

ARGYLL AND BUTE CLIMATE CHANGE DECLARATION

1. SUMMARY

At the Management Committee meeting held on 14 May 2008, all partners were asked to agree to sign up to the Scottish Climate Change Declaration which Argyll and Bute Council, and all other Scottish local authorities, have signed up to.

Partners were also asked to share good practice on combating climate change. This report summarises the responses that Policy and Strategy have received from Community Planning Partners.

2. DETAIL

There was a relatively low response from Community Planning Partners. A total of nine responses came from HIE, Strathclyde Police, Scottish Enterprise, SNH, HITRANS, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue as well as 3 separate responses from Council departments.

HIE indicated that although they remain very supportive of the Declaration, they are not in a position to sign the Declaration immediately. HIE have looked at the carbon footprint for 2006/07 and are updating this to reflect 07/08 and 08/09 operations. The study will inform future emissions reduction plan and targets. HIE have indicated that they would like to delay signing the declaration until next year at which stage they will have a better understanding of how their emissions are generated.

HITRANS have done key work in promoting Travel Planning with organisations with the main focus so far on Health and Council activities. The aim is to widen the introduction of travel planning across the region in the public and private sector. A car sharing website covering each of the HITRANS Council areas, including Argyll and Bute has been launched at www.ifyoucareshare.com. The site not only focuses on promoting sharing of journeys to work but also journeys to events, meetings and appointments.

SNH have shared their approaches with partners as per email sent by Andrew Campbell on 4th August 2008. SNH have published an Environmental Management Policy, an Environmental Management Programme and a Green Office Plan which is signed off by local managers. Examples of the Green Office Plan can be found in Appendix 1.

Strathclyde Police identified several areas in which they are demonstrating good practice in combating climate change. Further information on the key steps that Strathclyde Police are practising can be found in Appendix 2.

Strathclyde Fire and Rescue (SFR) stated that they ensure they fit with policies of the local authorities they work in and also with national agencies such as SEPA. SFR is considering the environmental effect that they have as a result of incidents, for example, cleaning away diesel after incidents.

Community Services, Argyll and Bute Council responded to the request that partners share good practice. The Supporting People team have stated that they will engage with existing service providers to develop environmentally friendly practice.

In undertaking delivery of the Capital Programme/Asset Management, the Council is striving to make buildings more efficient. The development of sustainable, energy efficient housing is a key objective that is pursued with RSL partners and the Scottish Government. There has also been an introduction of vehicle tracking to most of the Community Services transport fleet with a view to maximising efficiency.

Development Services have confirmed that they are a partner in the car sharing website identified by HITRANS.

3. CONCLUSION

This report summarises the actions that Community Planning Partners are undertaking to combat the issue of Climate Change. Partners are taking some steps to combat Climate Change although due to the low level of responses, there appears to be a need for the remaining partners to publicise any areas of good practice that can be shared before all partners in Argyll and Bute's Community Planning Partnership can sign the declaration.

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