

EASTLEIGH BOROUGH COUNCIL
TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE
A STRATEGY FOR 2011-2020

July 2011

Contents

	Page
1.0 Vision	3
2.0 Context	4
3.0 Our Key Priorities	8
3.1 Energy	8
3.2 Transport & Travel	9
3.3 Waste Minimisation & Recycling	10
3.4 Water Resources	11
3.5 Low Carbon Development and Construction	12
3.6 Low Carbon Economy	13
3.7 Food	14
3.8 Adapting to climate change	15
4.0 Engaging Our Staff and the Community	16
5.0 Delivering the Strategy	17

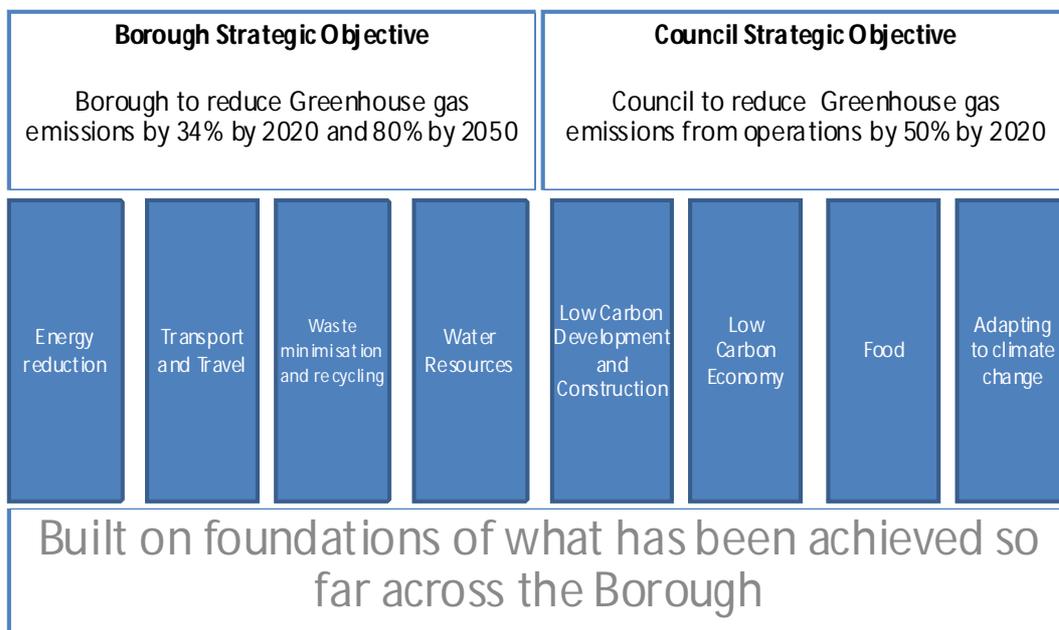
1.0 Vision

Eastleigh will be regarded nationally as a leader in how to tackle climate change. We will work with the community to establish Eastleigh as a Low Carbon Borough. The Council will lead by example in using its resources efficiently and developing innovative solutions to reduce the carbon footprint of the Council. The Council will work with the wider community and key partners to support and help deliver a range of climate change initiatives.

We recognise that this cannot be done by the Council alone, that we all need to work together as residents, businesses and organisations within Eastleigh Borough to successfully deliver this vision.

This strategy sets out how Eastleigh Borough Council will work with the local community, schools and businesses as we all take action to tackle climate change, setting out both an ambitious target to reduce CO₂ emissions by 2020 across the Borough and actions to help us adapt to the inevitable impacts of climate change.

The Council has set out two overarching strategic objectives which are supported by eight pillars (key priorities) in order to successfully deliver our vision. Obviously this vision is built on the strong bedrock of work the council and our community has done over a number of years, establishing itself as a beacon for other councils.



As we explain our vision for each of these key priorities we will set out what contribution each will play in delivering our strategic objectives, what the Council needs to do and what we would seek from the wider community.

2.0 Context

Climate Change

There is wide scientific consensus that our climate is changing and that this is mainly due to human activities. The effects of climate change in the UK will vary across regions but in general we can expect to see:

- Higher temperatures all year and more heat waves in summer increasing the demand for energy intensive cooling of our buildings and bringing about potential health risks for the elderly, very young and vulnerable.
- More extreme weather events including flash floods, droughts and heat waves.
- Less rainfall overall especially in the south and east although there will be more instances of extreme rainfall events causing flooding. Extended dry periods will put more pressure on our water supply while extreme rainfall events can create damage and disruption to our transport networks and buildings.
- More severe and frequent river and coastal flooding as a result of rising sea levels and more extreme rainfall events.

This brings about some key challenges for the council and borough as a whole. Firstly we must reduce carbon emissions by reducing our demand for energy be it in our homes, business or our travel choices. Secondly we must look to move to renewable and more sustainable form of energy generation to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and finally we must prepare ourselves and adapt for the inevitable effects of climate change.

Government Targets

The Climate Change Act (2008) has set the UK a legal obligation to reduce CO₂ emissions by 80% by 2050 and a reduction in emissions of at least 34% by 2020 (against a 1990 baseline). It also introduces a carbon budgeting system, which caps emissions over a five-year period.

To meet these targets, action by local authorities and the community are crucial. In the future the success of local communities and their economies will be significantly influenced by how well they respond to this agenda and the challenges within it, such as dealing with where the energy they consume will come from in the future and how transport can operate in a sustainable manner that is not reliant on fossil fuels.

Eastleigh Borough Council aims to provide vision and leadership to others through reducing its own carbon footprint and helping others in taking action to meet the

challenges posed by climate change, to safeguard local communities and ensure continued prosperity and sustainable economic growth.

Existing Activity

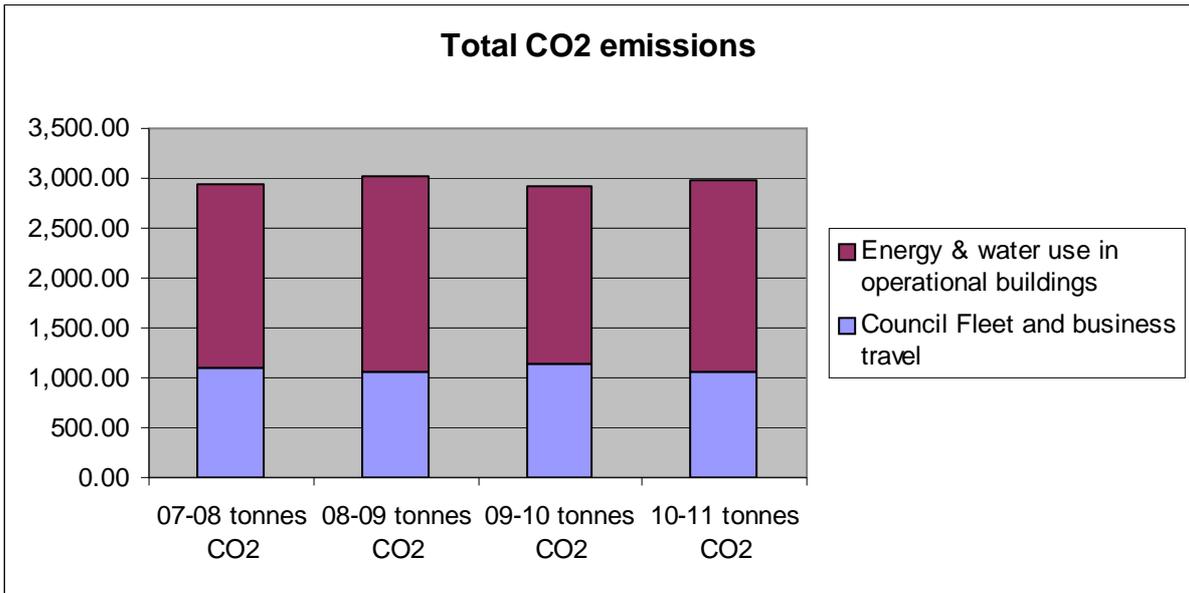
The Council has a long history of tackling climate change and has focussed not only on looking at how we operate as a council but on engaging with our local community and stakeholders through a range of initiatives to raise the profile of climate change and its impacts. Some of our key achievements are listed below.

The Council has had a climate change strategy in place since 2003 and a carbon management plan since 2005. Through these plans we have made significant reductions in our own carbon emissions. Building on this work we also committed in 2007 to be carbon neutral in our own business activities by July 2012, were awarded Beacon Council status for tackling climate change in 2008, and through this strategy are looking forward to how we can build on this work and look forward to 2020.

Carbon Neutral Eastleigh and CarbonFREE

In 2007 the council committed to become carbon neutral, in its key business activities, by July 2012 and set itself a target to reduce its CO₂ emissions by 10% over 2007 levels. Unavoidable emissions were compensated for through CarbonFREE (Carbon Fund for Reducing Emissions in Eastleigh, a local carbon compensation fund). As part of Carbon Neutral Eastleigh, the council set up and invested money into the Fund for local home insulation projects to save carbon dioxide emissions (compensating for unavoidable emissions from key council business activities). CarbonFREE is a local fund for local people for local insulation projects in homes and community buildings and since 2008 has insulated 250 properties across the Borough, with more being done during 2011/12. The carbon emissions saved through insulation of these properties means that the Council will meet its target to be carbon neutral in its key business activities by July 2012.

A breakdown of the Councils CO₂ emissions since 2007 is shown below:

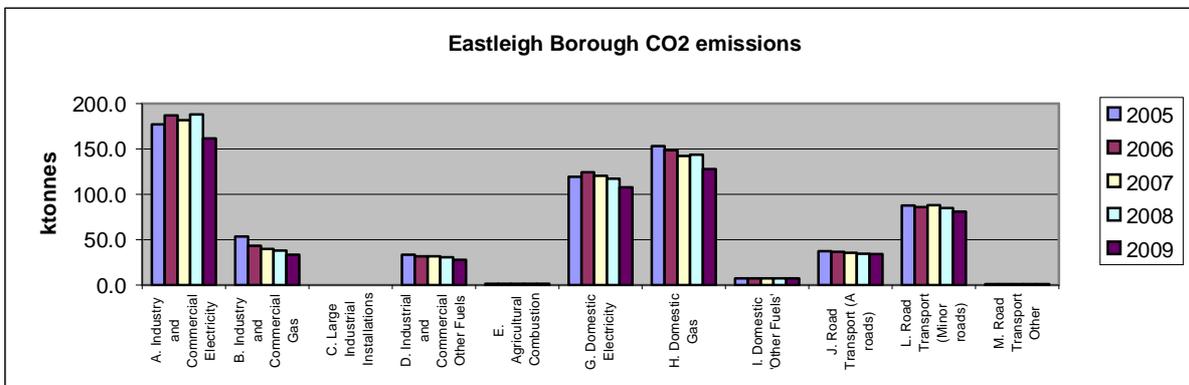


The chart shows that whilst we have made good progress in reducing our fleet and business mileage emissions we need to work at reducing our emissions from our buildings if we are to meet our existing CO₂ emission reduction target of 10%.

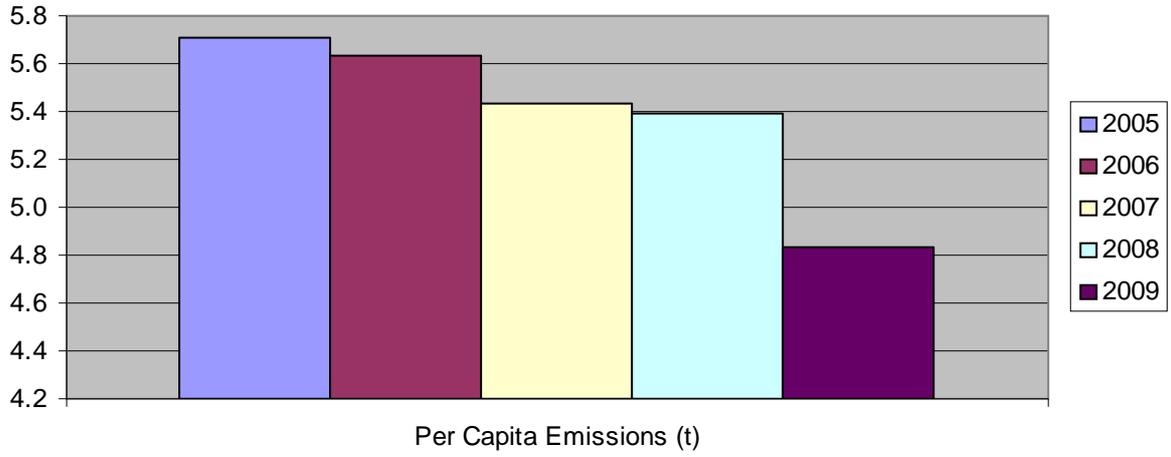
Community Engagement

Through a range of projects such as Borough of Eastleigh Energy Project and partnership working with local bus companies the Council have worked with and supported the local community raising awareness about climate change and its impacts, and helping the community to reduce their own CO₂ emissions. The Council is currently working in partnership with Hampshire County Council and energy providers as part of Insulate Hampshire, offering low cost home insulation to all residents in the Borough.

The charts below show CO₂ emissions from the Borough as a whole. The first chart shows emissions from various activities since 2005 whilst the second chart shows per capita emissions for the Borough as a whole. Since 2005 there has been a 15% reduction in the Boroughs per capita emissions.



Eastleigh Borough Per Capita CO2 Emissions (tonnes)



3.0 Key Priorities

This section of the strategy looks at the key priorities, sets out what we will do and how we will do it.

3.1 Key Priority 1 – Energy

What we will do:

The consumption of energy by businesses and homes will reduce and there will be a significant increase in the generation of green, secure electricity through a diverse range of district-wide and micro generation schemes.

Energy efficiency is a key part of any climate change strategy. By using energy more carefully and using alternative renewable sources, CO₂ emissions can be reduced resulting in benefits to public services, residents and businesses.

Although it is essential to make cuts in our CO₂ emissions we still need to meet our needs for electricity, heating and transport. We need to explore and expand local energy networks and ensure homes and businesses are built to the highest energy efficient standards. Energy security is another key energy issue as supplies of fossil fuels, which we rely on heavily for our current energy needs, are declining. Improving energy efficiency and securing low carbon sustainable energy supplies will be essential in allowing us to reduce our reliance on these fuels and will provide long term benefits for the Council and wider community.

Around 25% of UK CO₂ emissions come from existing housing stock. These emissions could be reduced through adequate insulation of homes. The Council has already invested in insulation for homes across the borough and continues to help residents to find out what they can do to save energy, and money, in their own homes. With the introduction of Feed in Tariffs and the Renewable Heat Incentive businesses and residents will be able to install renewable energy technologies and generate energy for their own homes and buildings.

Eastleigh Borough Council is committed to reducing energy consumption of its key buildings. Burning fossil fuels to heat and light our buildings is a key contributor of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere, a major cause of climate change. Reducing our energy use through energy efficiency and the use of renewable and sustainable technologies will save money as well as reducing the Councils reliance on gas, oil and coal which will become increasingly scarce.

We are committed to meet the governments target to reduce carbon emissions by 80% by 2050 and 34% by 2020 and have set ourselves an ambitious target of reducing our carbon emissions by 50% by 2020 (on our 2007 levels).

The buildings that we own and operate are responsible for 62% of the Council's carbon emissions and we are looking to reduce carbon emissions from these buildings by 930 tonnes per annum by 2020. We will achieve this by increasing the energy and water efficiency of our buildings and by ensuring more of the energy used is from renewable sources.

Key Objectives:

E1 - By 2020 energy consumption of buildings owned and operated by EBC will be reduced by 50% through energy reduction projects and measures.

E2 - By 2016, 344MWh (equivalent to 30% of council energy consumption in 2007) of the energy consumed by buildings owned and operated by EBC will be generated from renewable or sustainable sources.

E3 - All refurbishment of buildings owned and operated by EBC will meet BREEAM Excellent where it is cost effective to do so.

E4 - By 2020, 90% of privately owned homes will be insulated to current Building Regulation standards.

E5 – By 2020, 30% of privately owned homes and commercial properties will have renewable energy technologies installed and operating.

3.2 Key Priority 2 - Transport & Travel

What we will do:

Public transport, cycling and walking will become realistic and viable alternatives to using the car for many journeys, especially for shorter journeys and those journeys between district centres and local homes. Emissions from Council vehicles will be reduced through the more efficient use of vehicles and vehicles using alternative forms of fuel.

Emissions from vehicles account for a significant proportion of CO₂ emissions and there is an expectation that this will continue rising. It is estimated that 40% of an average person's CO₂ contribution comes from transport, three-quarters of which is attributable to car travel.

Transport and travel is essential, enabling us to get to places of work, school and leisure, and distribution of goods and services that we all use. We need to focus making sustainable travel modes viable and attractive to residents and businesses and working with our PUSH (Partnership for Urban South Hampshire) partners and bus and rail companies to promote, continually improve and make affordable, travel by public transport.

Well maintained and interconnected walking and cycling routes are a viable alternative to using the car, especially for shorter journeys. Providing such routes is only one part of the solution to reducing car use. To deliver such a reduction we must all look to change our travel behaviours.

In the Council carbon emissions from our fleet and business travel account for 38% of the Councils total carbon emissions. We accept that we need to travel and run fleet vehicles to deliver our services but we must look to drive the most efficient vehicles in an efficient way and reduce the need to travel or travel in a more sustainable way.

Travel also creates congestion and air quality problems which can lead to health problems in our communities so we must also explore cleaner fuel options for our own vehicles. Actions that tackle climate change but damage air quality must be avoided.

The Council has its own staff travel plan in place and through a range of initiatives and projects that have been delivered we have seen a reduction in business travel of 3% between 2007/8 and 2010/11. In addition, work has and is still being carried out on route optimisation for our waste fleet vehicles and new in cab technology will provide us with real time information on the performance of our vehicles and how efficiently they are being driven.

Key Objectives:

TT1 - By 2018, emissions from Council fleet vehicles will have reduced by 550 tonnes and from the Councils business travel by 10 tonnes (over 2010/11 levels).

TT2 - Alternative fuel vehicles will be introduced as part of the Council's fleet and pool cars by 2017.

TT3 - Staff travel plans will be used to raise awareness, introduce measures and new ways of working that reduce the need for Council staff to travel to Council premises and encourage staff to not travel for business related purposes, or where travel is essential, use sustainable forms of transport.

TT4 – We will work with major businesses and schools to encourage the use of sustainable (non car) modes of transport and support schemes that continue to develop a network of walking and cycling routes and encourage public transport use.

3.3 Key Priority 3 - Waste Minimisation & Recycling

What we will do:

The level of waste generated in the Borough will be decreased and the rate of recycling increased. Items we dispose of will no longer be considered as waste but used as a resource.

The amount of waste we produce in the UK is increasing year on year. Recent research suggests that waste will grow by an average of 2.4% per year to 2020. It also suggests that different types of waste will grow at different rates – and that some, such as glass and cans, may even decline. Others, particularly Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (known as WEEE), are predicted to increase at a higher rate. In 2005-06, each person in Eastleigh produced, on average, 351kg of waste (excluding that taken directly to Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)). Of this, about 90kg was recycled, 30kg was green waste sent for composting, and the rest was incinerated or landfilled.

Recycling rates across the Borough currently stand at 44%. The Council is looking to achieve a recycling rate of 50%. Whilst trying to maximise recycling, the council is also working with residents to address waste minimisation, increase participation and reduce contamination of recyclables.

WMR1 – By 2020 the quantity of waste collected from Council owned and operated buildings will be reduced and recycling rates increased.

WMR2 – The council, working with its residents, will maximise recycling, reduce contamination and minimise waste production.

WMR3 – The Council, working with business, will encourage reduction and recycling of trade waste through a range of activities and programmes.

WMR4 – We will work with other partners to explore the use of all waste streams as a resource, including looking at the potential for anaerobic digestion in the borough.

3.4 Key Priority 4 - Water Resources

What we will do:

Public bodies, businesses and residents will work collaboratively to achieve reductions in water use across the Borough. Residents and businesses will feel supported in their efforts to use these resources more efficiently and sustainably.

South Hampshire, including Eastleigh Borough, is classified by the Environment Agency as a water-stressed area and drought may be more common in the future as we see less rainfall overall and rainfall patterns changing with more severe events leading to flash flooding.

New homes will put an increased demand on our water supplies. New buildings will be designed to be water efficient and the Code for Sustainable Homes plus the Council's own Environmentally Sustainable Development Supplementary Planning document will help to guide this. It is essential to provide information to our residents

and keep them informed about reducing their water usage. The majority of water used by the Council is in our key buildings and at Fleming Park Leisure Centre as well as in the parks and open spaces for which we are responsible. However, this doesn't mean we can be complacent with this increasingly scarce resource.

At the Civic Offices, Depot and the Kingfisher Building at Itchen Valley Country Park we have installed water saving devices such as low flush toilets, waterless urinals and rainwater harvesting (Kingfisher Building only). We will look to improve our monitoring and measurement of water use and seek opportunities to reduce it where possible.

Key Objectives:

WR1 - Reduce water use in buildings that we own and operate by 20% by 2020 (over 2007/8 levels).

WR2 - Reduce water use in parks and open spaces that EBC are responsible for managing by 50% by 2020 (over 2007/8 levels).

WR3 - Water use in new homes will be reduced in line with the Code for Sustainable Homes

WR4 - We will work with others, such as the water companies, to reduce the overall water consumption of the borough.

3.5 Key Priority 5 - Low Carbon Construction and Development

New developments will be carbon neutral and conform to high standards of sustainability, by delivering efficiency in energy and water use and minimising waste and the impact on the natural environment from their construction. They will be located where sustainable modes of transport are easily accessible and where they do not suffer from or worsen the effects of climate change.

Over a third of all CO₂ emissions come from buildings. We need to work with individuals and businesses and use our planning powers to ensure that new developments and extensions to properties and communities are designed to be more energy efficient and sustainable.

Through our Local Plan and Environmentally Sensitive Development Supplementary Planning Document, part of the Local Development Framework, we are setting out policies to ensure new development will be highly energy and water efficient, sited in sustainable locations and incorporate renewable and sustainable energy technologies to meet some of their energy needs.

Construction is the largest area of spend at the Council and potentially one of the most damaging with regards to carbon emissions. Through sustainable procurement

practices and strong project management the Council will ensure that new buildings are constructed to the highest environmental operating standards.

Key Objectives

C1 – All new projects/schemes constructed by the Council will be constructed to the highest environmental operating standards.

C2 – All significant new developments will be built to high economically, socially and environmentally sustainable standards.

3.6 Key Priority 6 - Low Carbon Economy

What we will do:

The Borough's Low Carbon Economy will grow with business and job growth within green technologies. The Borough will build a reputation for a low carbon economy encouraging green businesses and innovation in green technology. Businesses will work together to develop more sustainable business practices and achieve savings in their energy & water use and levels of waste.

Ultimately, a low carbon economy is one which is characterised by activities which emit low levels of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

There is increasing demand for activities which promote more efficient use of fossil fuels and prevent the release of carbon dioxide. New fuel efficient hybrid engines, the insulation of older buildings and intelligent building control systems are examples of technologies, processes and services which meet this need. Collectively these activities are also known as the low carbon economy.

The low carbon economy can be best understood as the range of activities which are materially supported by the need to reduce the release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. So they may, for example:

- Focus directly on using fossil fuels more efficiently (such as hybrid vehicle technology);
- Prevent the release of emissions into the atmosphere, or remove carbon dioxide from the environment
- Support the transition to less carbon intensive operations

Eastleigh Borough Council has undertaken research in partnership with the Sustainable Business Partnership into specific issues around the Low Carbon Economy within Eastleigh Borough. The findings from a combination of desk-based investigation and direct surveying of Eastleigh businesses supports the principle that the borough has significant economic potential which can be exploited, developed and optimised through a programme of activities in this area. Eastleigh businesses have demonstrated that they believe the Council can and should play a valuable role in helping to develop this sector.

Specifically, the research has found that:

- Eastleigh Borough has a strong existing base of suppliers, producers and technologies within the Low Carbon Economy, offering both a platform on which further innovation can be built, and importantly a diverse and high quality source of local supply. By matching this supply with demand stimulated within the area, economic benefits will be magnified, ensuring that a fair proportion of the 'green pound' remains within Eastleigh's economy.
- Businesses' understanding of sustainability and low carbon issues is increasingly sophisticated. They recognise that operating along more sustainable lines is a key component to future economic success, and there is an identifiable desire amongst the business community to improve in this area. EBC can play a key role in encouraging and supporting businesses to do so.
- The twin areas of supply and demand as outlined above suggest that there is genuine potential for Eastleigh to position itself as a genuine and credible player within the UK's Low Carbon Economy. This if approached correctly may offer further scope in terms of attracting inward investment and supporting further start-ups in this sector, creating a 'virtuous circle' of activity around the Green Agenda.

The Council is keen to support the development of a low carbon economy and help businesses to become more sustainable in their day to day operations. We also recognise there is a need to work with other agencies to develop a skilled workforce to support these sectors.

Key Objectives:

LCE 1 – We will work with local businesses to address skills gaps and develop new skills required to support the move to a low carbon economy will be addressed

LCE 2 - We will work with in partnership with other agencies to ensure that local business are supported and encouraged to reduce their own carbon footprint. .

LCE 3 – We will work with other partners to set up a Low Carbon Business Network to encourage the growth of low carbon businesses in the Borough

LCE4 – Innovation and investment in new and existing businesses will be supported to encourage new environmental and green technologies.

3.7 Key Priority 7 - Food

What we will do:

Residents will have the opportunity to grow their own and easily source locally grown food. The sustainability of food supply and availability and consumption of locally grown food in the borough will be improved.

It is estimated that between 20% and 30% of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions are associated with food and how we get it from where it is grown to where it will be purchased and finally consumed. It is also a significant producer of waste, both the food and its associated packaging. The council already has strong ambitions to reduce waste arisings in the borough and as well as reducing food waste, significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions can be made by encouraging and supporting residents to make better informed choices when buying and eating food.

There is also an increasing interest in "growing your own" and demand for allotments locally has risen significantly and is still increasing. Growing your own or purchasing locally grown food helps to reduce "food miles" reducing some of the negative environmental effects of food consumption.

Inevitable climate change will result in hotter drier summers and warmer wetter winters, and this has implications particularly for food production and prices.

F1 – We will support and promote grow your own and look to increase the provision of land, where possible, for the community to grow their own food.

F2 – Through the Green Infrastructure Strategy we will explore the provision of space for Grow Your Own as part of new developments.

3.8 Key Priority 8 - Adaptation and Green Infrastructure

Adaptation will be a key response to reduce our vulnerability to climate change. (Stern Review Report 2006). While much of the present focus of climate change activity is aimed specifically at carbon emissions reduction (mitigation), the level of carbon already in the atmosphere means we could experience an average global temperature rise of between 1.1 and 6.4 °C by 2100 (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2007 Fourth Assessment Report).

The Stern Review (2006) identified that there will be significant costs involved in adapting to the changed climate, but that these costs can be reduced by early adoption of solutions. So for example reducing vulnerability of buildings and infrastructure to severe weather events and extremes of temperature in the planning and construction stages rather than retro fitting solutions later.

A range of organisations are now starting to think about adaptation from those interested in land use planning and how land is used, to the business world which has decided to encourage companies to include climate change and adaptation as a business risk which may effect supply chains, productive capacity or even markets and demand for new products.

The Stern Report explored the potential of leaving adaptation to the market – under the term autonomous adaptation. The downside it reported was that the most vulnerable would struggle the most to cope. And it's this area alongside general public health that the public sector and Local Authorities can play an important role.

Key Objectives

A1 – The Council, when looking at its service provision and operations will plan for inevitable climate change and adapt its operations to deal with the climate effects that are predicted.

A2 – We will actively support and work with our partners to assist our communities in adapting to inevitable climate change and to manage the natural evolution of biodiversity in the borough

A3 – We will support our local businesses in building resilience and adapting to climate change

4.0 Engaging Our Staff and the Community

What we will do:

Council staff, residents and the wider community will be aware of the effects of climate change, will be keen to ‘do their bit’ and understand how and what action they can take individually and with others to both reduce their carbon footprint and adapt to cope with the effects in the future.

Communication can play a significant role in helping the Council meet our objectives. However the issue of climate change remains a challenge for communicators as research has shown that many recipients of the message are unclear about what this complex issue means and its relevance to their everyday lives. Communicating the global issue of climate change can be a difficult one as many unfamiliar words and phrases about the subject are often used.

Research from our own Citizens’ Panel (2007) indicates that 57% of respondents do think that climate change is affecting their environment and of those 91% state that it is an issue that concerns them. However 42% of respondents answered no or were not sure about the affects of climate change on their local environment. Encouragingly around 62% of respondents stated that they would like to receive more information about climate change.

The challenge for the council is how to translate the big global vision into messages that are both personal to our audience and practical in terms of inspiring a positive response. Engaging residents in a meaningful way that will result in a greater awareness of the issues and elicit a change in people’s attitudes and behaviour will be a key outcome of our communications campaign.

C1 – Leading by example, we will seek to demonstrate to residents and businesses what actions they can take and are needed to reduce their carbon footprint and adapt to inevitable climate change.

C2 – We will engage with Council staff to increase their awareness of climate change issues and encourage behaviour change both in the workplace and at home.

C3 – The Council will provide an information hub on climate change for all Council staff, residents and local businesses encouraging positive behavioural change, increased awareness on climate change issues, and promoting low carbon lifestyles.

5.0 Delivering the Strategy

This strategy identifies key objectives that need to be delivered to achieve the vision and key aims set out at the beginning of the strategy. Whilst the Council is solely responsible for its own activities and emissions arising from them we know that we need resources to deliver them. We also have a responsibility to identify and act on risks and opportunities that a changing climate will bring and work and support others to respond to those challenges.

Actions to achieve the key objectives will be identified in detailed delivery plans. These plans will set out what needs to be done, by who and the timescale over which it will be delivered. These plans will set out the costs, if any of delivering these actions. Progress against these plans will be monitored, amended if required and reported on an annual basis. The Councils Climate Change Programme Board will oversee the delivery of the plans and their success, working collaboratively with other partners where necessary. The plans will be reviewed and updated annually and reported to Cabinet, Council and the Community.