

## SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

---

**REPORT TO:** Climate Change Working Group 21 June 2007  
**AUTHOR/S:** Chief Executive / Corporate Manager - Policy, Performance & Partnerships / Strategic Sustainability Officer

---

### COMMUNICATING CLIMATE CHANGE: PARTNERSHIP WORKING WITH PARISH COUNCILS

#### Purpose

1. At the last meeting of the Climate Change Working Group, members agreed upon three priority areas that they felt the Group should actively pursue as the first elements in a rolling programme of 'task and finish' work. The third of these was to develop and roll out a communications and assistance package to help Parish Councils, as and if needed, to meet the challenges of the climate change agenda.
2. An outline programme item brief for this piece of work has subsequently been drawn up (attached as Appendix A to this report) and, subject to members' approval, will be used as its terms of reference.
3. The purpose of this paper is simply to seek members views and subsequent agreement on the content of this brief so that this piece of work can be moved forward.

#### Implications

4.	Legal	None
	Staffing	Project management resource – SSO. Drawing on: other service resources e.g. refuse and recycling; local members.
	Risk Management	Working with Parish Councils is currently receiving some considerable attention (Parish Charter, Parish Plans) and thus a significant opportunity exists for the District Council to facilitate action in response to the imperatives of climate change.
	Equal Opportunities	No specific implications

#### Consultations

5. No formal consultation has been necessary in preparing this report.

#### Effect on Annual Priorities and Corporate Objectives

6.	Affordable Homes	Responding to climate change is no longer a peripheral matter or one which can be put off until tomorrow. The District Council has a responsibility to ensure that everyone in the District is aware and taking account of the climate change agenda in terms of both mitigation and adaptation. A genuinely sustainable South Cambridgeshire will be one in which carbon 'counts' and as many steps as possible are taken to help and encourage communities, businesses and individuals to adopt a low carbon economy and low carbon lifestyles.
	Customer Service	
	Northstowe and other growth areas	
	Quality, Accessible Services	
	Village Life	
	Sustainability	
	Partnership	

## **Recommendations**

7. It is **RECOMMENDED** that:
- (a) members consider the attached Working Group Programme item; and
  - (b) agree a suitable approach (as presented here or as amended or otherwise) to take forward and develop a positive working relationship with Parish Councils on the subject of responses to climate change.

**Background Papers:** the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

None at present

**Contact Officer:** Richard Hales – Strategic Sustainability Officer  
Telephone: (01954) 713135