” be reviewed annually and in the light of any new national or regional developments relevant to Staffordshire’s response to climate change, with further editions issued as necessary. Further policy development in this area is likely to be needed in future and it is **recommended** that the Cabinet involve scrutiny in such future policy development.
- 1.8 We **recommend** that all significant County Council policies and programmes should be assessed by the Development Services Climate Change Team for their potential impacts with respect to carbon emissions and climate change adaptation.
- 1.9 We **recommend** that the County Council explore available means of obtaining formal accreditation for the Council’s work on climate change, where this is beneficial and complementary to the performance management arrangements and to the promotion of the County Council’s work and good practice. This should include Environmental Management Systems, for example ISO 14001.
- 1.10 The Working Group have discussed with the Chairman of the Council his role as Climate Change Champion. As a result, we **recommend** that the Climate Change Champion role description that is appended to this report be adopted and that this role be integral to the post of Chairman i.e. assumed by subsequent Chairmen. We also **recommend** that the Climate Change Champion should be invited to attend the meetings of the EPSC Scrutiny and Performance Panel when they consider the quarterly progress updates.
- 1.11 The County Council resolved that the Working Group should continue in an advisory capacity to the Chairman in his Champion role. However, we do not consider it appropriate to perpetuate the Climate Change Scrutiny Working Group in this capacity. We **recommend** that this advisory function be undertaken by the Climate Change Team and the officer group who will deal with the apportionment of the target reduction in carbon dioxide emissions between the County Council’s Directorates/service areas. However, the Working Group consider that scrutiny involvement in this apportionment would be appropriate and would like to undertake this as their final task.
- 1.12 From the Working Group’s monitoring of the implementation of “A Hard Rain”, the area which we consider is least advanced is the production of adaptation plans. Therefore, we **recommend**:
  - that the first quarterly update to the EPSC Scrutiny and Performance Panel includes an update from Directorates as to how they will address this; and

- an adaptation planning workshop for service planners is held.
- 1.13 Dealing with emergencies is one aspect of adaptation planning and, given that an impact of climate change is anticipated to be increased frequency and perhaps severity of climate change related emergencies (e.g. flooding, heat waves and wildfires), we **recommend** that the County Council ensures that there is a regular review of: the resources that are required and allocated; and the partnership working arrangements that are in place, to support effective response to such emergencies.
- 1.14 We **recommend** dedicated Invest to Save arrangements for the response to climate change, given the value at stake. Resources will be required for research and development including pilot projects and for supporting the development of energy management. As time goes by a longer term view will be required in regard to investment as payback periods for climate change related initiatives will be longer. We expect that the County Council will also pursue external funding where available to support the response to climate change.
- 1.15 Part of our focus has been on young people and schools (the control of emissions in regard to schools is outside the County Council's control). We **recommend** that the County Council uses the available mechanisms, including promotion of the Eco Schools programme and assistance with energy management, to support communication with young people about climate change and schools to reduce emissions. We also **ask** that carbon emissions and adaptation considerations form part of the Building Schools for the Future programme.

## 2. Setting the Scene

- 2.1 The cross cutting Climate Change Scrutiny Working Group was established originally, through the former Corporate Policy Scrutiny Committee, to prepare for a County Council debate on climate change. The Working Group submitted a report to the County Council which, together with presentations from the Environment Agency and the Marches Energy Agency, stimulated and provided a focus for the debate that took place in July 2005. The report established a factual base from which the County Council's position on climate change could be developed and recommended next steps in regard to the County Council's response to climate change.

## 3. Terms of Reference

- 3.1 The resolutions arising from the County Council debate established the remit of the Working Group and are set out below:
- Staffordshire County Council accepts that climate change is a reality and that, if unchecked, it will have serious consequences for the wellbeing of the people of Staffordshire, and for their environment.
  - The County Council acknowledges the need to take a pro-active position to combat climate change, through reductions in its own energy consumption and

greenhouse gas emissions, through promoting renewable energy generation, and through ways which include community leadership and example.

- The County Council acknowledges the need for Staffordshire as a whole to contribute its share of national and regional aspirations for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and for electricity generation from renewable sources. There is a need for a 'mixed energy economy' that takes account of the full range of opportunities for energy conservation and renewable energy generation, including all of the available technologies.
- The County Council will initiate a thorough public consultation and debate on climate change leading to the production of a Staffordshire Declaration. The County Council will commit itself to the Declaration and champion its cause amongst partner organisations to achieve an effective alliance delivering a coherent and co-ordinated response to the challenges of climate change.
- The County Council will prepare and implement an internal action plan for climate change, incorporating the following elements:
  - a strategy for energy conservation and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions;
  - a position statement on renewable energy generation, including wind energy; and
  - a strategy for coping with the potential impacts of climate change that cannot be avoided.
- The Climate Change Working Group continues to direct and oversee this work at Member level, reporting back to scrutiny, Cabinet and full Council as appropriate.

#### 4. Membership of the Working Group

4.1 The membership of the Working Group is as follows:

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Scrutiny and Performance Committee/Panel</b>
Erica Bayliss (Chairman)	Children and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel
Tim Corbett	Economic Prosperity and Sustainable Communities Scrutiny and Performance Panel
Janet Eagland	Staffordshire Health Scrutiny Committee
Jim Muir	Corporate Policy Scrutiny and Performance Committee
Mike Poulter	Corporate Policy Scrutiny and Performance Committee
Tony Wilkins	Partnerships Scrutiny and Performance Panel

4.2 Councillor Richard Gorton was a Member of the Working Group up to April 2007.

## **5. Methods of Investigation**

5.1 The scrutiny process undertaken by the Working Group, in the course of contributing to and monitoring the development of the County Council's response to climate change, involved:

- holding regular meetings to consider various types of information and evidence;
- involvement in public consultation;
- undertaking visits and attending presentations to explore a variety of renewable energy developments;
- exploring links with the work of other bodies involved or potentially involved in responding to climate change; and
- having regard to national and regional climate change related developments.

## **6. Findings**

6.1 The Working Group's activity has already given rise to various comments, recommendations and actions, which have been reported according to the Group's remit. The resulting outcomes are included as appropriate in the paragraphs that follow.

### **Internal Action Plan**

6.2 The Working Group were involved in preparing "A Hard Rain": Staffordshire County Council's Climate Change Action Plan". The Action Plan was to cover: the background and evidence; the current position, including the nature of the issues for Staffordshire; and the direction of travel and steps to be taken by the County Council.

6.3 Members considered the three key areas to be addressed in the Action Plan which were: energy conservation (reducing carbon dioxide emissions); energy procurement; and adaptation. To establish the current position, they noted that software was available that would enable the calculation of the County Council's carbon footprint, using 2002/03 as a baseline. They found that the biggest contributors to this footprint that would need to be addressed were: the built estate; street lighting; business related mileage; and waste in the work place. Members considered what would be the most appropriate way to set reduction targets. The Marches Energy Agency recommended the adoption of an initial target of 2% compound reduction per annum, from the baseline, to be reviewed in 2010. This fitted with the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution finding that an international agreement to limit atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations to no more than 550 parts per million implied a reduction of 60% from 2000 levels by 2050. This target was built into the Action Plan.

6.4 Members found that achieving the target reduction in carbon dioxide emissions and the potential for renewable energy generation would be partly reliant on the principle of 'Invest to Save' (i.e. some investment would be required which would 'pay back' over a period of time in financial terms and in a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions). This consideration was built into the Action Plan.

- 6.5 Members found that even if the production of carbon dioxide stopped immediately, there would still be 30 years of detrimental effects due to the carbon that had already been produced. In the future, more extreme weather was anticipated such as flooding and heat waves and the Council would need to: ensure continuity of service; handle unexpected emergencies; and plan for the future, including with partners.
- 6.6 After making final comments on the document, the Working Group recommended the Action Plan to Cabinet and it was adopted formally, in October 2005, as the County Council's strategy for reducing its greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change.
- 6.7 Following this, the Working Group began to scrutinise the implementation of the Action Plan as follows:
- **The development of supporting directorate action plans**
- 6.7.1 A letter was sent to the County Council's Directorates and Chief Executive's Office requesting sight of outline directorate action plans. In February 2006, Members were provided with a summary of responses to the letter and, in May 2006, the Working Group interviewed directorate representatives to get a picture of progress across the County Council. During the course of this scrutiny, the Working Group found that whilst there was some good progress, particularly in the Development Services Directorate, the translation of the target reduction in carbon dioxide emissions into planned, directorate-specific actions was proving more of a challenge than had been anticipated.
- 6.7.2 Members considered what might be done to address this issue and found that participation in the Carbon Trust's Local Authority Carbon Management Programme could support the directorates in their action planning and the County Council in ensuring and measuring progress in regard to the target for reducing carbon dioxide emissions. In exploring the business case for participating in the Programme, Members found that it would allow the Council to build on what had already been achieved, within a recognised framework / to a national standard i.e. there would be greater progress / implemented change at the end of the Programme than if the Council had 'started from scratch'. Members sought and received an assurance that the staffing impact of officer time being devoted to this programme would be managed. The Working Group endorsed the County Council's participation in this Programme, which went ahead.
- 6.7.3 After this, the Working Group received regular updates on progress against the project plan for the Carbon Management Programme. The updates covered the collection of baseline information from which to project future trends for carbon emissions and the calculation of the Value at Stake (the projected future financial cost to the County Council if it did not reduce its carbon dioxide emissions). The updates also covered the process of refining the long list of opportunities for reducing carbon dioxide emissions into a set of cross-directorate and specific actions. This was done by prioritising those which were the cheaper options that would also deliver a significant reduction in carbon dioxide emissions initially, working up to the larger scale/cost options with a longer payback period. Some of these opportunities were those explored by the Working Group as described in the paragraphs below.

6.7.4 The Working Group was mindful, from the outset of their work, to emphasise that the County Council's response to climate change was a corporate matter although the Development Services Directorate was providing much of the assistance to Directorates. This assistance included the production of guidance on how to prepare adaptation plans.

- **The main areas of the Council's activity contributing to carbon dioxide emissions and how carbon emissions might be reduced**

6.7.5 In December 2005, the Working Group heard from a County Property Services Officer about the measures that had already been put into place to reduce carbon dioxide emissions for the built estate. Members found that radical action was required to make further progress. Two particular areas would need to be addressed: energy housekeeping, where action across the Council was required; and switching to a green tariff for energy supply, which had cost implications. Members found that energy saving could be achieved by officers remembering to switch off computer equipment when not in use and they supported guidance being issued on this matter. Design guidance would also be produced to ensure that energy efficiency was built in to new buildings/developments.

6.7.6 In July 2006, the Working Group heard from a Development Services, Specialist Services Officer about street lighting in regard to the target reduction in carbon dioxide emissions. Members found that 5% of the electricity supply for street lighting was being procured from renewable sources and that the replacement programme was ahead of schedule, with the number of reported faults down, leading to less mileage to complete repairs. Practical opportunities for conserving electricity used for street lighting and traffic signs and signals would be determined by March 2007.

6.7.7 In September 2006, the Working Group found that the Council's SAP system was able to generate "grey fleet" (business travel undertaken in staff and Member's own vehicles) mileage information, which showed a very rapid rise across the Directorates.

6.7.8 In September 2006, Members also made further enquiries about Invest to Save, finding that the County Council was able to consider Invest to Save Schemes following the introduction of Prudential Borrowing which removed restrictions relating to spending on capital projects. A 'pump priming' investment could be made where the investment would be repaid and savings generated in the medium/long term. Schemes put forward under Invest to Save would be considered by Cabinet on a case by case basis and, if approved, the County Council would borrow the money. Interest was taken into account when calculating repayments. Schemes must generate cash to repay the loan and the loan must be repaid over a reasonable period of time.

- **A variety of renewable energy developments and their potential part in a mixed energy economy in the county and in the Council's response to climate change**

- 6.7.9 The Working Group received a presentation, in November 2005, from a representative of Stafford Chamber of Commerce, on the Eccleshall Biomass Project. The project was taking place to examine the viability of developing renewable energy in the Stafford area, in particular generating energy from crops, and was intended to result in a fully operational heat to energy plant producing electricity from locally grown energy crops. Members found out about the machinery and technology requirement; the effect of aspects of the environment, such as soil quality and weather, on crop yield; and energy use and financial sustainability in the longer term. In July 2006, the Working Group learned that Stafford Borough Council had offered funding to continue to support the Eccleshall Biomass project, and hoped to roll out the project across the county. At this stage, it was hoped that the County Council would be a partner in this project and be able to support it at a cost of less than £10,000.
- 6.7.10 In February 2006, Members visited Woking Borough Council (a Beacon Council for Sustainable Energy). They found that the Council had made many achievements in terms of reducing emissions, adaptation and promoting sustainable development as they had afforded priority to environmental considerations and had a dedicated energy services officer team. They had developed their strategy and climate neutral good practice guidance. Special purpose vehicles had been formulated to take forward their objectives. Members also learned about their plans for future initiatives including work beyond Woking. Members toured Woking's sustainable energy installations: Brockhill housing photo voltaic and Combined Heat and Power station; solar voltaic / vertical wind energy lighting column; Woking Pool in the Park and Leisure Lagoon photo voltaic panels; Woking Park Fuel Cell Combined Heat and Power system; and Town centre Combined Heat and Power station. They also visited the Wind Turbine located at South Oak Way, Green Park, Reading, and heard about its operation from a representative of Ecotricity. Members were able to appreciate at first hand the impact of these various renewable energy installations.
- 6.7.11 The Working Group also held a meeting at the Forest of Mercia Innovation Centre to provide Members with the opportunity to see the combustion unit supplying heat to the Centre and consider the scope for further such developments. Later, in July 2006, Members learned that, arising from the Government Biomass Task Force, the Forest of Mercia was intending to bid for some £800,000 to fund the installation of 12 biomass boilers in southern Staffordshire. The location of the boilers was yet to be decided but schools and highway depots were favoured. The Forest of Mercia would purchase and lease to operators specialised chippers, and the issue regarding moisture content would be addressed by storing and covering the chips to dry out.
- 6.7.12 The Working Group endorsed the Development Services Directorate undertaking a pilot project for the use of bio-fuel made from used oil from the School Meals Service. They heard from a bio diesel manufacturer about the process of preparing the fuel. The County Council already tested fuel for third parties and

would, therefore, test any trial fuel to make sure it was suitable before commencing the pilot. Members found that judging the outcome of the pilot would need to take into account various factors including carbon dioxide emissions savings, comparative costs, including transport and distribution costs, and issues such as the impact on vehicles' efficiency, servicing or warranties.

6.7.13 In February 2006, the Working Group considered a report on the development of renewable energy at Apedale and wrote to the Leader of the Council in support of this development. In April 2006, they viewed the early conceptual designs for the visitors centre at Apedale Country Park. By November 2006, plans were being finalised and there had been a successful bid for external funding which meant that the Visitor Centre would have a Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant route.

6.7.14 The Working Group also wrote to the former Cabinet Member for Development in support of the development of micro hydro electricity generation. They asked for and received details of the process for pursuing this, beginning with feasibility studies.

- **Links with the work of other bodies involved or potentially involved in responding to climate change**

6.7.15 In June 2006, Members of the Working Group joined the Members of the County Council's Planning Committee to receive a presentation from two Professors from Keele University on their areas of research which covered coal bed methane, carbon sequestration and alternative energy sources, including solid oxide fuel cells. The Working Group were encouraged by new innovations that might be applicable in the county. In July 2006, Members learned that initial discussions had been held with the University of Keele's Office of Research and Enterprise, about the establishment of a 'renewable energy hub'. This would be based on the Keele Campus, Apedale Visitors Centre and Lymedale Business Innovation Centre working together to demonstrate renewable energy including three micro hydro projects at Staffordshire Country Parks.

6.7.16 In November 2006, the Working Group were given an overview of Sustainable Staffordshire in relation to climate change.

- **Having regard to national and regional climate change related developments**

6.7.17 The reports given by the Development Services officers to the Working Group kept them abreast of any key developments in the national and regional context, including the passage of the Climate Change Bill through Parliament.

6.7.18 The Chairman attended a Local Government Association 'Climate Change – How Local Authorities can lead the way' conference on 18 November 2005 which left her in no doubt of the imperative to act. She reported in detail on what topics had been covered and passed the conference pack to the officers for information and to pursue any examples of good practice.

6.7.19 In July 2006, Members were made aware that the Government's Energy Review, to examine the UK's progress against the medium and long-term 2003 Energy White Paper goals and consider options for further steps to achieve them, had been published. Members questioned what year would be taken as a baseline for any further target setting, hoping that the Council would not be 'penalised' for what it had recently achieved. [It was subsequently confirmed that the baseline year is 1990.]

### **Consultation and Communications**

- 6.8 Alongside the above activity, the Working Group were involved in preparations for the public consultation on climate change. The purpose of the consultation was to share the County Council's belief that climate change was an important issue for the county and to find out about the body of public opinion on climate change in Staffordshire, to inform the County Council's action and a Staffordshire Declaration on climate change. Members scrutinised the specification for the use of an external supplier to deliver various consultation activities and to analyse the results. They also scrutinised the draft consultation materials. The Working Group found that a multiple-location launch was a good way to secure media attention and they took part in the October 2005 consultation launch events. After this, they maintained an overview of the action taken to maintain the momentum of the consultation.
- 6.9 In December 2005, the Working Group heard from the agency conducting the consultation about the results of street interviews that had been undertaken. Members found that the preliminary conclusions were that: many Staffordshire people felt that climate change was a serious global issue, but were less convinced on a local level (other problems, for example drugs, were more pressing); the majority did feel that the County Council should lead the way; there was a very strong link between knowledge about climate change and willingness to support local initiatives. Hence, the primary immediate focus should be on providing information (non-preaching, unbiased, easily understood, and honest) and getting everyone to work together.
- 6.10 The Chairman of the Working Group participated in the Big Debate 'question time' style event, with guest presenter, which concluded the consultation in January 2006. The final report arising from the consultation was made available to Members of the Working Group in February 2006 and, as they requested, a press release was issued to give public feedback on the consultation process.
- 6.11 Members found that the analysis of the consultation results confirmed that there was an expectation that the Council would take a leadership role in the county's response to climate change. There was, therefore, a basis for developing a Staffordshire Declaration and a climate change communications plan to raise awareness and encourage action, acknowledging that there were various motives for action in response to climate change.
- 6.12 The Working Group considered a detailed brief on the communications plan. Members felt that the most appropriate approach was to convey simple messages about the global and Staffordshire case for action and the financial benefits of conserving energy. Members found that it would be appropriate to develop a

climate change logo to provide a visual identity for, and 'badge' initiatives as contributing to, the response to climate change. It would need to be simple, applicable in a variety of situations and acceptable to partners. Members also found that it would be appropriate for communications to target, in the first instance Members and employees, C/D social grades, and children/schools. The appropriate media differed according to the audience but a co-ordinated approach would be needed. The Working Group advocated a 'drip feed' of articles relating to climate change relevant to people's local environment, to maintain the profile of this issue. They found that the brief could not prescribe fully longer-term communications activity, particularly as it was hoped that this activity would include work with partners through the development of the Staffordshire Declaration. Members considered that it would be important to secure a means of assessing the impact of the communications strategy.

- 6.13 As a result of identifying children/schools as a target audience for communications, the Working Group made some enquiries about climate change and the schools curriculum. At that time, they found that 142 of the 410 schools in Staffordshire were Eco-Schools, of which 29 had received the Green Flag and 8 had received a permanent award, showing an eight year commitment prior to achieving the Green Flag. Eco-Schools were the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) preferred delivery for sustainable development, recognised in schools nationally and a requirement for all Scottish and some Welsh and Irish schools. The Government was encouraging all schools to become models of sustainable development for their communities, with school children committed to driving the agenda forward. The increase in the demand for energy would create huge problems for future generations and it was hoped that, by 2020, schools would be energy efficient using renewable energy, and becoming a showcase wind/solar/bio fuel source for their local community, and maximising the use of rainwater. Climate Change issues would be taken into account when building any new schools. 35 schools in the county were self-evaluating their sustainable practices. Further to this the Working Group found that only about 10% of Eco schools were secondary schools.
- 6.14 Members continued to monitor the development of the communications plan, emphasising strongly the importance of being ready to conduct elements of the communications campaign soon (and immediately following the Staffordshire Declaration signing event) to maintain momentum and satisfy the expectations that had arisen from the public consultation. The Working Group provided a critique of some draft logos.

### **Staffordshire Declaration**

- 6.15 In November 2005, the Working Group were advised that a revised Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change was to be issued. The County Council was not a signatory to the original Nottingham Declaration as they had considered that certain aspects could not be delivered. However, Members felt that the revised Nottingham Declaration should be examined before the Council corresponded with partners about a Staffordshire Declaration, based on the outcome of the consultation. The Deputy Corporate Director (Planning and Regeneration) attended the second National Councils' Climate Conference on 5 December 2006,

hosted by Nottingham City Council. The conference re-launched the revised version of the Nottingham Declaration. In the context of the preliminary results of the consultation, it was proposed that the revised version was one that the Council could sign up to. It was confirmed that there was no problem with labelling the Declaration as the Staffordshire Declaration, which was an approach taken by other Councils and notified to Nottingham City Council.

- 6.16 The Working Group endorsed minor amendments to the Staffordshire version, to enable it to be signed by partner organisations and to add a bullet point: “Help local communities to develop their own renewable energy projects, or to obtain community benefits from such projects in their area”. They then recommended the Staffordshire Declaration to Cabinet and it was adopted in June 2006.
- 6.17 Following the adoption of the Declaration, the Working Group have supported the Council in championing its cause, focusing first on encouraging the county’s District/Borough Councils to sign up to the Declaration and then focusing on other potential partners. As previously suggested to the Working Group by a County Councillor, this included the Chairman’s attendance at a climate change meeting with officer representatives of all the District/Borough Councils in the County. A Staffordshire Declaration signing event, which the Chairman also attended, took place on 15 December 2006. The signatories were: Staffordshire County Council, South Staffordshire District Council, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, Stafford Borough Council, East Staffordshire Borough Council and Staffordshire Wildlife Trust.

### **Performance Management**

- 6.18 At the end of 2006, the Working Group turned their attention to reviewing the development of the County Council’s response to climate change so far. They considered the first annual report on progress against “A Hard Rain”. They were aware of some good progress and found further good progress in that: there had been an uptake in car sharing; the Development Services Directorate had ordered a Honda Hybrid pool car following a successful pilot; and the Development Services Directorate had reported a 40% reduction in office waste at Riverway and therefore landfill in the current financial year.
- 6.19 Members expressed concern that that there had been a measured reduction of only 450 tonnes of carbon dioxide which was less than 20% of the year on year target, although the Carbon Management Programme would address this. They also had concerns about the level of investment in energy management.
- 6.20 In December 2006, the Working Group reported to the Corporate Policy Scrutiny Committee. They highlighted what had been achieved and the following areas of concern: some gaps in policy to support the strategy; a lack of corporate focus; and two resource matters (officer support for the Carbon Management programme and specific Invest to Save arrangements to support the response to climate change). They emphasised their view that the Council needed to increase the momentum of their response to climate change. The Working Group sought an assurance that each Cabinet portfolio holder would work with the officers within their business area to ensure that the response to climate change was built in to the development of all business areas as appropriate. They highlighted that roles

and responsibilities in respect of the response to climate change might need to be reassigned because of the impact of organisation review.

- 6.21 The Corporate Policy Scrutiny Committee drew these concerns to the attention of the Deputy Leader of the Council. The Deputy Leader indicated that climate change was a very complex issue and that the County Council accepted its responsibilities regarding addressing climate change issues. He added that the climate change agenda needed to be embedded within all the Authority's services and that, obviously, this might take some time to achieve. Portfolio holders would be responsible for monitoring the County Council's response to climate change in respect of their relevant services areas and it would also be necessary to examine the resource implications across the Authority whilst balancing these with the financial pressures currently being faced by the Council. He added that Scrutiny Committees/Panels should be kept informed of progress. The response to climate change also featured in scrutiny input during the development of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy, Corporate Strategy and Thematic Improvement Plans, making sure that there were relevant references to this subject.
- 6.22 The Cabinet responded to the concerns raised, agreeing the necessary policy development. An officer was allocated to support the Carbon Management Programme. Whilst no dedicated Invest to Save arrangements were put in place, climate change projects could be put forward within the Council's existing Invest to Save arrangements. Additional funding allocated towards economic and environmental regeneration included £0.150m support towards climate change initiatives. It was expected that climate change issues would be considered as part of the day to day delivery of services rather than as a separate issue.
- 6.23 The Working Group then considered in greater detail the policy development that was required to support the delivery of the Action Plan and found that this was:
- a corporate commitment to energy conservation
  - a personal commitment to energy conservation by County Council employees (to be a condition of employment for all Staffordshire County Council employees)
  - monitoring of CO2 emissions
  - energy efficiency standards with an energy management system
  - new buildings to meet energy efficiency standards
  - use of Invest to Save Schemes for energy management
  - Green Procurement Guide to become the Sustainable Procurement Policy and also mandatory
  - specification of fleet vehicles
  - all diesel engine vehicles procured for the County Council fleet to be capable of using 5% biodiesel
  - out of county travel to be undertaken by train wherever possible
  - a corporate waste and recycling strategy.
- 6.24 With regard to the development of the Sustainable Procurement Policy, in February 2007, the Working Group received a presentation on sustainable procurement. They found that this was the process whereby organisations met their need for goods, services, works and utilities in a way that achieved value for money on a whole life basis in terms of generating benefits to the organisation,

society and the economy, whilst minimising damage to the environment. The procurement team were developing a Sustainable Procurement Policy and strategy that would tie in with the climate change Action Plan and fit directly within the corporate procurement strategy. The essence of the strategy would be to: reduce impact on the environment through less waste; increase efficiency through re-evaluating need and delivery of that need; and work in partnership with providers and potential providers to explore sustainable alternatives. There was already good practice in regard to the use of recycled paper; re-manufacture of print cartridges; and development of E-procurement. Members requested sight of the draft Policy in due course.

6. 25 Members also continued to monitor progress in regard to the Carbon Management Programme, in particular towards meeting the deadline of 26 March 2007 for the production of the Implementation Plan arising from the Programme. The County Council did successfully complete the Programme and submitted its Strategy and Implementation Plan to the Carbon Trust on 30 March 2007, which were approved. [The County Council received its certification at a ceremony on 21 November and was identified as one of five exemplary authorities from its intake year]. Members found that thirteen carbon reduction actions were identified to be taken forward in 2007/08. For each action the following aspects had been established: quantified costs and benefits; resources; ownership and accountability; ensuring success; performance success measure; timing and sources of information and guidance.
- 6.26 Members were informed that the County Council's total carbon dioxide emissions for 2005/06 were 127,831 tonnes. The 'Value at Stake' i.e. the cost to the County Council of taking no action (through energy price increases and increased energy use) equated to £79.1 million by 2014 and double the carbon emissions. This did not include staff commuting related data as control of emissions in this area was outside County Council control.
- 6.27 Following on from this, the Working Group were involved in the preparation of a second edition of "A Hard Rain", revised in the context of the policy development, the outcomes of the Carbon Management Programme and the Draft Climate Change Bill. They found that the key changes needed were:
- the county target would remain as a reduction of 60% by 2050 but now based on a base line of 1990 to accord with the Climate Change Bill
  - the areas where the County Council had direct responsibility for carbon management had been identified separately
  - "A Hard Rain" would have regard to the emerging Climate Change policies
  - specific targets had now been identified, the monitoring of which would be included in the emerging performance management framework.
- 6.28 The Working Group recommended the revised strategy and supporting policies to Cabinet in May 2007. In doing so they highlighted their concern that the actions that flowed from the strategy, policies and any supporting action plans were embedded in the Council's business planning and performance management arrangements. The Cabinet approved the revised strategy. However, the decision was called in and consequently considered by the Corporate Policy Scrutiny and Performance Committee. The focus of the call in was the targets

associated with the strategy and the management of its implementation and the financial implications. The Chairman of the Working Group attended the meeting on 11 June 2007 when the call in was considered to assist the Committee with their considerations. The decision was not referred back to Cabinet.

### **Further Progress**

6.29 The Working Group also scrutinised further progress in regard to the Council's response to climate change as set out in the paragraphs below. Following the approval of the second edition of "A Hard Rain", Cabinet recommend to the Corporate Policy Scrutiny and Performance Committee that, as the responsibility for monitoring the implementation of the County Council's Corporate Climate Change Strategy now rested with the Cabinet, the Climate Change Scrutiny Working Group be wound-up. The Corporate Policy Scrutiny and Performance Committee considered the future of the Climate Change Scrutiny Working Group at their meeting on 19 July, as part of their consideration of their 2007/08 work programme. They took into account the recommendation of the Cabinet. However, Members felt that it was for the Committee to determine the timing of the conclusion of the Scrutiny Working Group, in consultation with the Group. The Chairman of the Working Group attended the meeting and was clear that, as Chairman of the Working Group, she didn't envisage it continuing indefinitely but wanted sufficient time to pursue the Working Group's remaining lines of enquiry to the point at which a final report could be submitted to the Corporate Policy Scrutiny and Performance Committee. After this point, the Working Group focused on the implementation of "A Hard Rain" and the commitments of the Staffordshire Declaration and the associated performance management arrangements, with a view to making any necessary final recommendations that, if agreed and implemented, would ensure sustained arrangements for the County Council's response to climate change.

- **Renewable Energy Developments**

6.29.1 In February 2007, Members received a presentation on the sustainability aspects of the Apedale Energy Station Project, to provide a visitors' centre themed around energy conservation and renewable energy generation. They found that material resources used by the construction sector amounted to 420 thousand tonnes annually and energy used in the production and transport of construction materials was 10% of total energy used. There was also 90 thousand tonnes of construction waste produced annually. Legislation had led to serious consideration of sustainability issues by both building constructors and designers. The Apedale Energy Station Project arose from these considerations and putting sustainable development at the heart of the planning system. Members were shown the design of the Energy Station. The Green Guide to specification, which provided guidance on the relative environmental impacts of over 250 elemental specifications, was used for the project. Members found out about various aspects of the project: the sustainable urban drainage system; choice and specification of material including humidity, moisture mass and ventilation considerations; and lighting.

6.29.2 In regard to the County Council's support for the Eccleshall Biomass Project, in

April 2007, the Working Group found that Single Regeneration Budget funding for the officer of the Chamber of Commerce had ceased. However, the County Council had been able to offer some funding for the Staffordshire Renewable Energy project and the project officer was working with the County Council in this capacity, although still employed by the Chamber of Commerce. It was hoped that District/Borough Councils would also be able to offer some funding for the project. In June 2007, the Working Group were pleased to find that the energy being produced was being sent to the National Grid and the project was now self-funding. Wood chips could be burned as an alternative to Miscanthus if necessary.

6.29.3 In April 2007, the Working Group were made aware of a tentative £250,000 funding stream being available from Advantage West Midlands, which might be used among other things, to set up a 'Renewable Energy Trail'. This would demonstrate a range of renewable energy technologies and their suppliers. Proposed venues for the trail included:-

- the Forest of Mercia Innovation Centre
- Rodbaston College
- Marquis Drive Visitor Centre – Cannock Chase
- Areva - hydrogen fuel cells
- Schott – solar collectors and photovoltaic arrays
- Tallbotts – biomass boilers
- Business Innovation Centre – Lymedale
- Apedale Energy Centre
- University of Keele – solid oxide fuel cells
- Staffordshire's northern country parks
- Ilam – zero carbon emissions village.

6.29.4 In June 2007, the Working Group heard that the first part of the Marquis Drive Visitors Centre feasibility study in regard to the use of heather as heating fuel had been received but that fuel testing was still to be carried out as it was important to do this at the normal harvest time. In response to Members' questions, it was confirmed that the costings would take into account the fuel storage requirements.

6.29.5 In September 2007, Members were updated on various renewable energy projects. They found that the Apedale Wind Energy Project was on hold, temporarily, owing to the company involved being taken over by a multi-national company. Two companies had asked for information about County Council land for developing wind energy in Staffordshire. There were plans to use a small wind turbine and ground source heat pump at Apedale Energy Station and to explore the development of a sun tracking solar panel. Feasibility studies had shown that the envisaged micro hydro schemes were not financially viable but the feasibility of an alternative lay out for one scheme would be explored. The fuel testing for Marquis Drive Visitors Centre and biomass boiler scheme was about to take place. The heather's calorific value and ashing properties would need to be checked in the first instance. Members found that at Marquis Drive, the investment cost of £100,000 could be recovered over ten and a half years. A system for collecting and recycling used cooking oil from schools had been set

up. The oil was collected by a local biodiesel company and the County Council received 10 pence per litre where previously the Council paid a disposal charge; Members found that although biodiesel gave off higher level of nitrous oxide emissions than ordinary diesel, the quantity of these emissions was insignificant in comparison to the carbon dioxide, making biodiesel on balance more eco friendly.

6.29.6 In November 2007, Members found that early indications were that the alternative lay out for one micro hydro scheme would be feasible. The Staffordshire Renewable Project Manager had been working on a bid to Advantage West Midlands with respect to the provision of business support for investors in renewable energy technology.

- **Policy Development**

6.29.7 As they had requested, in June 2007, the Working Group considered the Sustainable Procurement Policy. The Policy intent was to obtain value for money through the planned and skilful management of procurement and supply chains by ensuring that the County Council used a sustainable option where it offered a cost effective solution for the authority. The actions to achieve this were set out under the following six objectives: lead by example; set clear priorities; raise the bar; build capacity; remove barriers; and capture opportunities. Members asked about "greening the supply chain" and found that that work was underway to address this matter. The County Council set criteria for suppliers through pre-tender documentation, which did incorporate environmental considerations but could be extended to broader sustainability and corporate social responsibility considerations. However, in regard to Value for Money, Members were informed that it was important to find a balance between sustainability and cost considerations in order to achieve the most effective contracts. The Working Group endorsed the Policy that would form part of the County Council's Corporate Procurement Strategy.

6.29.8 Also in June 2007, the Working Group were informed of the outcome of staff consultation on limiting cars available for lease to those within Excise bands A to E, which the majority of respondents supported. The implementation of this proposal proceeded.

6.29.9 In September 2007, the Working Group were consulted on a proposed County Council office temperature standard. Members found that an opportunity has been identified to improve the Council's management of its office property portfolio, to reduce property related running costs and thereby reduce carbon dioxide emissions for Council premises. They noted the background to the minimum and specific standards set by the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) regulations 1992. The Carbon Trust guidance on reasonable temperatures for office functions is within the range 21 to 23 degrees Celsius (°C). The Working Group endorsed the following course of action: the introduction of an office minimum temperature standard of 21°C in working hours during the heating season; a temperature audit to establish a typical temperature for each office in each office building (iii) where temperatures in excess of 21°C are recorded, the cause of the excess temperature be

investigated and actions identified to reduce the temperature to 21°C; (iv) for each action identified, a cost estimate be prepared along with a cost benefit exercise to identify the actions that will result in a net cost saving; (v) a programme of action is drawn up, in priority order of greatest savings first, for approval by the Corporate Management Team. Members highlighted that prioritisation should also take account of where the most excessive temperatures were found.

- 6.29.10 Members were advised in November 2007 that the Cabinet would consider establishing new carbon emissions reduction targets at their meeting on 5 December 2007. They would determine whether the County Council should voluntarily adopt a target of a reduction in its carbon dioxide emissions of 80 per cent by 2050 in response to scientific evidence of the need for more stringent reductions. Members of the Working Group supported this course of action, which was agreed by Cabinet and resulted in the County Council being the first authority to adopt this high target and thus set an example for others to follow.
- 6.29.11 In regard to national developments that would have implication for the County Council, Members found that, from 1 October 2008, public sector occupiers of larger buildings (with a total useful floor area greater than 1000m<sup>2</sup>) including schools would need to display a Display Energy Certificate in a prominent place clearly visible to the public, unless there were exceptional circumstances. Action was required to ensure annual energy information was available by 1 October 2008. A bid had been put in for funding for a team to do the work. Trading Standards would be responsible for overseeing this.
- 6.29.12 The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs had consulted on the implementation proposals for the Carbon Reduction Commitment and the 'cap and trade' emissions trading scheme. Authorities would need to reduce their carbon emissions or trade with someone who used less.

- **Performance Management**

- 6.29.13 Early in their work a County Councillor raised with the Working Group whether accreditation under ISO 14001 would aid the County Council's response to climate change, and demonstrate its commitment. This international standard was first published in 1996 and specifies the requirements for an environmental management system. It applies to environmental aspects over which an organisation can be expected to have an influence. In June 2007, the Working Group considered a presentation on the pilot that was taking place in Trading Standards on ISO 14001 accreditation. They found that the system had enabled the identification of key areas of environmental concern and targets and actions to address them. A database of information such as work instructions, guidance and advice had been established. Audit provision had supported the internal management arrangements. They noted the cost of accreditation had included advice and guidance from the Staffordshire Business Environment Network. Members also noted that Accreditation could be achieved in stages and continuous improvement had to be shown in order to retain accreditation. In terms of "payback" for the cost of accreditation, together with carbon dioxide emissions reduction, Members were informed that it was possible to make a 1 to 4 % saving on total turnover. The Working Group were concerned that a full

evaluation of the pilot was undertaken in order to provide, if appropriate, a business case for pursuing accreditation for relevant areas of the Council's activity. They were particularly concerned with co-ordination of the various strands of the Council's response to climate change and the need for corporate, self-sustaining mechanisms that were built into job roles and responsibilities and did not rely on the (much appreciated) enthusiasm of individual officers.

- 6.29.14 The Working Group made further enquiries with regard to Eco-schools, asking why some schools stopped being Eco-schools. They found that the main reason that some Eco-schools stopped being Eco-schools was because the advisory service were a traded service and therefore could not repeatedly visit a school. This removed the external encouragement. A number of primary schools found that they were suffering initiative overload and therefore had been advised to 'prune back'. Staff moved on and the scheme no longer had a champion and also some pupils who were a very strong driving force left and were not replaced by such an active group. Since the scheme introduced a Bronze and Silver level some schools had been content to stick at a certain level without going for the green flag – this was a national problem. However, numbers continued to increase. The Working group corresponded with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People on this matter, receiving further information about the Eco schools programme, the role of the Advanced Skills Teacher and the Sustainable Schools Carbon Detectives Kit.
- 6.29.15 In regard to the implementation of the actions arising from the Carbon Management Programme, in June 2007, the Working Group noted that a budget had been identified for the five actions relating to the built estate and five energy audits had already been completed in high schools. The Joint Schools Property Division was working closely with the Carbon Management Team and was also making use of services provided by the Carbon Trust, specifically in the areas of energy efficiency training for school staff and energy audit services. Members also found that software had been developed by a Council officer that would automatically turn off inactive office computers overnight and at weekends. A "Carbon Bank" would be operated by the officer team to assist Directorates in quantifying reductions in carbon dioxide emissions and support performance management in this area.
- 6.29.16 In September 2007, the Working Group considered progress against the target for reducing carbon dioxide emissions and found that the County Council was well ahead of the target position. Data received on carbon emissions from the County Council built estate showed a reduction of 10,189 tonnes or 14.3% (although the exceptionally mild winter would have contributed to this) and the business mileage data for the first quarter of 2007/08 showed a reduction of 16.81% against the same quarter of the previous year.
- 6.29.17 In November 2007, Members found that the overall carbon footprint for the financial year 2006/07 (fleet mileage was not available and therefore was been assumed to be static) was 118,051 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>. This represented a saving of 9,780 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> and equated to approximately 8% (four times the target for the year). Members considered a chart which plotted the carbon dioxide emission targets over the years to 2050 at 60% and 80% reduction and showed

the County Council's current progress, which at 2007 was ahead of the line for 80% reduction. In regard to the Carbon Management Programme, the second carbon management workshop took place on 14 November 2007 when approximately twelve new carbon management projects were proposed for implementation. They were being assessed in terms of costs and benefits (both carbon and financial), resources needed and timescales for delivery. The deadline for completion of these assessments was 1 January 2008.

- 6.29.18 Also in November 2007, the Working Group asked to be updated about energy management. They found that monitoring equipment/systems had been put in place in various offices/schools throughout the County Council to monitor base loading of energy consumption. This was ideal in schools to identify high consumption including at odd times of the day/week (for example on Sunday). Action could then be prioritised. A smart metering system was being piloted at King Edwards School, Lichfield, where they had experienced problems balancing heating. Particular reference was made to energy loss from swimming pools and it was hoped that schools could be encouraged to use covers to prevent heat loss and therefore save energy. Members found that awareness raising with head teachers and premise managers was needed to ensure the ongoing reduction of energy consumption. Members were keen that different initiatives were piloted to find appropriate solutions to energy efficiency for buildings, making reference to: a liquid that could be added to pool water which "floated" to the top of the water, when not disturbed, to form a seal; retrofitting solar panels and to design guidance regarding energy efficiency for new buildings (reference was made to Building Schools for the Future).
- 6.29.19 In regard to waste in the workplace, Members found that good progress was being made in establishing a corporate recycling scheme. A pilot scheme was being rolled out to various workplaces.
- 6.29.20 The Working Group had asked about the apportionment of the target reduction in carbon dioxide emissions between the County Council's Directorates or service areas. When the Cabinet put in place the new carbon emissions reduction targets they also agreed that the allocation of targets across the authority be delegated to a group of senior officers assisted by the Development Services Directorate Climate Change Team. The County Council would work on a five year carbon budgeting period, in line with the Climate Change Bill, but with an annual reporting cycle. Broad targets for each five year period would be established for each carbon-emitting sector under the County Council's direct control, i.e. buildings, fleet and business mileage, street lighting, and waste. Third, targets for savings that could be achieved across the authority through behavioural change should be set at Directorate or department level, by a senior officers' group assisted by the Development Services Directorate Climate Change Team.
- 6.29.21 The Chairman of the Council had assumed the role of Climate Change Champion and the Chairman of the Working Group met with him in December 2007 to discuss this role and to consider the resolution of the Council, made in July 2007, that the Working Group become the advisory body to the Chairman in this role. It was agreed that a Climate Change Champion role description should be written focusing on the elements of leadership, communications and

performance management. There were some reservations about whether it was appropriate for the Scrutiny Working Group to persist as an advisory group to the Chairman and there was discussion about future scrutiny arrangements and the role of the Climate Change Team and senior officers target setting group.

6.29.22 In regard to the Implementation of “A Hard Rain”, by the end of 2007, the Working Group found that the area that was least advanced was the production of adaptation plans. There are three elements to such planning: maintaining continuity of service provision; coping with climate change related emergencies; and long term planning for the conditions that climate change will impose (for example building or road specification). In respect of continuity of service provision, reference was made to the need to think in terms of weather maintenance rather than for example winter maintenance. The types of emergencies that might be expected (e.g. flooding, heat waves and wildfires) all fall within the experience of emergency planners and the County Civil Contingencies Unit but could be expected to occur more regularly and perhaps with greater severity. Members cited examples of good practice in partnership working in response to emergencies, such as the recent flooding in the Lichfield area, but asked about the level of resources required if there were to be a greater need for emergency response.

- **Staffordshire Declaration Partnership**

6.29.23 The Working Group monitored the development of the Staffordshire Declaration partnership. In February 2007, Members found that reduction of carbon dioxide emissions would be part of the Sustainable Development targets contained in the Local Area Agreement (LAA) for Staffordshire and this partnership would be the main vehicle used to develop the Staffordshire Declaration Partnership. The Working Group were subsequently updated, being informed that the LAA contained the following performance indicators:

- reductions in the carbon emissions of all LAA partners' own activities of 60% by 2050 (sub outcome – local authority partners to establish emission baselines by September 2007)
- carbon dioxide emissions per capita (as step towards 60% reduction by 2050) (sub outcome - all local authority partners committed to Staffordshire Declaration).

In September 2007, the Working Group were informed that the County Council had assisted all partners to produce their own emissions baselines. Partners should now determine their own reduction strategies.

6.29.24 The Working Group expressed dissatisfaction with progress on implementing the communications plan following on from the public consultation. They were reassured on learning that this would be pursued through a Flagship Priority project as part of the LAA. A Staffordshire Climate Action Portal was proposed in order to increase public awareness of climate change issues. Members maintained an overview of the development of this project, particularly in relation to how it built on the intentions of the original communications plan. A project initiation document was submitted, the key elements of which were: the

partners; the Logo; engaging a professional company; how the portal would exist; who would host the portal; what message needed to be delivered; what partners would wish to contribute. It was intended that the portal would bring all aspects of climate change issues and resources together, avoiding duplication. A business case was submitted to the LAA Board for comment where it was emphasised that a consultative environment should be developed for all Flagships. The next step in the delivery of the project was to scope current initiatives. This took place through an information session with partners on 22 June 2007. A brief for tenders to create the logo and website had been written, informed by the partners at the session mentioned above. As part of their efforts to raise staff and Members' awareness with regard to climate change, the County Council had taken an active part in compiling the nation's biggest ever climate change survey in the run up to World Environment Day on June 5 2007.

- 6.29.25 In September 2007, Members noted that following interviews Counter Context were chosen to deliver the climate change Flagship Priority. An inception meeting with all partners took place on 27 September 2007 with further meetings to take place every six weeks. A logo and website were being developed specific to Staffordshire and the website would be launched in March 2008. Members also learned about the Three Dales Climate Change Project; Carbon Crush is an education programme being developed to equip communities to plan and implement carbon reduction projects in their local areas prone to social exclusion.
- 6.29.26 Since the first Staffordshire Declaration signing event, Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Authority, Staffordshire Police Authority and Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council also agreed to sign up to the Declaration, with the remaining District and Borough Councils in the county expected to follow suit as LAA partners. Keele University were a potential co-signatory. A Councillor from the Executive of the Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association (SPCA) attended a meeting of the Working Group to discuss the possibility of the Association and/or Local Councils signing up to the Declaration. The Working Group found that there was a need to make a distinction between individual Local Councils and the SPCA signing up to the Declaration. Any signing of the Staffordshire Declaration meant a commitment to reducing carbon dioxide emissions and suggested that it might be most suitable for the SPCA to sign the declaration and for their commitment to be supported by individual Local Councils as appropriate. Local Councils could act as a local sounding boards and advocates in regard to responding to climate change. One example of where they might contribute to reducing carbon dioxide emissions was through their management of buildings such as village halls. Local Councils might make use of the Aggregates Levy Grant Scheme, which was administered by the County Council to compensate communities for the unavoidable impact of aggregates working, to undertake renewable energy projects. Applications were assessed on community benefit, environmental impact and sustainability and the grant was usually limited to 85% of the total cost of the project. An SPCA Executive meeting could be an opportunity for the SPCA to sign up to the Staffordshire Declaration. Area meetings, Parish Forums and the SPCA newsletter provided other means of communicating with Local Councils. At the Working Group's request, officers corresponded with the Chief Executive of the

SPCA on this matter. Members asked that a further signing event take place in due course.

- 6.29.27 The Working Group considered other organisations that might sign up to the Declaration. County Councillor James Muir suggested that Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) should be approached initially followed by larger hospital trusts. PCTs could be expected to sign up to the declaration as partners to the Local Area Agreement (LAA). As Chairman of the Staffordshire Health Scrutiny Committee, Mr. Muir offered his assistance in encouraging local health trusts to sign up to the Declaration. The Working Group suggested local business might be encouraged to sign up and asked, in terms of managing the relationship with signatories to the Declaration, what was the scope for shared performance management arrangements.
- 6.29.28 By November 2007, the Working Group found that the County Council's Climate Change Team had assisted LAA partners with the completion of their Value at Stake calculations. South Staffordshire Council had submitted a draft reduction plan for consultation. Members received a graph showing the LAA partner baselines 2005/06.
- 6.29.29 In regard to climate change communications, various venues had been booked for the initial public consultation sessions for development of the climate change portal. The Working Group found that: the winning tender for the Three Dales Climate Change Project was submitted by Marches Energy Agency; a series of evening classes on climate change were being developed by the Climate Change Team in conjunction with Children and Lifelong Learning's Adult Education Team and the first course would run in Staffordshire Moorlands in the summer 2008.

## **7. Implications**

- 7.1 Resources and Value for Money – The Working Group's considerations included the Value at Stake i.e. the projected future financial cost to the County Council if it does not reduce its carbon dioxide emissions. Ensuring that the actions that flow from "A Hard Rain" and the Staffordshire Declaration on Climate Change are embedded in the County Council's business planning arrangements is the best way to make sure that the resources implications are accounted for. With regard to the Working Group's recommendations, there may be resource implications in meeting training and development needs identified. The Working Group support the continuation of a dedicated officer resource to support the County Council's and partners' response to climate change.
- 7.2 Equalities and Legal – The review arrangements for "A Hard Rain" proposed by the Working Group should take account of any relevant legislation. Any climate change related plans/policies should be subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment.
- 7.3 Risk – "A Hard Rain" is aimed at mitigating the risks of climate change and the Working Group's recommendations are aimed at ensuring the successful implementation of this Action Plan and the commitments of the Staffordshire Declaration on Climate Change.

## 8. Acknowledgements

8.1 The following officers supported the Working Group:

Richard Higgs	Corporate Director (Development Services)
Steve Potter	Head of Environment and Countryside
Ian Wykes	Cultural Environment Group Leader
Sarah Fielding	Climate Change Officer
Sarah Garner	Scrutiny and Performance Support Officer
Sue Halcrow	Senior Support Officer, Member and Democratic Services
Christine Price	Support Officer, Member and Democratic Services

with thanks to:

Bryan Magan and Rodger Mann (former Scrutiny Managers)  
Clare Hawley (former Member and Democratic Services Officer)

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Bradbury, Mr. S., Street Lighting and Intelligent Transport Systems Manager  
Clarke, Cllr. M.  
Dix, Cllr. T., Climate Change Champion  
Curran, Ms. L., Climate Change Officer, Woking Borough Council  
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Giacomelli, Mr. J., Head of Joint Schools Property Unit  
Golland, Mr. D., in his previous position as Senior Adviser, School Improvement Division  
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Hooper, Mr. J., Head of Specialist Services, Development Services  
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Lotinga, Mr. A., in his previous position as Deputy Corporate Director (Strategy and Support), Social Care and Health  
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Newman, Mr. P., Chairman of Sustainable Staffordshire  
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Pugh, Mr. A., Trading Standards Officer, Social Care and Health  
Roberts, Mrs. D., Staffordshire Renewable Project Manager  
Roberts, Mr. G., former Deputy Corporate Director (Property)

Russell, Cllr. J., Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association  
Shenton, Mr. J., in his previous position within Corporate Procurement  
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**List of Appendices/Background Papers**

Appendix - Role Description for Climate Change Champion

Reports to and notes of the meetings of the Climate Change Scrutiny Working Group held on:

30 June 2005	12 July 2006
19 July 2005	22 September 2006
8 September 2005	29 November 2006
7 October 2005	7 February 2007
22 November 2005	3 April 2007
14 December	6 June 2007
27 February 2006	24 September 2007
10 April 2006	26 November 2007
3 May 2006	9 January 2007 (Chairman only)

and notes of the visit of the Climate Change Scrutiny Working Group to Woking and Reading 8 February 2006

Climate Change and Staffordshire Council: Key questions for Consideration

Report of the Climate Change Working Group to County Council 28 July 2005 and minutes of the meeting

“A Hard Rain”: Staffordshire County Council's Climate Change Action Plan Edition 1 - report to Cabinet 27 October 2005 and minutes of the meeting

Climate Change consultation materials and report of results

Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change

Staffordshire Declaration on Climate Change - report to Cabinet 20 June 2006 and minutes of the meeting

Report to Corporate Policy Scrutiny Committee 11 December 2006 and minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 11 December 2006 and 12 January 2007

Report to Cabinet 7 February 2007 on the Strategic Plan 2007-2010 and Thematic Improvement Plans

Recommendation of the Budget Scrutiny Working Group and proposed response in Medium Term Financial Strategy report to 7 February 2007 Cabinet and minutes of the meeting

Staffordshire Local Area Agreement 2007/08

“A Hard Rain”: Staffordshire County Council's Climate Change Action Plan Edition 2 - report to Cabinet 15 May 2007 and minutes of the meeting (minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Scrutiny and Performance Committee 11 June 2007 [consideration of the call in of the Cabinet decision])

Sustainable Procurement Policy

Work Programme Planning report to Corporate Policy Scrutiny and Performance Committee 19 July 2007 and minutes of the meeting

### **Role Description for Climate Change Champion**

Staffordshire County Council considers that climate change is an issue of such significance that it is appropriate to have a County Councillor undertake the role of Climate Change Champion. The points below describe the elements of this role.

#### **Leadership**

- To maintain the profile of the subject of climate change
- To promote the Staffordshire Declaration on Climate Change, in particular to potential co-signatories
- To host a Staffordshire Declaration signing event in each municipal year in which there are new co-signatories
- To engage in such Member level networking as is appropriate to the role, for example attendance at relevant conferences
- To undertake a lobbying role in regard to climate change issues if and where this is appropriate

#### **Communications**

- To act as a figurehead for internal and external communication on the subject of climate change
- To draw attention to any national or regional developments relevant to Staffordshire's response to climate change

#### **Performance management**

- To contribute to the performance management of the County Council's response to climate change
- To pursue any links with other bodies involved in responding to climate change where liaison could be appropriate and beneficial