

## SCDC Climate Change Working Group: proposed revisions/updates to Terms of Reference

### Current (2007-present)

#### Accountability

The Climate Change Working Group reports directly to Full Council. A 'Task and Finish' body, it consists of nine District Council Members, appointed on a proportional basis, supported by relevant Council officers, and by independent experts as and when required.

#### Scope of deliberation

- To identify activities and processes within South Cambridgeshire that could be considered as contributing to climate change, and to encourage residents to adopt practices that minimise or eliminate any adverse impact.
- To consider how the District Council can best achieve its corporate objectives and priorities so as to minimise or eliminate any adverse impact from climate change by considering, among other things, the design and construction of new housing and public buildings.
- To consider how Members and staff of South Cambridgeshire District Council can contribute as individuals to the reduction or elimination of any adverse impact from climate change.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of energy management within South Cambridgeshire Hall, the Waterbeach Depot, and sheltered housing schemes, and identify any way in which improvements could be made that would reduce the Authority's carbon footprint.
- To address environmentally-friendly transport issues in relation to the Council's vehicle fleet, including its staff car leasing scheme, and to encourage 'green' commuting by Members, staff and residents.
- To examine the benefits of climate change mitigation measures in the context of their financial implications.
- To advise on actions to be undertaken under the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change.

### Proposed (from September 2010)

The Climate Change Working Group principally reports to the Portfolio Holder responsible for climate change and, as required, to Cabinet or Council.

As a standing working group concerned with both project delivery and policy development, it consists of nine District Council Members, appointed on a proportional basis, supported by relevant Council officers, and by independent experts as and when required.

- To champion positive and constructive actions to support the climate change agenda across the District Council's operations, actions and broader sphere of influence.
- To consider how the District Council can best achieve its corporate objectives, priorities and actions so as to minimise or eliminate carbon emissions and the adverse impacts of climate change.
- To act as the Council's principal point of reference, deliberation and advice for matters specifically relating to the reduction of carbon emissions and adaptation to the effects of climate change. Such matters would incorporate:
  - the internal operations of the Council in support of the services it delivers and as an exemplar to external organisations;
  - the services that the Council provides to the residents of South Cambridgeshire;
  - community leadership in facilitating and enabling actions across the district: including bringing together and working with key strategic partners and expert voices (especially via formal strategic partnership arrangements)
  - influencing and interpreting county, regional and national policy for the benefit of South Cambridgeshire.
- To facilitate the effective and efficient implementation of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan – its delivery, monitoring and review.