

## SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**REPORT TO:** New Communities Portfolio Holder 26 January 2010  
**AUTHOR/S:** Executive Director (Operational Services) / Corporate Manager  
(New Communities)

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### JOINING THE NATIONAL "10:10" CARBON EMISSIONS REDUCTION CAMPAIGN

#### Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to request approval from the Portfolio Holder for New Communities for the Council to formally join the national "10:10" carbon emissions reduction campaign. Signing up to this campaign publicly illustrates the Council's commitment to seek to secure a 10% reduction in its own operational carbon emissions between the beginning of April 2010 and the end of March 2011.

Joining the 10:10 campaign is in ideal alignment with the 2010/11 Council Action to "achieve a 10% reduction in the emission of CO<sub>2</sub> from the Council's operations and publicise the outcome in order to set an example to other organizations".

#### Introduction

2. The Climate Change Act 2008 set a carbon reduction target (expressed as carbon dioxide equivalent) of 80% from a 1990 baseline. The Climate Change Commission has since established interim carbon budgets which set a shorter term target of a 34% reduction by 2020.
3. Establishing strong links between targets and actions on climate change has proved problematic. Some evidence suggests that this is because the large cuts necessary may appear overawing. Collectively cutting 10% of carbon dioxide emissions in the next year is a more modest, achievable and meaningful target and would represent a significant step on the road to a low carbon Britain from which actions for further reductions can then be developed.
4. Initial cuts should, for many individuals and organisations, be relatively straightforward (reducing waste and improving efficiency) and not require significant changes in lifestyle or operations.
5. As the campaign literature states "10:10 is an ambitious project to unite every sector of British society behind one simple idea: that by working together we can achieve a 10% cut in the UK's carbon emissions in 2010".
6. A detailed information sheet on "10:10 for Councils" is attached to this report. Over 100 local authorities across the country have now signed up.

#### Supporting context/rationale for decision

7. The Council is already fully committed to taking as many practical steps as possible to tackle the climate change agenda. In 2002 it signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change and in 2009 signed the Cambridge Climate Change Charter. Both of these are public commitments to act but do not contain specific targets.
8. In September 2009 Cabinet agreed the following Council Action for 2010/11:

“We will achieve a 10 % reduction in the emission of CO<sub>2</sub> from the Council’s operations and publicise the outcome in order to set an example to other organizations”.

9. The new local government performance framework (first reported through for 2008/09) introduced three very climate change-specific national indicators: NI 186 - per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the local authority area; NI 188 - extent of preparedness to respond to the impacts of climate change, and; NI185 - direct CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from local authority operations. The former are LAA indicators and have very specific targets attached to them for delivery by the end of 2010/11.
10. Signing up to the 10:10 Campaign will give the Council a short-term specific target for indicator NI 185 from which it can subsequently build and develop further targets and actions.

### **Considerations**

11. The NI 185 (and ‘10:10 for Councils’) parameters focus upon building and transport emissions. For the Council this equates to energy use from its operational buildings (heat and power for South Cambridgeshire Hall and the Depot) and mileage for direct business purposes (i.e. excluding travel for work).
12. As a relatively compact organisation with limited assets and operations that contribute to calculations under NI 185, the ability to make very significant absolute reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will not be great. From a strategic perspective this has meant that the majority of the Council’s dedicated capacity in this field to date has been dedicated to developing measures within the broader South Cambridgeshire residential and business community.
13. The Council is presently drafting a new Climate Change Action Plan that is due to be put forward for internal approval, prior to a focused consultation, in early March this year. Reducing carbon emissions from the Council’s own operation will be a central function of this action plan.
14. Initial steps have been taken to establish a small multi-disciplinary officer team as an Internal Sustainability Delivery Group (ISDG). Identifying and facilitating appropriate steps to reduce organisational carbon emissions will be a core objective for the group.
15. The Council’s travel for work plan, known as “Travel Link”, includes actions that focus upon reducing business mileage as well as staff commuting, although the latter would not be included within contributions to meeting the 10:10 target.
16. As of 2008/09, a Display Energy Certificate (DEC) has been required for South Cambridgeshire Hall that provides calculated figures for the buildings energy efficiency and carbon emissions. There would appear to be some room for improvement, especially given the buildings BREEAM ‘excellent’ rating following completion of its construction in 2004. The Council should be looking to take steps to provide a continuous improvement on the DEC figures.
17. Many staff have shown an interest in trying to reduce their personal carbon footprints (recently supported through the loaning out of electricity energy monitors for domestic use), including that element generated whilst at work. The ISDG will be keen to make the most of this interest when promoting more sustainable energy measures in the workplace. An additional facet of the 10:10 campaign is the encouragement of

individuals to make the same commitments to personal carbon reduction outside of the workplace.

18. The 10:10 campaign is promoted through the Cambridge Climate Change Charter initiative that the Council is working in Partnership with the City Council to actively develop and promote.
19. With the above considerations in mind, the benefits to the Council of formally signing up to the 10:10 campaign include:
  - An outward facing public commitment: joining over 100 other local authorities in a unified display of community leadership to reduce carbon emissions.
  - Providing a clear target for national performance indicator NI 185 - from which the setting of subsequent targets can be assessed.
  - Offering a strong and recognisable profile for internal carbon reduction work – there would be no need to invent an initiative. Promotional approaches and materials have already been developed as part of the national campaign.
  - A positive position from which to promote it to other organisations and businesses across the district via previously established workstreams such as the South Cambs Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership, the Cambridge Climate Change Charter and other communicative channels (e.g. economic development news, local strategic partnership and the South Cambs Magazine).
  - Fully supporting the Council Action for 2010/11 of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the Council's operations by 10%. This in turn provides a core aim and delivery objective for the internal organisational elements of carbon reduction within: a.) the forthcoming Climate Change Action Plan; b.) the newly established Internal Sustainability Delivery Group, and; c.) measures to improve the South Cambridgeshire Hall's DEC rating.

**Implications**

20.	Financial	None arising
	Legal	None arising
	Staffing	Strategic Sustainability Officer as co-ordinator with implementation/enabement via key representatives on the Internal Sustainability Delivery Group.
	Risk Management	Potential for missed opportunity to provide clear and tangible community leadership message on the importance and priority of carbon reduction.
	Equal Opportunities	None arising

**Consultations**

21. Chair SCDC Climate Change Working Group  
Portfolio holder for Policy and Performance

**Effect on Corporate Objectives and Service Priorities**

22.	<b>Have a Climate Change Action Plan in place by 2010</b>
	Positive – will support development and delivery of the Action Plan
	<b>Working with Parish Councils on schemes for renewable energy and low carbon living</b>

Positive – can readily be used as an additional promotional vehicle in support of the Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership

**Recommendation**

23. That the Portfolio Holder for New Communities gives his approval for the Council to formally join the national “10:10” carbon emissions reduction campaign.

**Background Papers:** the following web-based background source was used in the preparation of this report:

- [www.1010uk.org](http://www.1010uk.org)

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