

Report for Resolution

Report to	Executive 25 November 2009
Report of	Director of Transformation
Subject	Proposed Norwich Independent Commission on Climate Change (NICCC)

Item

8

Purpose

To seek Executive approval to establish an independent Commission on Climate Change.

Recommendations

To agree the establishment of the Norwich Independent Commission on Climate Change (NICCC) and proposed initial membership.

Financial Consequences

The costs of setting up and running the NICCC will be met from existing resources. Further consideration will need to be given to resourcing once the final recommendations of the NICCC are known, as these may need additional resources for implementation.

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”.

Executive Member: Councillor Morrey - Sustainable City Development

Ward: All

Contact Officers

Paul Spencer, Director of Transformation

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Report

Proposed Norwich Independent Commission on Climate Change (NICCC)

1. Executive will be aware that in October 2008 it agreed the Council's Environmental Strategy 2008-2010. Executive also received a report on 30 September 2009 setting out the good progress that had been made during 2008/09 to reduce the Council's carbon footprint.
2. We are now starting to consider a refresh of the Environmental Strategy, with a view to developing a longer term plan for the 2010-2015 period. This will aim to consolidate the good work so far, and will set out how the Council proposes to meet its target of reducing its emissions by 30% by 2012/13.
3. As part of the refresh programme it is proposed to establish an independent commission to both inform the content of the new strategy, but also to examine how individuals and organisations across the city might contribute, and how they might work better together to tackle climate change issues.
4. It is suggested that the proposed Norwich Independent Commission on Climate Change (NICCC) would follow the model of the recent Independent Commission for Older People, which produced its final report "Talking about my generation" earlier in 2009. This has now led onto the establishment of an ongoing Older People's Forum for the city.
5. Proposed terms of reference and modus operandi for the NICCC are attached as Annex A. It is proposed that Councillor Morrey would chair the Commission, and the final report with recommendations would be brought back to Executive in March 2010 for consideration. A launch event might also be organised to share the findings with key partners across the city.
6. Executive is asked to approve the establishment of the NICCC and the proposed initial membership.

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

Norwich Independent Commission on Climate Change (NICCC)

What is the NICCC?

The NICCC is a group of independent people, representing different sectors of the city of Norwich. The group has been brought together by Norwich City Council, and will be chaired by Cllr Brian Morrey, deputy leader and portfolio holder for sustainable city development.

What is the overall purpose of the NICCC?

In many respects the city of Norwich is already a leading player in the field of environmental improvement and climate change. However, the environmental situation is constantly changing, and it is vital to plan ahead for long term solutions.

The purpose of the NICCC is therefore to focus on the future of the city of Norwich, and to consider what environmental actions and strategies people and organisations in the city should be developing in order to ensure a positive response to climate change and global warming.

The NICCC will carry out research with key experts and advisors in the city, all of whom will have a different perspective on the needs of the city, and how to tackle climate change. The NICCC will gather views and evidence from these contributors, and will develop a report and recommendations on how the city of Norwich should prepare for the future. This will specifically inform the content of the City Council's Environmental Strategy 2010-2015, but will also help to develop proposals for improved joint working into the future.

Terms of reference

- To consider the future of the city of Norwich, with regard to the potential to reduce emissions by 30% by 2020, and by 80% by 2050 (in accordance with the recommendations of the UK Climate Change Committee)
- To consider best practice from other UK cities to help inform the development of practice or solutions for the city of Norwich.
- To explore practical steps that people and organisations across the city could take to deliver these targets
- To consider how key people and organisations in the city might collaborate better to support an agreed action plan/ commitment
- To help inform the development of the new Norwich City Council Environmental Strategy 2010-2015
- To develop proposals for increasing communication and awareness about climate change and environmental issues within the city.

How will the NICCC work?

The NICCC will consist of two main groups;

- (i) A small core group of commissioners (the NICCC Board) which will oversee the research work, will gather views/ opinions from key stakeholders, and will develop a final report with findings and recommendations
- (ii) A wider group of representatives from relevant organisations (e.g. business, academic research, community groups, Non-Government Organisations and local authorities) who will contribute to the research/ information gathering process

Proposals for the operation of both groups are attached as Annex A to this note.

Membership of the NICCC Board

The NICCC Board will consist of a small number of commissioners. Initially these are proposed to be the following people;

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|--|------------------|
| • Cllr Brian Morrey, Norwich City Council (chair) | CONFIRMED |
| • Tim O'Riordan, Emeritus Professor UEA | CONFIRMED |
| • Richard Willson, Environmental Manager, Norwich City | CONFIRMED |
| • Ian Findlater, May Gurney | |
| • Tim Williams, Editor, Norwich Evening News | |
| • Graham Smith, Dean, Norwich Cathedral | |

However, the Board may decide to add additional people as appropriate.

Each member shall appoint a designated deputy who should attend meetings when required.

Contributing representatives/experts

The objective is to gather a broad range of views and opinions. Therefore, contributions will be sought from a balance of people from different geographical areas, and different stakeholder groups, across the city.

The initial proposed contributors are suggested from the following key areas;

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------|
| • representatives from business |) | |
| • representatives from academic institution |) | NB |
| • representatives from the third sector |) | the Commissioners |
| • representatives from environmental organisations |) | will need to agree |
| • representatives from the media |) | the full list of people |
| • representatives from other relevant organisations |) | to interview |

However, we will continue to review this, and the NICCC Board will be able to invite additional representations as appropriate.

Timetable and reporting

The following outline timetable is proposed;

- Nov/ Dec 2009
 - Agreement of terms of reference etc
 - Recruitment of commissioners
 - Agreement of key contributors
 - Agreement of focus of research and consultation
- January 2010
 - Research work/ interviews carried out
- February 2010
 - Compile findings and recommendations into a draft report
- March 2010
 - Report published/ submitted to Norwich City Council Executive
 - Possible launch event

The NICCC final report and recommendations will be reported to the city council's Executive in March 2010. Following this, any agreed recommendations will be incorporated in the Norwich City Council revised Environmental Strategy 2010 – 2015.

Annex A

NICCC Board working arrangements/ conduct of business

NICC is committed to

- Listening to and taking relevant issues forward that are important to stakeholders
- Supporting stakeholders in making their views fully known
- Reaching out to all groups and organisations that are likely to be affected by the issues raised within the Norwich area and to disseminate the independent commission findings as appropriate
- Publishing the findings of the commission to the wider public and presenting them to the executive members for consideration and possible implementation.

Conduct of NICCC business

- At the beginning of each meeting, members will be asked to declare any potential conflict of interests with the objectives
- The NICCC Board will reach quorum of at least three members
- The NICCC Board will work to an agenda, which the chair will co-ordinate and distribute and make available at least five working days prior to the meeting
- Members must notify the chair/ vice chair of any agenda items (including any papers for circulation) at least ten working days before the meeting
- Items for future meetings will be a standing agenda item
- NICCC Board meetings will last no longer than three hours and outstanding agenda items will be carried forward to the next meeting
- The NICCC Board will be democratic, non-sectarian, not affiliated to or connected directly with any political party or political organisation and non-profit making
- Norwich City Council will support the working group by servicing meetings unless other arrangements are adopted.