



Report to Cabinet

Subject **The Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change**

Date **29 November 2005**

Author **Deputy Chief Executive**

1. Purpose of the Report

To present to Cabinet on behalf of the Leader of the Council the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change.

2. Information

The Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change was developed in 2002. The declaration commits signatories to undertake actions that will raise awareness around climate change, provide a local lead, help and encourage residents and local businesses to become more energy efficient, reduce congestion, improve the environment and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The majority of councils locally have now signed up to the Nottingham Declaration and Gedling Borough Council has now been asked to sign the declaration and demonstrate its commitment to addressing climate change at a conference on the 5 December 2005. A copy of the declaration is given in appendix 1.

The Council already undertakes a range of actions that contribute towards the achievement of the declaration and it is not anticipated that there will be significant resource implications from signing the declaration. For example the work the Council undertakes on energy efficiency helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions both in the private and public sector. In addition the Council would continue to work with partners such as the County Council to address other issues such as congestion.

3. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leader of the Council be authorised to sign the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change.

The Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change

.....The Council recognises that Climate Change is likely one of the key drivers of change within our community this century.

We acknowledge that

Evidence continues to mount that climate change is occurring.

Climate change will have far reaching effects on the UK's economy, society and environment.

We welcome the

Social, economic and environmental benefits, which will come from combating climate change.

Recognition by many sectors, especially government and business, of the need for change.

Emissions targets agreed by central government and the programme for delivering change as set out in the climate change-UK programme.

Opportunity for local government to lead the response at a local level and thereby play a major role in helping to deliver the national programme.

Opportunity for us to encourage and help local residents and local businesses to reduce their energy costs, to reduce congestion, to improve the local environment and to deal with fuel poverty in our communities.

Addition powers to address the social, economic and environmental well being of our communities contained with local Government Act 2000, which will assist in this process.

We commit our Council to

Work with central government to contribute at a local level, to the delivery of the UK climate change programme.

Prepare a plan “with our local communities” by December 2002, to address the causes and effects of climate change and to secure maximum benefit for our communities.

Publicly declare, within the plan, the commitment to achieve a significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from our own authority’s operations especially energy sourcing and use, travel and transport, waste production and disposal and the purchasing of goods and services.

Encourage all sectors in the local community to take the opportunity to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions and to make public their commitment to action.

Work with key providers, including health authorities, business and development organisations, to assess the potential effects of climate change on our communities, and to identify ways in which we can adopt.

Provide opportunities for the development of renewable energy generation within our area.

Monitor the progress of our plan against the actions needed and publish the results.