

11 July 2013		ITEM: 7
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
CLIMATE LOCAL		
Report of: Climate Local Member Working Group		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Key	
Accountable Head of Service: Karen Wheeler, Head of Strategy and Policy		
Accountable Director: Steve Cox, Assistant Chief Executive		
This report is Public		
Purpose of Report: To outline the targets and high level priorities to meet the requirements of the Climate Local Commitment		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Thurrock's climate local commitment, the first in the Eastern region of the country, was agreed cross party by the full council in November 2012.

"This council applauds and supports the aims and objectives of the Climate Local scheme, and agrees to sign up to the Climate Local Commitment.

The council agrees to set locally owned and determined targets and actions, aimed at both saving money and tackling climate change, and to publish these within 6 months as required by the commitment."

A member working group was set up comprised of Cllr Steven Liddiard (Labour, Tilbury St Chads), Chairmen of the cleaner greener safer committee, Cllr James Halden (Conservative, Homesteads), Former Chairmen of the cleaner greener safer committee, and Cllr Simon Wootton (Conservative, Chafford and North Stifford), Vice Chairmen of the cleaner greener safer committee.

Thurrock has a bold commitment to "local action, global responsibility", and to do this in a pro business way. Thurrock's commitment to acting on energy efficacy and climate change is absolute as it was drafted jointly between the administration and the opposition.

This report summarises the outcome of the working group's discussions and the draft targets and priorities projects which will be developed into a detailed delivery plan.

The summary of draft targets is:

Climate Resilience

- To maintain the flood risk assessment and develop a surface water management plan
- To maintain and deliver the biodiversity action plan and identify opportunities for habitat resilience on Council sites
- To ensure Climate risk is embedded into the corporate risk management programme and the emergency planning process

Reducing Carbon Emissions

- To working towards a 35% reduction in emissions by 2022
- To reducing the emissions per job by 55% by 2022
- To reducing the emissions per household by 17% by 2022
- To reducing emissions per daily road movement by 8% by 2022

1. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1.1 That Overview and Scrutiny Panel note the progress of the cross party member working group and the draft Climate Local Targets**
- 1.2 That Overview and Scrutiny Panel recommend to the Portfolio Holder for Environment the Climate Local targets are taken forward for agreement**
- 1.3 That Overview and Scrutiny Panel recommend to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and a delivery plan is developed within six months of this report to meet the requirements of the commitment**

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 2007 the Council signed up to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change and made a public commitment to reduce carbon emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change.
- 2.2 In 2012 the Local Government Association launched the Climate Local initiative. This builds on the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change and enables local areas to make a national commitment whilst setting locally relevant targets.
- 2.3 There are two aspects to climate change
 - Resilience - which focussed on understanding the potential impacts of changing climate and managing the risks of severe and unusual weather patterns
 - Reducing Carbon Emissions - which focuses on reducing carbon emissions that scientific studies have identified as the likely cause of climate change.

To sign up to Climate Local the Council must make a commitment about both climate risk and carbon reduction

- 2.4 The 2010-11 Thurrock Climate Change consultation identified that 76% of residents consulted think that carbon emissions are the cause of climate change and 80% identified that it is an important issue for Thurrock.

The carbon reduction agenda has significant benefits beyond tackling climate change and links closely to a number of programmes including:

- Tackling fuel poverty
- Decent homes
- Preserving finite resources
- Reducing energy costs
- Improving business competitiveness
- Reducing congestion
- New technology and green jobs

3. CLIMATE RESILIENCE

- 3.1 Thurrock's climate profile identifies a wide range on potential impacts of climate change. Within these, three areas have been identified as appropriate for inclusion within the climate local priorities. These are:

- Understanding and managing the risks of flood
- The ability of wildlife to move and adapt to changing conditions
- Managing the risk of severe weather incidents

- 3.2 These have been translated into targets relating to the council's programmes for planning, public safety and natural environment.

- To maintain the flood risk assessment and develop a surface water management plan
- To maintain and deliver the biodiversity action plan and identify opportunities for habitat resilience on Council sites
- To ensure Climate risk is embedded into the corporate risk management programme and the emergency planning process

4. CARBON EMISSIONS

- 4.1 Nationally the government is working towards an 80% reduction in emissions by 2050. To achieve this it sets carbon budgets with a reduction target for each budget period.

Carbon Budget 1 2008 - 12	23%
Carbon Budget 2 2013 - 17	29%
Carbon Budget 3 2018 - 22	35%

4.2 Thurrock's emissions baseline was set in 2005 at 1,727 kilo tonnes of CO₂. This covers:

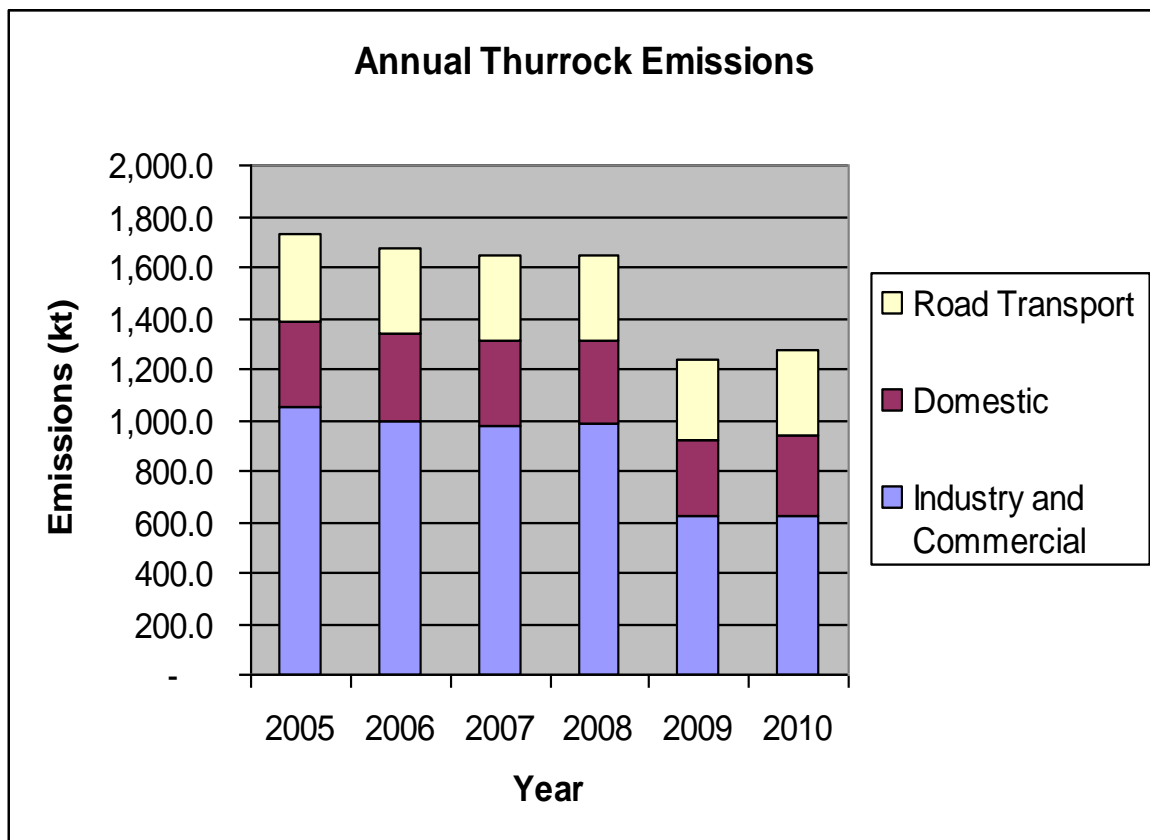
- Road Transport
- Domestic
- Industry and commerce
- Land use , land use change and forestry

4.3 In 2005 Thurrock had the highest emissions in the east of England and the highest emissions per resident. Over 60% of Thurrock baseline is from industrial and commercial sources.

The borough currently accounts for 0.31% of all UK emissions.

5. PROGRESS TO DATE

5.1 Thurrock has made significant progress in reducing its emissions by 26% since 2005.



5.2 The Council has successfully taken the lead on sub regional programmes to reduce carbon emissions from private housing and local business as well as delivering a borough wide sustainable transport programme.

	Baseline	Achieved to Date	Percentage Reduction
Transport	338	11.38	3.37%

Housing	337	20.22	6.00%
Industrial	1053	425	40.36%

6. ISSUES AND OPTIONS FOR CLIMATE LOCAL TARGETS

- 6.1 With significant positive progress achieved, and programmes for industrial and transport emissions reductions in place until 2015, an assessment was carried out to test if Thurrock should develop its climate local targets in line with the government carbon budgets of 29% by 2017 and 35% by 2022.

This analysis showed that the borough should be able to achieve the additional 3% saving by 2017 if its current and planned delivery programmes were successful.

The analysis identified that based on current patterns and programmes the 35% savings targeted would be stretching but could be achieved if additional projects and activities were developed for implementation over the next decade.

- 6.2 There are two high level factors affecting the ability of the borough to reduce emissions, the first of these is its high growth levels and regeneration agenda.
- 6.2.1 The Local Development Framework identified targets for 18,500 new homes and 26,000 new jobs from 2001 to 2021. This is a significant amount of new development which is likely to increase emissions by 2022. Policies within the core strategy focus on energy efficiency, renewable energy and carbon neutrality for the buildings electricity and gas usage, this accounts for 82% of carbon emissions from development leaving 18% additional emissions likely.
- 6.2.2 To take account of growth a series of targets have been modelled which look at reducing the average carbon emissions from each activity instead of just the emissions themselves.

The three activities are

- Domestic carbon emissions per household
- Industrial emissions per job
- Transport emissions per average daily travel movement

The modelling has looked at these through three future scenarios.

- Business as usual
This predicts the changes to the borough's carbon footprint from the measures outlined in the Climate Change Act and other national initiatives.
- Do minimum

This adds in local influence including how the Council promotes and supports national initiatives to increase their uptake

- Aspirational

This adds local planning policy for carbon neutral development and local projects and programmes already planned for delivery

6.3 The aspirational targets identified through this process are:

Sector	2017	2022
Domestic CO2 per household	-19%	-32%
Road Transport CO2 per AADF	-15%	-21%
Business CO2 per job	-50%	-55%

7. DELIVERY PLAN

7.1 The potential for saving carbon varies across sectors and to take this into account the 35% saving target has been broken into a series of sub targets/

	Baseline Kt CO2	Savings Target	Annual reduction target Kt CO2
Transport	338	-8%	-2
Housing	337	-17%	-5
Industrial	1053	-42%	-2
Land use	-0.65	10%	0
Additional Sub Targets			
Council	27	-35%	-1
Renewables tCO2 equivalent	29	-235%	-8
Total	1727.35	35%	-18

7.2 As identified in section 5 the achievement of carbon saving is reliant on the delivery of the current planned programmes within the Council and its partners and the development of new ones.

To support the development and delivery of these a climate local delivery plan will be developed. A number of programmes and projects for the plan are currently under development or being assessed for their feasibility and cost. These include:

Industrial and Commercial

- Phase 2 of the Local Carbon Business Programme
- Implementation of planning policy
- Carbon Offset Fund
- Renewables opportunities in new industrial developments

Domestic

- Implementation of planning policy
- Carbon Offset Fund
- Green Deal commissioning (2014)
- ECO programme in private and public sector housing
- Delivery of the capital works programme

Transport

- Completion of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund
- Pursue funding for LSTF continuation
- Trialling LED lighting to develop a model for roll out if appropriate
- Low carbon business support for transport sector
- Reviewing and developing alternative fuel opportunities including electric vehicles

Council

- Energy efficiency programme in council buildings
- Carbon Management Plan
- Development of renewables delivery partnership for Council sites
- Awareness campaign
- Trialling electric vehicles
- Embedding energy efficiency in the office transformation and asset programmes

Renewables

- Developing Thurrock Energy Study into delivery opportunities

Landuse

- Review of Council natural land for opportunities to improve carbon offsetting through woodland management and planting
- Continue to support Forestry Commission and Thames Chase woodland programmes

8. FUNDING

- 8.1 The availability of funding is the second high level factor affecting Thurrock's ability to achieve carbon savings. Thurrock has successfully secured external funding for a range of programmes including:

£2.3m for the Low Carbon Business Programme

£5m for the Local Sustainable Transport Fund

£0.5m for energy efficiency projects in Council buildings

Additional funding has been secured for energy efficiency and fuel poverty in private sector housing.

- 8.2 A continued approach to securing external funding is essential to the delivery of the Climate Local programme. In addition many energy related activities

can save money through reducing energy bills and activity should be considered as invest to save opportunities and eligible for capital funding.

9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

9.1 The Council has unanimously agreed to set targets for Climate Local and carbon reduction. The breakdown of the proposed targets is underpinned by detailed modelling and analysis. Whilst the targets are stretching and there are many issues that could affect their delivery, the Council has a key role in environmental leadership and the aspirational targets have been chosen to set a high level framework.

As local targets these are subject to our own monitoring and may be reviewed through the delivery phase.

10. CONSULTATION

10.1 A consultation on Climate Change was carried out with over 1000 respondents throughout a 12 month period. This showed strong support for leadership from the Council on climate change

11. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES, PRIORITIES, PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

11.1 Climate Local will support a number of Council objectives

- Encourage and promote job creation and economic prosperity
- Promote and protect our clean and green environment

12. IMPLICATIONS

12.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Mike Jones**
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mxjones@thurrock.gov.uk

A number of the initiatives may have cost implications. The future delivery plan will include relevant business cases for external funding applications, capital bids and any invest to save proposals

12.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Alison Stuart**
 Telephone and email: **01375 652040**
astuart@thurrock.gov.uk

There are no legal implications from this report. The work supports the Council's legal requirement under the carbon reduction commitment. The policy supports the Council previously adopted Sustainable Development Strategy, Community Regeneration Strategy and the Local Development Framework.

12.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Samson DeAlyn**
Telephone and email: **01375 652472**
sdealyn@thurrock.gov.uk

The high level EqIA has not identified any direct diversity and equality implications from this report. Further assessment will be completed at project planning stage.

12.4 **Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental**

BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- Thurrock Climate Change Consultation
- Thurrock CO2 emissions, target modelling and analysis

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:

- Appendix 1 - Climate Local Plan

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