

**Oxfordshire Environment and Waste Partnership 22 March 2013**

**Agenda Item            Climate Local Commitments**

**Introduction**

- 1 At the last meeting, local authority members of the partnership signed the Climate Local Commitment. Oxfordshire is now a signatory on the Climate Local website.
- 2 Members also agreed to confirm within 6 months the commitments and actions to be included and reported on as part of the Climate Local Process. They considered a report of local authority activities and agreed that the commitments would be drawn from these.
- 3 The proposed commitments and actions are set out in a template in Appendix 1. All of these meet the partnership's Oxfordshire 2030 priority objectives, which are:
  - 1) Manage the risk and effects of flooding
  - 2) Support Oxfordshire organisations and communities to develop resilience to the more frequent and severe weather events which are expected.
  - 3) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Oxfordshire
  - 4) Protect and enhance the biodiversity of the county.The majority of actions and measures outlined in the template below were agreed at the Joint meeting of the partnership in June 2011; the accompanying notes indicate where more recent initiatives such as the Green Deal and Oxfordshire Total Retrofit have been added.
- 4 Once agreed, these commitments will be sent to Climate Local and published on the website. The partnership will report on progress in 12 months.

**Resource implications**

- 5 There are no additional resource implications arising from this report.

**Recommendations**

- 6 a) as individual authorities to agree the Climate Local Commitments in Appendix 1, in line with their own decision making processes, and report the decision to the Environment and Energy Strategy Officer by 30 April.  
  
b) that the commitments agreed by all the partner authorities be published on the climate local website by the Environment and Energy Strategy Officer as the commitments of the whole partnership; and that commitments agreed by some but not all partner authorities be published as such.

**Contact Officer**

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**Appendix 1 Oxfordshire Climate Local Commitments Template**

<p><b>Commitment:</b> In order to meet our Oxfordshire 2030 priority objectives 1 and 2, which are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Manage the risk and effects of flooding;</li> <li>2) Ensure Oxfordshire organisations and communities are preparing for the impacts of climate change in the longer term;</li> </ol> <p>We will make the following commitments:</p>		
<p><b>Justification:</b></p>		
Specific action (s)	Measure	Timescale
1. Develop a flood risk management strategy for Oxfordshire.	Strategy published	July 2013
2. Promote sustainable drainage systems	Use of sustainable drainage systems promoted on all new developments in Oxfordshire.	Ongoing
3. Provide advice to business about weather and climate resilience to business and share good practice with District Councils.	Publish updated guidance for business on Local Enterprise Partnership business portal.	Ongoing

<p><b>Commitment:</b> In order to meet our 2030 priority objective 3, to Reduce greenhouse Gas Emissions in Oxfordshire, we will:</p>		
<p><b>Justification:</b></p>		
Specific action (s)	Measure	Timescale
4. Reduce carbon emissions from local authority estate	Average 3% annual reduction in local authority CO <sub>2</sub> emissions against 2010/2011 baseline.	April 2014
5. Work with local stakeholder and community groups to support rollout of the Green Deal in Oxfordshire	Increase in community group engagement (through Low Carbon Hub and Community Action Groups) against 2011 baseline	April 2014
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<p>6. Set up the OxFutures Fund as part of Oxfordshire Total Retrofitted by Oxford City Council in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council, to attract private sector funding and to support community energy efficiency projects across the county.</p>	<p>At least £5.5m private sector funds committed or invested in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects across the public estate.</p>	<p>By 2016</p>
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<p><b>Commitment:</b> In order to meet our 2030 objective to Protect and Enhance the Biodiversity of the County we will:</p>		
<p><b>Justification:</b></p>		
Specific action (s)	Measure	Timescale
<p>7. Develop a green infrastructure framework</p>	<p>Draft framework published.</p>	<p>April 2014</p>
<p>8. Increase the proportion of Local Sites in positive conservation management</p>	<p>Oxfordshire BAP 2015 targets.</p>	<p>2015</p>

**Notes**

- a) Specific actions and measures for 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 8 were endorsed at the Joint Environment and Waste partnership meeting on Friday 24 June 2011.
- b) Revised wording for 3 was submitted to the Oxfordshire Partnership meeting in March 2012.
- c) Specific actions 5 and 6 were presented in the work programme to the last meeting; they support the 2030 priority 3, Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and measure 5, which was endorsed at the meeting on 24 June 2011.

## Annex 2 Climate Local Process

1. Climate Local replaces the Nottingham Declaration, which was launched in 2000 and signed by most UK local authorities including those in Oxfordshire. The aim of Climate Local is to help drive and support council action to reduce carbon emissions and develop resilience to the effects of a changing climate and extreme weather. Climate Local has strong central government backing and is a key part of the Memorandum of Understanding between the LGA and government.
2. Signing up to Climate Local involves a four-stage process:
  - i. **Sign up/refresh:** the first stage is to sign the commitment (shown in Annex 1) as a local authority or group of authorities, who will then be added to the list of signatories on the website.
  - ii. **Declare targets and action:** the next step is to set out – within 6 months, the commitments the partnership intends to make.
  - iii. **Share learning and experiences:** once signed up, the partnership will be expected to share practice with other organisations, communities and stakeholders.
  - iv. **Report on progress:** the partnership will be asked to share progress on commitments once a year.
3. Climate Local can be signed by individual authorities or groups of authorities.

**Annex 3: Climate Local Commitment**



**Climate Local Oxfordshire:**

**Our commitment to taking action in a changing climate**

We recognise that our councils have an important role to help our residents and businesses to capture the opportunities and benefits of action on climate change. These include saving money on energy bills, generating income from renewable energy, attracting new jobs and investment in ‘green’ industries, supporting new sources of energy, managing local flood-risk and water scarcity and protecting our natural environment.

**We will progressively address the risks and pursue the opportunities presented by a changing climate, in line with local priorities, through our role as:**

- Community leader – helping local people and businesses to be smarter about their energy use and to prepare for climate impacts;
- Service provider – delivering services that are resource efficient, less carbon intensive, resilient and that protect those who are most vulnerable to climate impacts;
- Estate manager – ensuring that our own buildings and operations are resource efficient, use clean energy, and are well prepared for the impacts of a changing climate.

In signing this commitment, **we will:**

- **Set locally-owned and determined commitments** and actions to reduce carbon emissions and to manage climate impacts. These will be specific, measurable and challenging;
- **Publish our commitments, actions and progress**, enabling local communities to hold us to account;
- **Share the learning from our experiences and achievements** with other councils; and
- **Regularly refresh our commitments and actions** to ensure they are current and continue to reflect local priorities.

[Date]
[Name of council or group of councils]    Oxfordshire Environment and Waste Partnership
[Signature of Chair of Partnership]
[Signatures of Members of Partnership]

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