

Report for Resolution

Report to	Cabinet 24 November 2010
Report of	Transformation programme manager
Subject	Norwich Independent Commission on climate change (NICCC) report

Item

11

Purpose

To consider the Norwich Independent Climate Change Commission report (NICCC) "Taking Pride in a People's Low Carbon Friendly City".

Recommendations

1. To note the research and the independent report (Annex A) and formally thank the Norwich Independent Climate Change Commission for their work.
2. To support the further dissemination of the report to enable wider awareness and discussion in the City in regards to environmental issues.
3. To use the research and the report to help to inform the future development of the council's Environmental Strategy 2011 – 2015.

Financial Consequences

The financial implications of the various issues and recommendations identified in the NICCC research and report will be considered as part of the scoping and development exercise for the council's new Environmental Strategy 2011- 2015.

The costs of the further dissemination of the independent report will be met from within existing resources.

Risk Assessment

There are no direct risks associated with this report.

Strategic Priority and Outcome/Service Priorities

The report helps to meet the strategic priority "Aiming for excellence – ensuring the Council is efficient in its use of resources, is effective in delivering its plans, is a good employer and communicates effectively with its customers, staff and partners".

Cabinet Member: Councillor MacDonald – Environment

Ward: All

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Report

Norwich Independent Commission on Climate Change (NICCC) Report

1. Cabinet will be aware that in November 2009 it agreed to set up an Independent Commission for Climate Change (NICCC) and agreed a terms of reference for their work.
2. The NICCC was tasked to undertake a focused independent study, similar to the report produced by the Independent Commission for Older People, on how Norwich City and its surrounding suburbia is preparing to adapt to a low carbon society and the consequences of climate change.
3. The council is now starting to consider a refresh of the Environmental Strategy 2008-2010, with a view to developing a new longer term strategy for 2011-2015. As part of the refresh process it was previously agreed by Cabinet that an independent commission could both help to inform the development of the new strategy, but also come up with suggestions for how individuals and organisations across the city might contribute.
4. NICCC's board consists of representatives from a wide range of experts and people involved in the city, including businesses, faith groups, the media, political groups and Norwich City Council. It has analysed the consultation findings and has made a number of recommendations on how organisations within the City, including the council, and local people might better prepare for a more sustainable future.
5. Cabinet is asked to support further dissemination of the NICCC's independent report, including a members briefing, to stimulate greater awareness and discussion within the city in regards to environmental issues.
6. Cabinet is also asked to agree to use the research and the report to help to inform the future development of the council's Environmental Strategy 2011 – 2015.



Norwich Independent Climate Change Commission

TAKING PRIDE IN A PEOPLE'S LOW CARBON FRIENDLY CITY

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Afterword

The NICCC consultation was carried out during January 2010 into mid-February. This report looks at the outcomes from that project after analysis of the responses and input from the NICCC board.

It should be noted that comments made by respondents and recommendations by the board are based on the feelings, beliefs, and situation of that time, and may have changed since then.

FOREWORD FROM THE NORWICH INDEPENDENT CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION (NICCC)

AN EXCITING PROSPECT

We believe that the NICCC is a unique initiative within UK local government. Our aim was to seek advice and opinion from independent experts from a range of backgrounds, with an interest in the city.

The board gathered views from local people and organisations about how the city should prepare itself for the challenges and opportunities presented by the climate change act.

The purpose is to share realistic actions for communities, schools and businesses to take, in order to reduce harmful emissions of greenhouse gasses.

We firmly believe that if everyone pulls together and plays their part, the long term goal of dramatically reducing carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions can be achieved, and everyone who uses the city will enjoy the many benefits.

We are all aware that cutting CO₂ emissions requires dramatic change in the way we all live. These changes need not only a personal commitment, but a shared sense of responsibility in neighbourhoods, supported by councillors, businesses and individuals alike.

We will be taking further comments on the outcomes of this report, and feeding them back later this year after it has gone to the council's cabinet committee for

consideration. We hope that many of the actions and recommendations will be included in the city council's pending *Environmental strategy* (2010-15).

The members of the commission all gave generously their time and expertise, and for this we are hugely grateful to them:

Susan Falch-Lovesey

Head of environmental and learning team, Norfolk County Council

Ian Findlater

Chair, Sustainable Prosperity Shaping Norfolk's Future

The Very Reverend Graham Smith

Dean of Norwich

Tim Williams

Editor, Norwich Evening News

Richard Willson

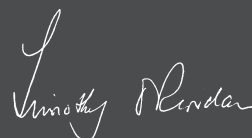
Environmental strategy manager, Norwich City Council

The commission also wishes to thank Norwich City Council's communications and transformation teams.



Cllr Brian Morrey

Chair of NICCC
Chair of Norwich Carbon Reduction Trust
Former deputy leader and portfolio holder for sustainable city development - Norwich City Council



Tim O'Riordan

OBE
Vice chair of NICCC
Sheriff of Norwich 2008-09

THE NATIONAL COMMITMENT AND THE LOCAL RESPONSE

There is a current legal commitment in the UK to reduce all CO₂ emissions by 34 per cent by 2020, and then 80 per cent by 2050.

There is significant change on the horizon, both nationally and locally. A new national government is now in place, and there will be the usual post-election cuts in public spending. This means further challenges and opportunities to activities and projects, as they need to prove value for money. If carbon reduction can be shown to pay its own way, then actions may be less likely to be cut.

So, we are at the start of a long journey with many potential diversions, which will be easier to avoid when we all have a vision of a better life through low-carbon living.

Norwich City Council has committed to reducing its carbon emissions by 30 per cent by the end of 2012. The first two years of cutting measures has been really successful, with highlights including:

- A reduction in carbon emissions by almost 10 per cent between 2006-07 and 2009-10.
- The securing of £400,000 of funding to support specific carbon reduction targeted projects.
- Being in the Defra top ten for reducing the amount sent to landfill the most.

- Completing a number of tree planting schemes around the city, of native and rare species.
- Successful launch and two years running of the Norwich eco awards.
- Introducing the one small step scheme internally and externally to the council to encourage everyone to do their bit.

In addition to the work of our local council the citizens of Norwich play an active roll in helping the city become more environmentally friendly. There are a number of active environmental groups, from Transition Norwich to the city's allotment associations, which are taking action now to help secure a better future.

Norwich citizens are also taking other steps towards low carbon living. Many have improved their thermal efficiency in their houses or have changed over to energy efficient lighting. This is in addition to the high levels of citizens who walk and cycle to work have resulted in our per capita emissions falling to 5.8 tonnes from baseline of 6.7 in 2005.

The NICCC will submit these recommendations to Norwich City Council to inform its refreshed *Environmental strategy*. These organisations will continue to work to improve the eco-credentials of Norwich for everyone.

THE ESSENTIALS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

“Climate change is one of the most pressing issues facing the planet - and one everyone can do something about. From turning the thermostat down to buying a more economical car, there are many steps you can take to help protect our future.”

Brian Morrey, chair NICCC

When people talk about 'climate change' today they mean the changes in global temperature over the last 100 years, and likely changes for the rest of this century.

There is very strong evidence that people's actions are changing the climate by releasing greenhouse gases. In the UK, 40 per cent of these are caused by us using energy in the home, driving and air travel, with a further 40 per cent incorporated in the goods we use.

These 'greenhouse gases' let the sun's rays enter, but stop much of the Earth's heat from escaping, keeping the planet warm enough to allow life to flourish.

However, as human activity increases more greenhouse gases will be released, so this greenhouse effect becomes stronger. More heat is trapped and the Earth's climate begins to change unnaturally as the volume of these gases in the atmosphere increases.

We could see stresses to the environment, leading to abrupt changes and causing unpredictable outcomes - like rapid ice melting and the resulting rising sea levels.

This could eventually lead us to a situation where we are unable to predict the future, leaving us unprotected and more at risk.

RESOURCES

There are three categories of resources:

1. Non-renewable resources: These are removed from the Earth.

Advantages:

- if you need more you can extract more.

Disadvantages

- supply might run out, or the cost of removal may become too high.

Non-renewable resources have helped industry to expand quickly.

Unfortunately, as demand has grown, the natural stocks of many of these resources have been exhausted just as rapidly.

2. Renewable resources: They either grow and are harvested, or capture energy through other processes ie wind, sunlight and water.

Advantages:

- they should never become totally depleted.

Disadvantages:

- hard to get hold of large amounts
- expensive to manage and collect.

3. Waste from one process can be used in others.

Linking these up would lead to using less raw materials, and produce less waste.

With this in mind, it is easy to see how restrictions on CO₂ emissions and declining oil supply might shape our resource use in the future.

Current lifestyles are shaped by the ability to consume at low cost, and with limited knowledge of the consequences of climate change - we will have to adopt a number of behaviour changes to make a positive difference.

No technology currently exists that has the capacity to replace oil. We must find ways to reduce how much energy we use through innovation, design and common sense. Some of these can be very small eg if every UK household installed just two low energy lamps, it would save all of the electricity produced by a typical coal-fired power station every year.

OUR CONSULTATION

“The environmental strategy team is pleased to have had the opportunity to consult so widely on the important themes identified. The insightful views from the respondents have enabled the commission to fully appreciate this issue from a variety of viewpoints.”

Richard Willson, environmental strategy manager, Norwich City Council

The consultation attracted 571 responses which have been analysed by issue on the following pages.

Interviews were also held with 42 targeted individuals. These included:

- the leaders of the four political groups of the city council
- four portfolio holders from the city council executive (now cabinet)
- representatives from Transition Norwich
- representatives from business such as First and Jarrold
- Norfolk County Council.

The main consultation document covered issues around dealing with carbon reduction in ways that are socially fair, appropriately priced, and supported by regulation, while easy to understand and encouraged by businesses, schools and neighbourhoods across the city.

Conclusions are all informed by this evidence. We are very grateful for all the effort by correspondents - without their valuable input suggested actions would not have been so relevant.

Our key recommendations offer the potential for a successful, prosperous, and exciting lower carbon Norwich which would be the pride of all residents and visitors. We believe it is vital for everyone to get involved in transforming the city to one of low carbon living.

Analysis of responses

ISSUE ONE PERSONAL AND COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY

A total of 123 comments and suggestions were recorded in relation to this issue.

It was proposed that climate change is the greatest long term challenge facing the world today. It is a challenge because everyone must take responsibility, locally and globally.

Encouraging people to make better decisions was the most common theme in this section, followed by lifestyle choices, community action and shared responsibility. People felt that individual action was important, but there would be more impact if they felt supported by a group with the same beliefs.

The majority of respondents believed that climate change was happening and that human activities were a direct cause. It was encouraging to see a number of respondents are already taking action to reduce their emissions or were willing to do so.

“My family has already taken many steps to reduce our carbon footprint. These include: car sharing to work with three others in a Toyota Prius, investing in the latest energy efficient windows and better loft insulation, buying local food where possible, and walking or cycling for local journeys.”

Every day, we make decisions about travel, food, waste, energy and water. At times we may think that our own choices have little impact on the world as a whole but collectively, the decisions we make in our own homes total 27 per cent of the UK’s carbon emissions. By making more environmentally friendly individual choices, we have great potential to help combat climate change.

Source: Green alliance 2010

Respondents’ wish list

- Government should:
 - subsidise the shift to electric vehicles
 - make ‘green loans’ available to householders for energy improvement
 - incentivise by making the more environmentally friendly option cheaper, or as cheap, as the non-sustainable option.
- If funds are raised via local taxation or policy, these should be spent locally to advantage local programmes and people.
- “I would like to see communities working together to enable their area to reduce its carbon emissions.”
- “I believe community action is key - people need to feel that they are not doing this alone.”
- “I feel we all have to change our behaviour and lifestyles and would be better for doing so.”

Conclusions

- Norwich City Council has a responsibility to operate in the most efficient way possible so its services are cost efficient and environmentally friendly.
- Long term the council, and other social landlords, should help tenants more to improve energy efficiency, and cut their carbon use.
- The council should take a leading role in driving forward a programme of change.
- There are many advantages to a community based approach - individuals and businesses agreed that working together, supporting each other and sharing knowledge would mean faster development of a low carbon society.
- Behavioural change should be encouraged, as well as providing advice and funding.
- Strong local policy will help shape the national agenda.

ISSUE TWO PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

A total of 105 comments and suggestions were recorded in relation to this issue.

The consultation addressed the major impacts climate change might have on Norwich:

- greater flood risk
- drought
- changes to our natural environment
- increased risks to vulnerable people
- fuel poverty or fuel shortages.

Although climate change can have a negative effect, the discussion point was also raised about potential opportunities it presents eg healthier lifestyles through walking and cycling.

Respondents' wish list

- Planning permission should not be granted on flood plains.
- Improved legislation for future building developments to ensure sustainability.
- Saving money on fuel bills.
- More should be done to enable older properties to be retrofitted to reach better environmental standards.

“The planning system is now required to be more mindful of the implication of building on flood plains, but we must make sure that high standard mitigation measures are maintained.”

“It is important that all homes are fully insulated, energy efficiency is required in all new buildings, and energy saving measures are included in the renovation of old buildings.”

“Incentives to help fund house insulation in all its forms would be good, and teams of reliable experts who can give cost effective advice - preferably in a one-stop shop would also help those of us who don't know where to start. Things like how effective is under floor insulation, how do we tackle windows in old properties while still looking good, and what about solid walls?”

Conclusions

- The city council has a responsibility to ensure its services are not affected by adverse weather events in the future.
- Local government should continue to provide support on reducing household energy use.
- More should be done to allow households access to loans or grants to retrofit properties with insulation and renewables, or to provide ways to reduce water demand.
- Planning departments must respond to, and integrate with, the government's ambitions to tackle climate change.
- The planning service should give local communities real opportunities to take action on climate change and should be doing so now.

- A greater understanding of supply and demand opportunities for renewable and low carbon energy in local areas is an essential starting point for considering the opportunities for moving to low carbon communities.
- More work needs to be done to identify needs at a local level such as fuel poverty, waste management and capacity.
- There will often be a conflict between heritage conservation and low carbon building improvements, but the latter should take precedent whenever possible.
- Further improvements need to be made in providing training to the public and councillors about understanding the planning system.
- Many small and medium sized businesses do not have the resources or expertise to undertake carbon reduction work effectively. The commission wishes to support them to undertake energy assessments, carbon footprinting and resource planning.
- Potential advantages of climate change must be further understood eg increasing levels of walking and cycling over using the car could in turn raise health levels and lower air pollution. The UK tourism industry could benefit from people holidaying closer to home rather than taking long haul flights.

ISSUE THREE

BUILDING A LOW CARBON NORWICH

A total of 120 comments and suggestions were recorded in relation to this issue.

Within the consultation was a discussion about reducing the amount of carbon produced per person in the city, and the targets in the Climate Change Act (2008).

We need to reduce each person's overall annual carbon emissions by six tonnes (from eight to two) by 2050. To do this we must work towards a low carbon Norwich, involving better transport, home improvements, and new waste reduction schemes.

Respondents' wish list

- Making existing buildings more energy efficient, rather than always building new ones.
- Local authority provision of access to grants or funding to enable home owners, as well as tenants, to retrofit their properties to be more energy efficient.
- Invest to save programmes.
- A community or neighbourhood approach to efficiency works.

- Changes and improvements to the cycle network including:
 - more secure areas for people to store their cycles
 - reducing traffic to make cycling safer
 - introducing a 20mph speed limit within the inner ring road.
- Reduce the amount of cars on the road through things like:
 - car free city centre
 - more car sharing schemes
 - increasing car parking charges
 - more parking permit areas.
- Provision of free transport planning to communities, businesses and individuals.
- Reduction in cost of public transport and more real time information available about it.
- Better promotion of car sharing, supported by appropriate pricing schemes.
- Facilitating learning between organisations.
- Extension to city recycling services.

“Cycle routes are poor in Norwich, particularly as you get within the ring road. There should be a good network of off road cycle routes provided, again from all entrances to Norwich, to encourage more cycling. At the moment, too many people who could cycle are put off by the traffic.”

“If public transport was reliable and pleasant, even if we had more information at bus stops, it would make a big difference so when the bus is not able to come, the display tells you it is cancelled, better still that a replacement service is on the way.”

Conclusions

- Development of the city’s cycling network would encourage more people to use it.
- Improvements in public transport have led to more people using it, but more would make the change if the price was reduced.
- Showing people and communities case studies and examples of what they can do will really help them to see how they can make positive changes.
- There are a number of tools that help people understand where their carbon emissions come from. However, they now need the programmes and services to help them to switch or move to a low carbon alternative.

“To encourage people and businesses to make change we need to show exemplars. Retrofitted homes, offices and public buildings... Having open buildings to show how technologies work in practice and raising awareness of what’s available.”

ISSUE FOUR SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS, COMMUNITIES AND BUSINESSES

A total of 75 comments and suggestions were recorded in relation to this issue.

This theme addressed Norwich City Council's role and responsibility in relation to climate change for individuals, businesses and communities.

It was noted that the city has a unique balance of business types, from local firms to larger regional and international organisations. And that all of these would benefit from support in achieving positive change through things like energy and waste advice, and travel planning.

Respondents' wish list

- Councils should focus on updating planning and development legislation.
- More should be done to help businesses increase recycling and efficiency.
- Greater opportunities for people to grow their own food on allotments.
- Better promotion and price incentives for car sharing.
- Norwich City Council should support the 'buy local' ethos in its policies and promote this externally.
- Local authorities should work with partners in other sectors to provide short and easy to understand courses and information on energy use.
- The city council should take the lead as being the wider community ambassador of these issues.
- Using renewables should be investigated through planning rules and price incentives.

Conclusions

- Norwich City Council has a key responsibility to support sustainable change.
- As a landlord, the city council is in a strong position to encourage behaviour change.
- Good progress has been made in the city council's own housing stock, and continuing schemes to help people access grants and loans will further improve this.
- The council has made great strides in providing more services to households to lower the amount of waste that goes to landfill.
- Norwich City Council has strong policy, purchasing power and commitment to using fair trade products and services, and is in a good position to influence others to act responsibly.
- Awareness raising of climate change and associated issues are important to achieve change.

- Some of the desired services are already available, but may not be co-ordinated or promoted well.

“The public sector needs to work more closely together to achieve efficiencies, develop consistent messages, and identify those best placed to take the lead in the various work strands required.”

ISSUE FIVE BEING FAIR FOR ALL

A total of 58 comments and suggestions were recorded in relation to this issue.

The most common theme in this issue was taxation. Many respondents were in favour of taxes, loans and grants to enable householders to be more energy efficient and reduce their energy bills.

There was a feeling that any funds generated should be earmarked for relevant projects and spent locally. The majority of people felt that helping those more disadvantaged was a good thing, but that it is the wealthy that often have a bigger carbon footprint with foreign holidays, larger houses and bigger cars, and so should be targeted.

Respondents' wish list

- Those on low incomes or in fuel poverty should be prioritised in receiving financial support for low carbon projects.
- At the other end of the spectrum, those with higher carbon footprints should also be targeted with schemes and information, though not necessarily receive funding depending on their income.
- People living in rented accommodation should also be able to take advantage of schemes.
- Alternatives to tax should be investigated eg private finance or joint ventures.
- Stop defining communities or individuals as 'poor' or 'disadvantaged'.
- Offering services at a community level would mean everyone has access to them.
- Continue to improve community centres in the city so they can continue to provide low-cost activities which aid health and well-being.
- Show how energy saving in the home can help keep costs down. A link up with other teams eg benefits, would help get this message across.
- More work should be done to promote the need for home and contents insurance as the frequency of severe weather events is set to rise.
- Better cross-agency work should be carried out to make sure groups such as older people and those suffering with mental illnesses also receive important messages and are able to respond to them.

Conclusions

- A specific charge for carbon use is probably the fairest way to get the majority of people contributing to changes, as long as there is transparency and clarity on how and why the money is raised and how it is then spent, locally.
- These carbon fighting funds should be kept specifically for carbon reduction projects.
- Spend to save loans would be more popular if it could clearly be shown that improvements increased the price of the property, or made significant energy savings.
- Loans may not be appropriate for everyone ie older people were concerned about the length of time to pay money back.
- The city council should continue to take advantage of financial support from energy companies and support organisations to tackle fuel poverty in the city and promote the assistance available to local people.

“I think loans to pay for house modifications that are repaid by fuel savings are a great idea but the scheme needs to demonstrate that there is still something in it for the homeowner otherwise it won't be taken up.”

ISSUE SIX ECONOMIC INCENTIVES

A total of 40 comments and suggestions were recorded in relation to this issue.

There was support for changes in legislation - either increasing controls, or making better use of what is already in place.

It was clear from the responses that good communication was key.

Respondents' wish list

- Any increase in energy/carbon pricing should be based on income.
- There should be complete transparency to show how money is spent and what achievements are reached.
- Investment needs to be put into office space in the city centre to make it fit for purpose - it is often much cheaper to use new premises in a business park.

Conclusions

- More should be done to make environmental decision making a part of economic development.
- Improvements to regulations will help steer people towards more eco-friendly products and services, and behaviour change.

- Tax breaks and other incentives for energy efficient products and services could aid growth.
- The city must work with neighbouring authorities on these issues, as many industrial estates and business parks around Norwich fall into other council areas.
- It is important to develop the city centre to keep businesses currently based here, and to attract new ones.

“Citizens must understand and transparently see how this money is being applied to resolve the problem because many people are distrustful of government, particularly when it comes to taxes.”

“How much do you think is reasonable? Compared to what? These questions need to be answered in context eg How much would you pay to avoid your children facing sea level rise?”

“Nobody will ever gladly vote for a politician who says they are going to cost you more. However, use of carbon is going to cost individuals and businesses more - a lot more.”

ISSUE SEVEN TAKING THIS FORWARD

A total of 50 comments and suggestions were given on this issue.

It was agreed that the best way to move forwards will be through effective

communication, working together in partnership with a properly financed action plan.

We will be passing on the findings from the consultation to the city council, which they will use to build their environmental priorities for the relevant services. There is a commitment from the city council to report back to the commission with actions completed, or other activities that would support findings.

“I do think that to keep the momentum going the commission should continue, but to be sure that it keeps fresh and relevant with a periodic review of its need and purpose.”

“The council needs to show that it is leading by example - and try and embed carbon reduction through all its services.”

The NICCC will take up points at different levels as appropriate:

- In greater Norwich with local organisations and people. Norwich City Council will need to take a leading role to change behaviours.
- Across the eastern region. A range of strategic organisations and bodies need to work together to tackle climate change issues across a wider area.
- At a national level. We believe national government and organisations should be encouraged to make positive changes through policy and funding incentives.

ACTIONS

These are grouped into the main themes that came out of the findings.

1 Spreading the message about climate change

- Introduction of schemes to raise awareness of climate change through schools and the local media.
- Potentially introducing financial incentives to reduce carbon emissions.
- Push for better auditing of activities that create carbon emissions in business and government, and reporting and monitoring of these.

2 Funding carbon reduction initiatives

- Develop a specific fund for developing low carbon, or emission reducing, initiatives.
- Ensure this support is available locally, through an independent and well audited process, for the benefit of those who show a commitment to low carbon living.
- Norwich City Council should consider setting up its own carbon fighting fund for the study and introduction of practical actions to lower emissions in the city.
- A cross section of Norwich residents should be involved in setting this fund up, how it is managed and audited, and what the priorities should be.
- City-based organisations should consider running exciting pilot schemes and provide these as case studies, so that everyone can see the benefits of making positive changes.

3 Ensuring energy and water efficiency, as well as low carbon emissions

- Start discussions with government and other relevant organisations about achieving a 'C' level energy efficiency rating for all residential properties.
- Norwich City Council should work with local colleges to support training and apprenticeships around energy efficiency, carbon reduction, advice, and practical measures like eco-friendly building practises and efficient heating systems.
- Commercial and residential property owners should be made aware of the extra cost of having an inefficient building.
- Norwich City Council should develop an audit programme for its own stock of business premises, continually improving their standards.
- The council should also continue with its work to improve council housing in the city.
- Norwich City Council should be encouraged to continue working with partners such as the Energy Saving Trust (EST) and GoWarm, as well as promoting new local and national schemes.
- Norwich City Council should continue with its financial inclusion strategy, particularly targeting households that cannot always afford to keep warm (this is known as fuel poverty).

- There should be more joined up working between the city council and organisations like the Norwich Carbon Reduction Trust and EST.
- The city council should produce an eco-procurement guide to help other organisations make informed environmental decisions when buying all goods and services.
- County and city councils should commit to sustainable procurement for all goods and services.

4 New development, planning and low carbon buildings

- Lobby government to update planning guidelines for new buildings to promote lower water usage and carbon emissions.
- In line with Greater Norwich Development Partnership, propose all new housing, businesses and schools must be built to the highest environmental standards.
- Norwich City Council should provide training to members and planning officers to monitor carbon emissions, sustainable design and new technology.
- Norwich City Council should consider developing a range of sustainable environmental policies to guide future development.
- The council should also consider auditing all transport and infrastructure schemes for carbon emissions and lower these as much as possible.

5 A vehicle free city centre

- Norwich City Council should consider a staged process to reclaim the historic and commercial city centre for pedestrians, cyclists, and carbon free/low carbon essential vehicle traffic.
- By 2012 the city council should consider a progressive increase in car parking charge for all city car parks, including privately run ones, or reduce the amount of parking space available. Extra revenue raised should go into the low carbon fighting fund.
- By 2014 the city council should be working with businesses to identify a system for charging for business parking. This should be done in consultation as part of their social and corporate responsibility commitment.
- Norfolk County Council should review Park & Ride facilities, with a view to increasing capacity and/or introducing fairer charging to encourage more use.
- Cross working between the city council, local bus companies and the Norwich retail groups should investigate improving access to the city by bus.
- Norwich City Council should continue to promote, and increase, walking and cycling in the city, and measure this, reporting annually.
- The city council should work with schools and employers to encourage better travel planning.

- Norwich City Council should explore the potential for a dedicated travel planning officer to develop staff transport, cycling promotion/ campaigns, as well as external travel planning for schools and businesses.
- Norwich City Council should seek to use more electric vehicles in its fleet and the fleet of its contractors, and consider providing charging facilities for them on street and in its car parks.
- Norwich City Council should review its travel policy, and increase the provision of cycle to work schemes, promotion of car sharing etc. It should also work with other city businesses to introduce similar schemes.
- City, district and county councils should continue to work with others on the CIVITAS programme, to investigate alternatives to fossil fuels in transport projects.

6 Localising food production and healthy eating

- Norwich City Council should develop a strategy for supporting local food sourcing.
- Every neighbourhood should be supported for the production of local food.
- Allotment schemes should be incorporated into all new development, as part of the planning (section 106) process.
- Norwich City Council should investigate ways to promote home food production. The authority should provide grant aid for new allotments at neighbourhood level, or starter packs of seeds and seedlings.
- Norwich City Council should work with the schools and the voluntary sector in supporting existing and developing further special programmes in healthy cooking and appropriate information about local and seasonal food.
- Schools in all neighbourhoods should upgrade their existing programmes for offering cookery classes and nutrition information, supported by mentoring schemes and by community leaders.
- NICCC to work alongside Norfolk County Council to ensure a co-ordinated approach to low carbon catering in schools - from the sourcing of local, seasonal produce to a study into reducing energy consumption in kitchens - promoting best practice and enabling change.
- Norwich City Council should work with the third sector to offer appropriate community awareness courses and low carbon discussion circles aimed at mid-income, higher carbon-consuming groups. Eventually with a scope to address both household and neighbourhood-wide carbon audits.
- Norwich City Council should work with the third sector to identify low carbon centres of excellence to raise awareness and build confidence in neighbourhood-level low carbon change eg Cathedral of St John the Baptist.

7 Tasks for schools

- Schools are already experimenting with carbon reduction commitment schemes. This encouraging programme needs to be strengthened by:
 - ensuring co-ordinated support for integrating renewable energy and low carbon technology (including grant support)
 - real-time metering of energy supply
 - providing motivating opportunities for young people to work together towards energy efficiency, and
 - offering suitable training schemes for school staff and governors.
- Schemes like the Food for Life Partnership should be extended to all schools in the city by 2012, and progressively into the greater Norwich area by 2015.
- Opportunities for schools and young people to share good practice and low carbon living with the local neighbourhood, through links with business and back into the home.
- There should be support for senior leadership teams to develop their own skills in sustainable schools management, so that a sustainable school is seen as synonymous with a creative, innovative and high performing school.
- The county council should ensure that construction and renovation of schools shows a real opportunity to promote development of low carbon schools, with sustainability and biodiversity at the core.
- Energy security is, and will increasingly become, an issue for communities to deal with. Councils could consider how they develop renewable energy reserves and replace items such as boilers, specifically for schools, to protect them from rising costs and issues around energy security.
- There should be increasing encouragement, support and celebration for schools that endeavour to become more sustainable through enabling high quality pupil participation eg building support for existing programmes like Ecoschools, Student for Sustainable Choices, UEA student and teacher conferences on climate change, and Artists for Climate Change.

8 A Norwich and Norfolk citizenship initiative

- There should be provision for a combination of work experience, mentoring, volunteering, apprenticeship, and training for how to set up a business, made available for all 16 to 19 year olds, as is the current entitlement, and extended for all 19 to 25 year olds.
- Schemes should cover: energy efficiency improvements, energy audits, carbon accounts, marketing low carbon technology, and supporting neighbourhoods to live healthily and safely
- Mentoring opportunities should be explored around diet, alcohol, drugs, and fresh food preparation.
- Something else that should be investigated is the refurbishment of waste consumer goods, to reduce carbon through not having to buy replacement products eg cookers, microwave ovens, washing machines, tools, furniture and bicycles.
- Such initiatives should be targeted at those ready to work, but who cannot get into the workforce because of competition. In this way, the transition to low carbon living in Norwich would become relevant to a new group of people who currently cannot see the benefits for themselves.

9 Letting everyone know and getting them involved

- Examples of good practice should be promoted in the local media to inspire others and to show Norwich is leading the way in this area.
- Norwich City Council and a city based environmental partnership should work closely with local media to develop a strategy for strong promotion of sustainability for city businesses and residents.
- Norwich City Council should continue to deliver its carbon management plan to reduce carbon emissions by 30 per cent by 2013. Once this programme has been completed the climate change panel should set a new objective for the authority.
- The city council should refresh its environmental strategy by March 2011, providing an annual progress report each year.
- Norwich City Council should explore the potential for a scheme for establishing a forum for a representative group of residents to discuss related issues and provide monitoring, guidance and viewpoints.
- Consideration should be given to a citywide event in 2011 to look at the proposals in this report, and the outcome of further discussions following its publication.
- Other surrounding local authorities are urged to think about carrying out a similar piece of work for their areas.

10 Ensuring action

We do not wish to see our report end in all talking and no action.

- A citywide debate needs to begin on these proposals.
- Final recommendations will be joined up in an action plan to harness and build on the initial momentum created. These will make up part of the city council's refreshed environmental strategy.
- A series of annual awards should be set up to award carbon reduction projects and appropriate social enterprise initiatives.
- A regular column should be featured in the *Norwich Evening News* to promote easy to do activities to everyone.
- Low carbon activities should be branded, so they are easily recognisable.

AFTERWORD BY THE BOARD

While the commission recognises that responsibility for delivering change cannot solely rest in one place, it believes that Norwich City Council is the best placed to lead, facilitate and co-ordinate this.

We understand that many of these activities are dependant on resources and funding, and will do our best to help identify and secure these when possible.

There must be continuous discussion with residents, businesses, politicians, and the third sector to make changes successful.

And we will be working closely with the city council to build relevant actions into the refreshed *Environmental strategy*, due out later in 2010.

Above all it must be stressed that low carbon living would be good for everyone in and around the city.

It costs less through lowering energy and water use, improves health through better food and more exercise, makes a safer city, free of pollution and noise, and creates employment opportunities.

Cutting carbon promotes excellent value for money in a time when all spending must be accounted for.

NOTES



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