

Report for Information

Report to Executive
27 May 2009
Report of Director of Transformation
Subject Council Motion on Transition Towns

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Purpose

To report to the Executive actions taken in response to a motion to Council on 30 September 2008 on Transition Towns.

Recommendations

That the Executive endorses the actions taken.

Financial Consequences

There are no financial consequences arising, as any actions have been met from existing budgetary provision.

Risk Assessment

The Council has agreed an Environmental Strategy, and this remains the main priority and focus for the Councils ongoing environmental work.

Strategic Priority and Outcome/Service Priorities

The report helps to meet all of the City Council's strategic priorities.

Lead Member: Councillor Morrey – Sustainable City Development

Ward: All

Contact Officers

Richard Willson, Environmental Strategy Manager 01603- 212312

Background Documents

Norwich City Council Environmental Strategy

1 On 30 September 2008, full Council passed the following resolution :

“RESOLVED, that Council notes the growth of the Transition Towns movement around the UK.

This Council welcomes the establishment of a Transition Norwich initiative and endorses its aim to address the twin problems of peak oil and climate change by tackling our society's dependency on oil..

This Council resolves to:

(1) encourage its councillors to attend the launch meeting of Transition Norwich on Wednesday, 1 October 2008 (7:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's Hall);

(2) to support the initiative and request that the results of the meeting on Wednesday, 1 October 2008 be reported in the next edition of 'Citizen' to help educate residents about the issues involved;

(3) ask the Climate Change Panel -

- (a) to discuss, at their next meeting, how the Council can incorporate the aims of Transition Norwich into its work and how the Council can help Transition Towns succeed
- (b) make recommendations on these points to the Executive.”

2 Since the motion was passed by Council the Environmental Strategy team has undertaken a range of activities in relation to Transition Towns:

- The Transition launch on 1 October 2008 was well attended by council staff and officers
- An article has been completed for the April 2009 edition of Citizen referencing an article for the work of Transition Norwich
- Officers are actively involved within several supporting groups, especially energy and communications
- The Environmental Strategy Manager has delivered several presentations in regards to the promotion of our environmental policy, as well as the provision of information in regards to Transition Norwich's service improvement/ project management
- The Environmental Strategy Manager has supported a range of community discussions following environmentally themed films at Cinema City.

3 This activity has been reported back to the Climate Change Panel, and it has expressed satisfaction with the actions taken. The Council motion requires a report back to Executive.