

SCDC Climate Change Working Group: Work Programme Item – initiation sheet

Item: Taking Account of Climate Change in the South Cambridgeshire Growth Areas¹

Date: **June 2007**

Specific Task (goal and methods clearly defined)
<p>Goal:</p> <p>→ to ensure that SCDC is taking all the necessary steps (within its sphere of control and influence) to maximise the opportunities and abilities of new and future residents of the growth areas to live in ways which are exemplary in their positive response to the implications of climate change (both in mitigation and adaptation).</p> <p>Method:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. review the relationship between the climate change and growth area agendas; ii. review the extent of the District Council’s responsibilities and statutory commitments in ensuring that climate change is comprehensively taken account of in these growth areas; iii. define those significant matters in which the Working Group can constructively contribute to add value to plans and proposals in the context of a comprehensive response to climate change; iv. clearly define a proritised schedule of actions to effectively deal with these matters, including making the necessary recommendations/representation to the appropriate bodies as and when required.
Measurable (numeric or specific tangible output parameters attached to task or objective)
<p>This item is measurable against the following outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Listing, schematic or other means illustrating the climate change and growth agenda relationships (covering overlaps, gaps, conflicts and tensions); ii. Prioritised list of significant matters and appropriate actions in the planning and delivery of the growth areas which will set the developments as exemplary in terms of their response to tackling climate change
Achievable (possible within the resources available or which could be made available)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In the first instance, resources will be limited to SSO and WG members’ time. Subsequent actions emerging from this item will draw in expert witnesses as and when deemed appropriate by the WG.
Relevant (does it really matter? if so to whom and how much)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For the future of South Cambridgeshire, climate change and sub-regional growth currently stand as the two most transformative drivers of change and are quite likely to remain so for decades to come. Both are now fully acknowledged but responses are still, to a large degree, at the planning stage. Planned for correctly and the future for the District is a very positive one, incorrectly or ineffectively and the future is less certain. Establishing fully committed links between mitigating against /adapting to climate change and major new build is an imperative for which there can be few excuses.

¹ The ‘growth areas’ are defined in the context of this item as the major housing and mixed development locations currently proposed or planned for within South Cambs as part of the larger sub-regional growth agenda (in South Cambs this encompasses the sites/areas known as: Northstowe, Cambridge West, Cambridge Northern Fringe, Cambridge East, and Cambridge Southern Fringe).

Time-bound (start and finish dates with milestones)

- This is, in effect, a foundation item which should be seen as leading quickly into tackling the more specific matters arising from relationship between climate change and the growth agenda.
- It is envisaged that the consideration of the item by the Working Group on 21:06:07 will lead to the rapid definition of a prioritised schedule of specific matters which the Group should look to consider, advise and make recommendations on.
- It is to be hoped that the first of these prioritised matters can be brought to the next meeting.

Contribution in terms of:**Corporate objectives and priorities** (re. Performance Plan 2006)

Significant contribution to meeting:

- Objective 3: A sustainable future for South Cambridgeshire
- Priority 2: To achieve successful, sustainable new communities at Northstowe and other major new settlements.

Demonstrating leadership

Exemplary responsibility in tackling climate change in major new build projects.

Encouraging behaviour change

Ensuring that residents and users of the new developments can readily and willingly adopt sustainable lifestyles.

Efficiency savings

- If climate change issues (mitigation and adaptation) are thoroughly thought through and implemented from the outset this will minimise the need for more costly retro-fitting in the future. It is more cost effective to build in infrastructure, facilities and options on future additions at initial planning and building phases.
- Many responses to climate change within the built environment deliver an immediate, medium or long term saving to the user and also of course reduce the environmental damage and the costs of any future remedial action.