

**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
NOTES OF A MEETING OF SAFER, CLEANER, GREENER SCRUTINY STANDING
PANEL
HELD ON THURSDAY, 7 JULY 2011
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2, CIVIC OFFICES, HIGH STREET, EPPING
AT 7.30 - 9.40 PM**

Members Present:	Mrs M Sartin (Chairman), Mrs C Pond (Vice-Chairman), K Avey, W Breare-Hall, Mrs T Cochrane, Ms Y Knight, A Mitchell MBE and P Spencer
Other members present:	Mrs P Smith and D Stallan
Apologies for Absence:	G Mohindra (Finance and Economic Development Portfolio Holder) and Mrs E Webster
Officers Present	J Preston (Director of Planning and Economic Development), J Nolan (Assistant Director (Environment & Neighbourhoods)), P Gardener (EFDC Safer Communities Officer) and A Hendry (Democratic Services Officer)

1. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

The Panel noted there were no substitute members.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The notes from the 7 April 2011 meeting were agreed as a correct record.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND WORK PROGRAMME

Terms of Reference

1. Councillor Breare-Hall wanted to know if the Panel were able to scrutinise the new SITA contract. The Panel noted that this was still in its early stages, but when things had developed more fully it should come to this Panel.

2. The Panel also expressed concern about attracting members of the public to their crime and disorder meetings. They were told that the meetings were advertised via press releases, on the Council's website and via local councils. These meetings were prescribed by the government to enable the Council to monitor the Community Safety Partnership. This would become essential with the coming of the Police and Crime Commissioners.

They noted that officers were still looking to members to supply ideas for topics to be explored for future meetings and possible venues this Panel could be held at. Councillor Mrs Smith noted that there had been a rise in domestic abuse and perhaps this should be looked by the Panel.

3. With the demise of the Highways Panel it was noted that this topic would not be coming to this Panel, as it lay with the County Council.

Work Programme

The Panel noted that most of the six monthly reports referred to on the work programme were being considered at this meeting. They noted that:

- Item 2(d), progress towards appointment of a PCC – a report by Essex Police on the future policing arrangements for Essex would be going to the September meeting of the main Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- Councillor Spencer asked for an updating report on improving recycling in flats and houses of multiple occupation. This was agreed, and a report will be brought to a future meeting;
- They were disappointed that the promised notes of the Bobbingworth Nature Reserve (former Landfill site) Liaison Group meeting in March were not available on the agenda. Officers promised that this would go to the next meeting; and
- Councillor Spencer would also like a report on the use of Solar Panels on council owned properties. The Panel noted that there was a trial being carried out at present and Mr Pledger would be the officer to contact about this.

5. SAFER CLEANER GREENER ACTION PLAN - FIRST QUARTER PROGRESS

The Assistant Director, Environment and Street Scene, Jim Nolan, introduced the first quarter progress on the Safer Cleaner Greener action plan. He noted that the Crucial Crew event had just finished, having just over 1200 year 6 students attending. The High Sheriff of Essex who had attended the event had been very impressed with the day and the children and had written to the council complementing them on this event.

Councillor Knight asked if officers could work with younger pupils, say year 4, to educate them in such things as waste and recycling. It was noted that the Council's waste team already visited primary schools and gave appropriate talks on waste and recycling.

The Council had scored a significant success with the vulnerable victim's visits, give out reassurance and valuable advice to victims of crime in the district. A 'lift and lock' campaign was presently in operation to warn householders to lock their doors properly last thing at night. There were also officers who visited homes under the 'safe and sound' initiative to give talks to the public, and there had been very good feedback on this scheme.

The Panel noted that the separate sheets updating the Council's draft climate change strategy and the local biodiversity action plan had not been included in the agenda. They have now been attached to these minutes for information.

RESOLVED:

That the first quarter update of the Safer Cleaner Greener Action Plan be noted.

6. CCTV ACTION PLAN - UPDATING REPORT

The Assistant Director, Environment and Street Scene, Jim Nolan, introduced the progress made against the Action Plan associated to the CCTV Strategy. The action plan should be reviewed every six months. It should be noted that excellent progress had been made against the tasks and target dates. There was no intention to amend the core strategy document at this time.

The Action Plan's "When" column should have stated that it was measuring from February 2010.

The Panel noted that:

- At Roundhills, Waltham Abbey, the system that was housed in a shop in Waltham Abbey, and was therefore not accessible 24/7, has now been moved and re-housed in a readily accessible locked cupboard. The system has also had two cameras added;
- Officers were awaiting agreement with Epping Forest College to mount a camera on their tower;
- Epping High Street, subject to budget cuts, will have two ornate camera columns installed – key areas identified for these are by Costa Coffee and by Marks and Spencer and Greggs. These will be wireless and future proofed;
- The Pyrles Lane upgrade (designing out crime) was now completed;
- An Automatic Number Plate Recognition Camera (not linked into the national computer database) had been installed at North Weald Airfield in an attempt to stop tailgating and the Wheeled Bin compound is now covered by CCTV;
- Limes Farm Community Hall – ongoing work being done.
- The Safer Communities Team have also got six re-deployable cameras, all of which have been deployed. All systems are now fit for purpose.

Councillor Spencer asked if notices saying CCTV could be put up where there are no cameras installed. He was told that the Council would be leaving itself open to being sued if it did this. Officers did not advocate the use of dummy cameras or signs.

Councillor Breare-Hall asked what sort response had there been from residents to the use of CCTV in the district. He was told that there had been no response from the residents. However, the Council had a partnership analyst who worked out where the CCTV cameras needed to go and the ramifications of these placements. They would not be put in unless there was a need for them. A survey of the public concerns was about to be launched and officers would use the results to weigh their priority selection in the future.

Councillor Smith added that they were always taking the opportunity to upgrade the CCTV systems to digital, and therefore, evidential quality, which got a lot of positive feedback from the police.

RESOLVED:

That the progress against the adopted CCTV Action Plan be noted.

7. GREEN AND CARBON REDUCTION MEASURES - UPDATING REPORT

The Director for Planning and Economic Development, John Preston, introduced the updating report on the Council's Green and Carbon Reduction Measures. He noted that the Environmental Co-ordinator was manually collating data from the last three years' records from the casual and essential car millage, the lease car mileage, the litres of fuel purchased from fuel cards for fleet vehicles and machinery and the electricity and gas use in Council operational buildings. This data is then fed into a calculator tool provided by the Department of Energy and Climate Change to obtain carbon emissions in kilograms. Once the emissions for the Council's baseline year (2008-2009) had been calculated and compared with emissions from the following years, a more accurate pattern of carbon emissions would be known than is currently available. The data will also form a firm basis from which to make informed and realistic decisions about future CO₂ reduction targets from the Council's operations.

The Panel noted that:

- The refurbishment of the Condor building had resulted in some heating savings;
- The smarter driving programme, which our fleet drivers have taken part in had two further rounds for other officers, which was helping reduce fuel consumption. This course was not mandatory but strongly encouraged;
- There was a lot of work to do to get the Council started including a need to challenge people to take on this new strategy; and
- However the database needed to be developed to show us where to go from here.

Councillor Breare-Hall said that a cost benefits analysis was needed on the virtue of paying for driver tuition and savings made in fuel consumption.

RESOLVED:

That the work of the Environmental Co-ordinator be noted.

8. MINUTES OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP BOARD AND THE CORPORATE WORKING PARTY

The Panel received two sets of minutes from recent Waste Management Partnership Board meetings, from their 20th October 2010, 12 January 2011 and 6 April 2011 meetings. They also received the minutes from Green Corporate Working Party from their 29 March 2011 and 26 April 2011 meetings.

The Panel were concerned that some of the minutes went back some time and would like them nearer the time they were published, as the older they were the less worthwhile they were.

The Panel noted that:

- Other sites had been looked at for the depot relocation from Langston Road;
- Officers were unsure if recycling sacks had now been delivered to local Village Halls;
- Although there would be room at the Oakwood Hill facility for the cleansing vehicles it may be that transport would have to be provided for staff from North Weald, but this was still unclear at present.

Councillor Stallan would like the relevant Portfolio Holder to comment on:

- Any alternative options to share Harlow's depot and why was these not presented to the Cabinet;
- What are the 'Political obstacles' referred to under the item on depot relocation; and
- What was the current situation on this?

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Waste Management Partnership Board and the Corporate Working Party be noted.

9. ESSEX WASTE INTER AUTHORITY AGREEMENT - DRAFT MINUTES

The Panel noted that the government was trying to make it easier for businesses to recycle their waste. They also considered the probable increase in fly-tipping once the Civic Amenity site opening times are reduced and to perhaps have the CCTV and rapid response unit ready to go into action.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Essex Waste Inter Authority Member Working Group be noted.

10. SAFER CLEANER GREENER ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

The Panel noted the updating report on the Safer Cleaner Greener enforcement activities for the six month period ending 31 March 2011.

Councillor Breare-Hall noted that Council land had seen the second largest amount of fly-tipping incidents and he wondered if there was anything that the Council could do about this. He was told that officers were starting a campaign on this problem. A lot of it was that people were being lazy. It may be that the Council would put more bins out, the more bins the more likely they were to be used. This campaign was just starting up and would last into the autumn.

The Panel noted that:

- There were 729 recorded incidents of fly-tipping;
- 4 prosecutions for fly tipping had been concluded during this period;
- There were 8 noise abatement notices served; and
- 6 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) were issued, 1 had not been paid and the offender had been taken to court and fined.

RESOLVED:

That the Safer Cleaner Greener Strategy Enforcement Activities for the period 01 October 2010 to 31 March 2011 be noted.

11. FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY AUDIT

The Panel noted that the Food Standards Agency had not written to the Council as yet in their follow up to their visit to our offices. They had sent a preliminary email saying they were satisfied that all standards had been met and that some of our

areas were considered as examples of best practice. The Panel asked that this letter be put in the Council Bulletin when available.

Officers were also introducing the “scores on doors” system and had received £12k to implement this.

RESOLVED:

That the letter from the Foods Standards Agency be put in the Council Bulletin on receipt.

12. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the item of business set out below as it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act indicated and the exemption is considered to outweigh the potential public interest in disclosing the information:

<u>Agenda Item No</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Exempt Information Paragraph Number</u>
11	Strategic Intelligence Assessment	7

13. STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT - REFRESH

Paul Gardener, the Safer Communities Officer, took the Panel through six month refresh of the annual Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA). By law the SIA has to be ‘refreshed’ annually; the statistical period would be from 1 October to 30 September each year. This six month ‘refresh’ period was from 1 October to 30 April and was taken to capture any emerging problems.

The SIA identifies the key crime and disorder priorities based on available data from relevant partner organisations. The assessment identifies the top 5 or 6 priorities, using a priority selection matrix, which are then subject to further, in depth analysis which looks at the problem triangle of Offender, Location and Victim. From this analysis is produced a partnership plan with specific actions to address the identified priorities.

University College London has said that is an extremely good way of to carry out this type of analysis and the partnership has managed to procure a very good analysis, who is working for several local authorities, using restricted police data. It had been noted that the year on year priorities are burglary, domestic abuse, auto crime and anti-social behaviour with an emerging trend of shoplifting. These will be targeted by specific operations.

Currently the partnership is performing quite well, with crime down by 7% and Anti Social Behaviour down by 6.3%, unfortunately Domestic Abuse was slightly up. Taken as an overall figure there has been a 3.6% reduction which is better than last year.

The Strategic Assessment is being developed over a three year period with the main assessment being prepared at the beginning and then updated for the proceeding years.

The Panel noted that until recently the Council had funded a cross border officer, now he has gone there was a need to keep hold and develop that cross border work but without the officer in post. He had produced a closing report and a draft of this came to this meeting which resulted in an action plan.

RESOLVED:

That the six month 'refresh' of the Epping Forest Safer Communities Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment be noted.

14. REPORTS TO BE MADE TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There were no particular items to be submitted to the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

15. FUTURE MEETINGS

The dates of future meetings of the Panel were noted.

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**Epping Forest District
Biodiversity Action Plan
2008 – 2012
(revised July 2010)**

The Epping Forest District Biodiversity Action Plan

Introduction

The aim of this document is to give a brief introduction to the biodiversity of the district and to establish a five year Action Plan containing a range of targets aimed at conserving and enhancing biodiversity across the district. The Epping Forest Biodiversity Action Plan is a partnership document, (produced by the Epping Forest Biodiversity Partnership, involving the organisations listed in Annex 1) where the council has taken the leading role. However, the process has actively involved important partners in nature conservation activities across the district. The targets set out in the plan reflect priorities and targets that have been developed in the Essex Biodiversity Action Plan and UK's National Biodiversity Action Plan.

What is Biodiversity?

Biological diversity, or "biodiversity" is the variety of life that is all around us and all over the world. It encompasses all living things from microscopic organisms to the largest trees. Not just exotic, rare and endangered plants and animals are included, but also those that are found in back gardens, parks and ponds. Although biodiversity surrounds us, we cannot take it for granted. It is not just the large-scale human activities such as urban development, agricultural intensification and road building that have an impact on wildlife. Even seemingly minor things such as cutting down a tree or allowing a pond to dry up can make a difference by isolating or reducing habitats. Many ordinary, daily activities are slowly modifying the variety of wildlife – our local biodiversity.

“Biological diversity means the variability among living organisms from all sources including, *inter alia*, terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species and of ecosystems.” (Convention on Biological Diversity, 1993)

Why are we developing a Local Biodiversity Action Plan?

Biodiversity is vital to our quality of life. It provides us with clean air and water, and resources for recreation and education. It improves our well-being and maintains a whole range of environmental protection functions such as flood control and climate regulation. Ultimately it acts as the life support system for the planet and is essential for our very survival. Species can take millions of years to evolve, but once a species is extinct it is lost forever. So as much as we need to conserve biodiversity for our quality of life we also owe it to future generations not to destroy this wonderful heritage.

In the UK the loss of wildlife and the destruction of the countryside are such that a healthy and rich natural environment is no longer guaranteed. For example, studies have shown that 98% of wildflower meadows, 448,000 kilometres of hedgerows, over 2 million skylarks and 95% of high brown fritillary butterflies have been lost in less than a lifetime. It is clear that we need to halt this decline and help these species to recover. This work is being carried out at all levels - internationally, nationally, regionally and locally. Epping Forest District Council has therefore decided to take action and produce a Local BAP to help conserve, enhance and promote awareness of biodiversity in the district. The Epping BAP focuses on habitats, following the recent drive by the UK Biodiversity Action Plan to focus on habitats and larger scale ecosystem plans. These are now considered a more effective conservation tool capable of delivering biodiversity gains for both habitats and the species dependent upon them.



Biodiversity Action: “Think globally act locally”

In June 1992, leaders from over 150 countries gathered in Rio de Janeiro for the ‘Earth Summit’. The loss of the world’s biodiversity was the major environmental issue discussed. As a result, the Convention on Biological Diversity was signed committing all countries to act to conserve and enhance their biodiversity to contribute to the global resource.

The UK Government signed this Convention and began to fulfil its commitment in 1994 when it published the UK’s Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).

The aim for this plan is:

“To conserve and enhance biological diversity within the UK and to contribute to the conservation of global biodiversity through all appropriate means”

By this aim the Government has committed itself to a process designed to conserve and enhance:

- The range and numbers of wildlife species and the quality and extent of wildlife habitats.
- Species and habitats that are internationally important or characteristic of local areas.
- Species and habitats that have declined significantly over recent decades.

The Government recognised that the national objectives could only be achieved if there was action at all levels and by all sectors of the community. The principal means of achieving this is through the preparation of Local Biodiversity Action Plans. These plans have two broad functions.

- To ensure that national action plans are translated into effective action at the local level.
- To establish targets and action for species and habitats characteristic of each local area

The process to produce the Essex Biodiversity Action Plan (EBAP) began in 1997 when the Association of Essex Councils hosted an Essex Sustainability Conference. The species and habitats that occur in the EBAP were selected from a national list together with some extra ones that are characteristic or indicative of the Essex countryside.

The Epping Forest LBAP has been developed with close links to the Essex BAP.

The purpose of this plan is to help achieve some of the targets set out in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and the Essex Biodiversity Action Plan. Hopefully it will:

- Concentrate on making local people more aware of the biodiversity around them and of the need to conserve it.
- Produce a more detailed understanding of the biodiversity in the district;
- Guide the work of Epping Forest District Council officers where this may impact on biodiversity;
- Set high standards for Epping Forest District Council as land managers;
- Support the work of all organisations in the district that are engaged in biodiversity action;
- Develop opportunities for active participation in biodiversity action by all members of the community



BIODIVERSITY IN EPPING FOREST DISTRICT

Background

Epping Forest District is fortunate to have a number of highly important wildlife sites including Epping and Hainault Forests, the Lee Valley Regional Park and the Roding Valley Meadows Local Nature Reserve. These key sites are our most important protected areas with international or European recognition as Ramsar sites, Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and national significance as Sites of Special Scientific interest. (SSSIs).

Beyond these core sites are a linking network of Nature Reserves and Local Wildlife Sites which gives the district its character and biodiversity.

Designated wildlife sites in Epping Forest District.

<u>Designation</u>	<u>No of sites</u>
Ramsar Site	1
SPA	1
SAC	1
SSSIs	7
Local Nature Reserves	9
Local Wildlife Sites	222

Natura 2000

The Habitats Directive 1992 required EU Member States to create a network of protected wildlife areas, known as Natura 2000, across the European Union. This network consists of SACs and SPAs, established to protect wild birds under the Birds Directive. These sites are part of a range of measures aimed at conserving important or threatened habitats and species. The District has one SAC (Epping Forest covering 1604 ha) and one SPA (Lee Valley covering 451.29ha).

Ramsar Sites

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar Convention) was signed in Ramsar, Iran in 1971. It was an intergovernmental treaty which provided for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. The district has one of 157 Ramsar sites in the UK - the Lee Valley. This great wildlife resource comprises a series of embanked water supply reservoirs, sewage treatment lagoons and former gravel pits which straddles 24km of the valley

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

SSSIs are the country's very best wildlife and geological sites (Ramsar sites and SPAs and SACs are also SSSIs) and are designated by Natural England. They are selected for their value in terms of flora or fauna, or their geological or physiographical (i.e. landform) features. There are around four thousand sites across the country with eighty six in Essex. There are eight designated SSSIs which are partially or wholly in the District covering 2506ha. These are:

- 1) Epping Forest (including Wintry Wood, Epping; Gernon Bushes, Coopersale; Yardley Hill, Sewardstonebury; and Lord's Bushes, Buckhurst Hill). The SSSI extends into the London Boroughs of Redbridge and Waltham Forest (total area not all in district 1729 ha).
- 2) Hainault Forest, Chigwell and Lambourne, extending into the London Borough of Redbridge (total area not all in the district 136ha).
- 3) Royal Gunpowder Factory Woodlands, Waltham Abbey (34.2ha).
- 4) Roding Valley Meadows, Loughton and Chigwell. (19.8ha).
- 5) Cornmill Stream and Old River Lea, Waltham Abbey (24.6ha).
- 6) Turnford and Cheshunt Pits (extending into Broxbourne Borough 173.28ha).

7) Chingford Reservoirs - extending into the London Boroughs of Enfield and Waltham Forest. (Total area not all in the district 391ha.)

8) River Lee diversion (a very small part of the Chingford Reservoirs SSSI)

Three SSSIs abut the district boundary. These are Curtismill Green (near Stapleford Abbots); Harlow Woods, Harlow; and Hunsdon Mead, Roydon. A further two SSSIs are very close to, but do not abut, the district. These are Parndon Wood, Harlow and Rye Meads near Stanstead Abbots.

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)

Under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, local authorities (including district, town and parish councils) have the power to establish Local Nature Reserves.

An area of land can be declared as an LNR if it has a high value for nature conservation, provides special opportunities for study and research or if the natural features of the site are of special interest to the public because they are used for recreation and education.

There are now 1050 LNRs in England. Epping Forest District Council has declared 9 LNRs to date between 1986 and 2007. These are;

- Roding Valley Meadows
- Chigwell Row Wood
- Linder's Field
- Roughtalley's Wood
- Church Lane Flood Meadow
- Nazeing Triangle
- Home Mead
- Thornwood Flood Meadow
- Weald Common Flood Meadow.



Natural England has put forward a target of 1 hectare of LNR per 1,000 head of population if LNRs are to play a role in sustainability. This figure has been adopted by the Audit Commission as a local performance indicator. EFDC currently has a figure of 1 hectare of LNR per 1,325 head of population.

Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS)

Local Wildlife Sites are "discrete areas of land which are considered to be of significance for their wildlife features in at least a District context". LoWS were identified and declared by the Essex Wildlife Trust following a Phase One habitat survey of the district in 1991(See Annex 2) (revised 1996 and 1998).

In 2009, a review of the LoWS network across the district was undertaken. This has identified a number of new sites resulting in a net gain of 41. The Epping Forest District now has 222 LoWS.

Key Sites of Nature Conservation Importance in Epping Forest District.

The Lee Valley Regional Park extends 26 miles from Ware in Hertfordshire to East India Dock on the bank of the Thames.

The Park incorporates the western border of the district and is characterised here by an almost continuous mosaic of floodplain grassland, flooded gravel pits and wet woodland. Key sites include Gunpowder Park, Cornmill Meadows, Royal Gunpowder Mills and the River Lee Country Park. There are three SSSIs with one of them, Turnford and Cheshunt Pits SSSI, forming part of the Lee Valley Special Protection Area. This was designated under the EU Birds Directive on account of the large flocks of moulting and wintering ducks as well as its strategic importance as a stop-off for birds, including the bittern, outside the breeding season.

Although perhaps best known for its birds, the Park also supports over half of the dragonflies and damselflies species found in the UK, with Cornmill Meadows a well-known spot. Water voles, which have undergone a dramatic decline throughout

their range, can still be found in reasonable numbers at several sites throughout the Park, although much work remains to be done to link up these fragmented populations and safeguard them from predation by mink and other threats. (Lee Valley Regional Park Authority (LVRPA) website www.leevalleypark.org.uk)

Hainault Forest constitutes a remaining fragment of a once much larger medieval woodland. It is thought to have been declared a specially protected forest by Henry I around 1130. Traditionally it would have been managed as wood pasture with livestock grazing the open grassy "plains". Worked pollarded trees were scattered throughout. In 1851 an Act of Parliament led to large scale destruction of the Forest with, in just six weeks, an estimated 100,000 trees felled. The ensuing public outrage did serve to save Epping Forest from a similar fate and eventually led to the creation of a Hainault Forest Country Park in 1906. The remains of this ancient woodland are hugely significant for the district and of historic, cultural and landscape importance on a national scale.

Today, the Hainault Forest Country Park is split between the Woodland Trust (118 ha) which manages the northern part of the woodland (which is all within Epping Forest District) on a fifty year lease from Essex County Council. The remaining 100 ha is owned and managed by the London Borough of Redbridge.

Hainault Forest has a broad range of habitat types including ancient wood pasture with old growth stands, native broadleaved woodland, mature scrub and open grassy margins, amenity grassland, semi-improved acid grassland and a small area of heathland. Some 136ha is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. (<http://www.wt-woods.org.uk/HainaultForest>)

Epping Forest is by far the largest public open space near to London. At almost 2428 ha it stretches for about 12 miles from Manor Park in East London to just north of

Epping. Since 1878 the Forest has been owned by the City of London and is managed under the Epping Forest Act which stipulates;

"The Conservators shall at all times keep Epping Forest unenclosed and unbuilt on as an open space for the recreation and enjoyment of the people."

As well as being a huge recreational resource the Forest is the key biodiversity resource of the district with over 1618 ha being designated as SSSI and SAC.

Epping Forest is really special for its ancient trees with around fifty thousand thought to exist. This in turn supports a vast variety of flora and fauna species, many of which have specialised to live in this unique environment. Perhaps the most significant of these are the saprophytic invertebrates (dead wood insects) many of which are found almost nowhere else in the country. In addition to the ancient trees, what makes the Forest so valuable is its unique blend of old grasslands, heaths, ponds and lakes. (http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/Corporation/living_environment/open_spaces/epping_forest.htm)

The Roding Valley Meadows Local Nature Reserve (LNR) includes the largest traditionally managed lowland hay meadows in Essex running along the banks of the River Roding through Loughton, Chigwell and Buckhurst Hill on the southern edge of the district. Incorporating herb-rich flood-plain pasture and sedge fen, the meadows represent a huge regional biodiversity resource of national importance. This is recognised in the site's designation as a Local Nature Reserve, LoWS and part SSSI.

At 66.7 hectares the meadows are easily the largest single block of grassland in the district which has otherwise lost much of its herb rich grassland. Today the meadows, which are owned by Epping Forest District Council and The Grange Farm Centre Trust, are managed by the Essex Wildlife Trust. In addition to the important SSSI grassland and fen habitats, the reserve has

a fine network of hedgerows, scrub and secondary woodland. Being close to a large urban area, the meadows offer a unique place for local people to come into contact with wildlife.

(<http://www.essexwt.org.uk>)

Key Habitats of the District

Urban Areas

Within the district's urban areas, public open spaces, cemeteries, allotments, derelict land and gardens all support a huge variety of wildlife. Across the UK it has been estimated there are more than 15 million gardens and it is becoming increasingly obvious that these areas are playing a vital role in providing habitats for wildlife. The potential for biodiversity could be huge if more people could be encouraged to garden for wildlife.

The district's population currently stands at 120,896 (2001 Census) of which 70% live in the suburban or market towns of Loughton, Buckhurst Hill, Chigwell, Waltham Abbey and Epping. In the south of the district these urban areas directly abut Epping Forest and therefore must be seen as a vital wildlife corridors between important sites such as the Forest and the Roding Valley Meadows. In a time of increasing pressure for development, especially from housing, the careful planning of effective green spaces and corridors which take account of both wildlife and people will be vital.

Farmland

Around 90% of the district could still be described as countryside with agriculture being by far the largest land use. The sympathetic management of this land is therefore vital for the effective conservation of our wildlife. The mosaic of ditches, ponds, hedgerows, woodland and field margins supports a great diversity of wildlife and all of the district's key biodiversity species rely on farmland. This land also forms the vital corridors linking the "hotspots" of biodiversity which still remain. Working with the farming community will be vital if any success is to be achieved.

Woodland

Since 1945 Essex has lost 24% of all its ancient woodland. This district is fortunate in having part of Hainault Forest and Epping Forest within its borders. As one of the UK's most coherent blocks of ancient woodland it is a hugely important site not only for the district, but nationally too. The key fauna are associated with dead and decaying wood and the Forest supports many nationally important invertebrate populations.

Only 9.8% of the district is in fact wooded (EWT Phase 1 habitat survey 1996) and of this just 2501.6 ha is biologically rich semi-natural ancient woodland (7.38% of the land area of the district)

Across the farmland areas of the district there are numerous small semi-natural broad-leaved woods. Of these some 119 are designated LoWS. These are almost exclusively neglected hornbeam coppice woodlands. Despite lack of recent management the woods still support a wide range of birds, mammals, plants and fungi.

Veteran Trees

Hainault and Epping Forests include a collection of veteran trees of European importance, but such trees are by no means confined to the Forest areas. The widespread practice of pollarding (the successive cutting of trees above the browsing height of deer and cattle) has left a legacy of many veteran trees across the whole of the district. In addition, numerous deer parks include large numbers of old trees. Today, many of these trees find themselves surrounded by urban development or arable farmland. It will be an aim of this biodiversity action plan to survey the district and record all the veteran trees. This will also include recording rarities such as the native black poplars and wild service trees.

Hedgerows

Across England since 1945 the average hedgerow loss in each parish has been around 50% and this figure can be fairly accurately applied to this district. Despite this loss the ancient nature of much of the district's landscape means that there is still

a significant hedgerow network. This coupled, with significant replanting by the farming community, gives reason for optimism. The EWT 1996 updated Phase 1 habitat survey for the district gives a figure of 1245km of hedgerow which can be coupled with 577 km of tree-lines.

Species rich grassland and heathland

Since 1945 intensive food production involving the application of chemical fertilizers and the use of ever bigger machines addressed the nation's demand for plentiful and cheap food. To the credit of the farming community this goal has been largely achieved. The downside is a significant loss of wildlife habitat, even more apparent in a county like Essex, which for over 50 years has been dominated by arable farming. Unimproved grassland has been the one major habitat that has seen catastrophic losses. Across the county there has been a 99% loss of all its flower rich grasslands. In Epping Forest District there are only 106.3 ha remaining equating to just 0.31% of the district's land area (EWT Phase 1 habitat survey 1996).

While the loss of a wood or hedgerow is often dramatic, involving heavy machinery and noisy chainsaws, the demise of a grassland is often far less obvious. Whether by the plough, over grazing, development or neglect, many grasslands are still slowly disappearing unnoticed. Many of the larger important sites which remain, such as the Roding Valley Meadows LNR (at 66.7ha this equates to over 60% of this rare grassland resource within the district), are being looked after. But it is the smaller sites such as the old churchyards, village greens, roadside verges and small fields which are gradually being lost. Often these small areas are the only remnants within a parish, an oasis of unploughed, unsprayed meadowland. These sites can have a unique association of plants and offer a haven for birds, small mammals and invertebrates.

Heathland was never a widespread habitat across the district, but was restricted to the Forest areas on poor sands and glacial gravels overlying the London Clay. Historically the heaths were maintained by grazing, but in the last 70 years this has

largely ceased. Consequently, heathland sites have been lost to encroachment by woodland. The exact area of heathland that still remains is hard to calculate, but the area of stand-alone heathland sites amounts to under 3 hectares.

Ponds

The word "pond" can be used to describe all static areas of water such as small pools, canals, reservoirs and lakes, but for the purposes of this plan lakes, canals and reservoirs will be defined as open water.

In the EWT Phase One habitat survey 1996 some 982 ponds were recorded in the district (315 ha given as open water) and in terms of pond density this equates to a figure of 2.89 ponds per kilometre square. Ponds are found scattered across the whole district, but many are now under threat from lack of management through land use changes. Influencing farmers to manage existing ponds and encouraging people to create new ones will be a priority.

How to use the BAP

The aim of the plan is to raise public awareness and focus practical action on those biodiversity priority species and habitats occurring across the district. Each species and habitat action plan lists 'local actions' that should be undertaken within the district, and indicates the lead agencies or group concerned. To avoid unnecessary repetition, actions common to more than one plan have been listed under 'Generic objectives and actions'.

The biodiversity initiative is an ongoing process. The implementation and review of this and subsequent plans will be co-ordinated by the Epping Forest Biodiversity Steering Group, working with EFDC and other business and community partners.



Epping Forest biodiversity priority habitats, and species showing relationship to UK and Essex lists.

	<u>E BAP</u>	<u>LV BAP</u>	<u>UK BAP</u>
Habitats			
Urban areas	✓	✓	✓
Farmland	✓		✓
Woodland	✓		✓
Veteran Trees			✓
Hedgerows	✓		✓
Lowland Meadows			✓
Lowland Heath	✓		✓
Ponds		✓	✓
Species			
Black Poplar	✓		
Wild Service Tree			
Veteran Trees			
Great Crested Newt	✓		✓
Skylark	✓		
Stag beetle	✓		✓

E BAP – Essex Biodiversity Action Plan

LV BAP – Lee Valley Regional Park Biodiversity Action Plan.

UK BAP – UK Biodiversity Action Plan

Epping Forest District Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2008 – 2011

(Revised 10 June 2010)

GENERIC ACTIONS

Develop a partnership to work with biodiversity issues in the district						
Aim 1	Target	Actions and Updates	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
1.1 Establish effective mechanism for promotion, implementation, monitoring and developing of LBAP.		<p>1.1.1 Hold an annual meeting of the steering group in June each year to review and update the Action Plan with partner organisations.</p> <p>1.1.2 Steering Group members to feedback quarterly to EFDC on activities undertaken towards targets and actions. Action plan will be updated and sent to partners.</p> <p>1.1.3 Countrycare liaison group to act as a community focus group</p>	Epping Forest Biodiversity Partnership (EFBP)	EFDC	June 2011	EFBP

Epping Forest District LBAP Steering Group Members (Abbreviations) – BSBI (Botanical Society of the British Isles), CoL (City of London – Epping Forest), EARG (Essex Amphibian and Reptile Group), EFBP (Epping Forest Biodiversity Project), EFBPK (Epping Forest Burial Park), EFDC (Epping Forest District Council), EA (Environment Agency), EWT (Essex Wildlife Trust), EFC (Essex Field Club), ECC (Essex County Council), FSC (Field Studies Council – Epping Forest), LVRPA (Lee Valley Regional Park Authority), WT (Woodland Trust), FWAG (Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group) and Epping Forest Conservation Volunteers (EFCV).

Raise awareness and profile of, and involvement with, biodiversity in the district						
Aim 2	Targets	Actions and Updates	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
2.1 Establish a mechanism to publicise and raise awareness of biodiversity issues to local residents.	2.1.1	Publish a minimum of four articles per year in either EYE, Forester, 'Making the links' (ECC e-newsletter), Forest Leaves (EFCV), Essex County Standard, Forest Focus, Biodiversity Project Biolog, or any other local newspaper and supply articles to relevant parish or town councils for their magazines.	EFBP	EFDC	06/2010	EFBP
	2.1.2	Identify individual contact person within all parish and town councils in the district to facilitate closer working and better communication.	EFBP	EFDC	10/2010	EFBP
	2.1.3	Write to those PCs, which do not currently have a representative regularly attending the Epping Forest Countrycare Liaison Group Meeting.	EFBP Town/parish councils	EFDC	10/2010	EFBP
2.2 Engage schools and higher education establishments in biodiversity projects. Provide them with suitable materials and promotional activities.	2.2.1	Organise a minimum of two biodiversity projects per year in schools and higher educational establishments.	ALL	EF FSC		EFBP
	2.2.2	Undertake a programme of work to promote biodiversity engaging with as many people as possible across the District.				
2.3 Organise and participate in promotional events across the district to promote biodiversity issues	2.3.1	Hold one promotional event per year, e.g. LNR Week. 2010 is "The International Year of Biodiversity Target" EFDC signed up as partners	ALL	EFDC		EFBP
	2.3.2	Organise a minimum of ten nature walks in 2010 across the district.				

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Targets	Actions and Updates	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
<p>2.4 Encourage voluntary participation in practical management work for biodiversity gain.</p>	<p>2.4.1 Enable 7,000 volunteer hours dedicated to biodiversity projects across the district.</p> <p>2.4.2 Work with Voluntary Action Epping Forest to ensure that all volunteering opportunities are known. Update: June 2010: Ongoing volunteers still coming through from VAEF</p>	ALL	EFCV	Annual	EFBP
<p>2.5 Develop 2 new biodiversity projects a year, with partners in the district.</p>	<p>2.5.1 Housham Tye Common with local residents and Matching PC</p> <p>2.5.2 Roughtalley's Wood (Epping Forest Burial Park)</p> <p>2.5.3 Others TBC by partners</p>	<p>EFDC/ Matching PC/ Residents</p> <p>EFDC/ EFBP</p>			
<p>2.6 Work towards achieving the objectives of NI197 (Biodiversity and LoWS)</p>	<p>2.6.1 Produce positive conservation management statements (PCMs) for 73 LoWS. Baseline 6 (April 2008) to achieve 73 PCMs (March 2011). TARGETS 2010/11 – 73 total in PCM (27 needed)</p>	ALL	EWT	March 2011	LAA2 Target
<p>2.7 Work towards achieving the objectives of Living Landscapes (L110)</p>	<p>2.7.1 Produce Living Landscape Plans for the seven identified areas within the district by March 2011. Full list:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stort Valley 2. Lea Valley 3. Cobbins Wood – started July 2009 (Mark Iley) 4. Cobbins Brook – started July 2009 (Mark Iley) 5. Epping Forest – Existing plan 6. Lower Roding M25 to Chigwell 7. Upper Roding – Abbess Roding to M25 (Andy May) 	ALL	EWT	March 2011	LAA2 Target

HABITAT ACTION PLANS

URBAN AREAS

Maximise the biodiversity potential of the urban environments of the district						
Aim 3	Targets	Actions and updates	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
3.1 Increase public understanding and interest in the value of biodiversity in gardens.		3.1.1 Publish 'a Green Gardening Guide'.	Town/parish Councils Town/parish Councils, Allotment organisations	EFDC	04/2008	EFBP
		3.1.2 Promote 'wildlife-friendly gardening' during partner run events.		EFDC	Ongoing	EFBP
		3.1.3 Publish monthly garden updates on the Council website.		EFDC	Ongoing	EFBP
		3.1.4 Produce list of gardening societies and allotment associations in the area		EFDC	07/2008	EFBP
		3.1.5 Promote the use of allotments via websites, events and articles.		EFDC		
		3.1.6 Link with the National campaigns – BBC Spring watch, Autumn watch, breathing spaces.		EFDC		
		3.1.7 Promote school gardens/allotments and wildlife friendly areas within Allotments and School Grounds.		EFDC		
3.2 Identify location and quality of garden ponds in the district.		Develop and circulate a public survey leaflet of garden ponds in the district. June 2010: No progress	Essex Amphibian Reptile Group (EARG)	EFDC	04/2009	EFBP
3.3 Raise the awareness about the impact on biodiversity of invasive alien plants.		3.3.1 Distribute "Protecting our native wildlife" by the Environment Agency on invasive species and link to EA website.	Essex Biodiversity Project (EBP), Invasive	EFDC	05/2008	EFBP
		3.3.2 Produce articles for publication in the Forester/local council magazines.				

Aim 3					
Maximise the biodiversity potential of the urban environments of the district					
Targets	Actions and updates	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
	3.3.3 Highlight invasive alien species in EYE – one species per edition.	species group EA	EFDC	04/2008	EFBP

FARMLAND

Aim 4					
Raise awareness of biodiversity issues within farming community					
Targets	Actions and Updates	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
4.1 Establish effective links/partnership projects with eight farmers by 2011.	4.1.1 Identify and establish good communication and relations with two farmers per year. 4.1.2 Distribute existing publications to farmers to encourage wildlife-friendly farming.	EFDC	FWAG	Yearly 2010 Ongoing	EFBP EFBP

FARMLAND

Achieve optimum biodiversity condition for farmland in the district through high quality management.					
Aim 5	Targets	Actions and Updates	Partners	Lead	Target Date
	<p>5.1 Maintain, improve and restore the biodiversity of 30 ha of farmland in the district by 2010.</p>	<p>5.1.1 Identify good quality* field margins in the district by working with farmers.</p> <p>5.1.2 Identify ponds on farmland through targeted public survey.**</p> <p>5.1.3 Identify good quality woodland on farmland through public survey.**</p> <p>5.1.4 Offer assistance to farmers to enable the uptake of agri-environment schemes across the district.</p>	<p>BSBI,FWAG, local farmers, Natural England</p>	<p>EFDC</p> <p>EFDC</p> <p>EFDC</p> <p>FWAG</p>	<p>11/2010</p> <p>02/2010</p> <p>11/2010</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
					<p>Monitoring</p> <p>EFBP</p> <p>EFBP</p> <p>EFBP</p> <p>EFBP</p>

* Good Quality Field Margins

Field margins refer to the land between the field boundary feature and crop on arable fields (particularly cereals) or grasslands. Field margins of good quality are defined as ones which have high species and structural diversity and support key farmland species.

** Public Surveys

Within the document reference is made to public surveys. This refers to survey work which will be co-ordinated by EF Countryside and partners and the local community. E.g. Epping Forest Tree Wardens for Veteran Tree Surveys and Essex Amphibian and Reptile Group for pond surveys.

WOODLANDS

Achieve favourable management of woodlands in the district						
Aim 6	Targets	Actions and Updates	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
DU 06 09 04	6.1 Promote positive management of LoWS woodland sites across the district linked to NI197.	<p>6.1.1 Encourage all "partner" owned woodlands into to have up to date management plans.</p> <p>6.1.2 Facilitate woodland owner applications to grant schemes where Appropriate in 2010</p> <p>6.1.3 Target woodlands with the FC Cluster Area.</p>	EWT, WT, CoL, EFDC, LVRPA, FWAG, EFBP	EFDC FWAG	06/2008 06/2008	EFBP EFBP
	6.2 Identify the owners of LoWS woodland sites.	6.2.2 Produce a list of all woodland owners of LoWS (125 sites). June 2010 – ownership known for 97 woodland LoWS (77%)	Parish and town councils, EWT, ECC	EFDC	12/2008	EFBP
	6.3 Produce positive conservation management statements for all Woodland LoWS linked to NI197.	6.3.1 Produce 40 PCM Statement's and demonstrate that some positive management has been undertaken	EFDC, EWT, WT, CoL, LVRA	ECC	03/2011	EFBP
	6.4 ID key Woodland Sites across the district.	6.4.1 ID sites – Epping Forest, Hainault, Chigwell Row Wood LNR, Lambourne Woods Complex, Beachet Wood, Theydon Mount, Envilles Farm Cluster, Fyfield, Deerpark, Roughtalley's Wood Complex (LNR and Burial Park), Theydon Bois Wood (WT) and Galleyhill Woods Complex.				
	6.5 ID key Woodland Sites across the district within the WGS Cluster Area (80% grant funding)	6.5.1 ID 2 woodlands to take forward as part of WGS priority Cluster group	EFDC, EWT, WT, CoL,		03/2011	

TREES

Conserve and raise awareness of veteran trees across the district				
Aim 7	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
<p>Targets</p> <p>7.1 Identify the location of all veteran trees across the District on a parish by parish basis.</p>	EFDC, WT CoL	EFDC	03/2011	EFBP
	<p>See Completed Action Plan Targets (9 arishes completed)</p> <p>7.1.1 Complete the survey of Abbess Roding parish. March 2009: 3 veteran trees recorded June 2010: 5 veteran trees recorded</p> <p>7.1.2 Complete the survey of Beauchamp Roding parish March 2009: Not started June 2010: 1 veteran trees recorded</p> <p>7.1.3 Complete the survey of Berners Roding parish. March 2009: Not started June 2010: 50 veteran trees recorded</p> <p>7.1.4 Complete the survey of Bobbingworth parish. March 2009: 26 veteran trees recorded June 2010: 42 veteran trees recorded</p> <p>7.1.5 Complete the survey of Chigwell parish. March 2009: 153 veteran trees recorded June 2010: 200 veteran trees recorded</p> <p>7.1.6 Complete the survey of Epping parish March 2009: 9 veteran trees recorded June 2010: 9 veteran trees recorded</p> <p>7.1.7 Complete the survey of Fyfield parish. March 2009: 27 veteran trees recorded June 2010: 50 veteran trees recorded</p>			

Conserve and raise awareness of veteran trees across the district						
Aim 7	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring		
Targets	Actions and Updates					
7.1 Identify the location of all veteran trees across the District on a parish by parish basis.	7.1.8	Complete the survey of High Ongar parish. March 2009: 10 veteran trees recorded June 010: 12 veteran trees recorded	EFDC, WT CoL	EFDC	03/2011	
	7.1.9	Complete the survey of Loughton parish. March 2009: 85 veteran trees recorded June 210: 100 veteran trees recorded				102010
	7.1.10	Complete the survey of Magdalen Laver parish. March 2009: 9 veteran trees recorded June 210: 23 veteran trees recorded				10/2010
	7.1.11	Complete the survey of Matching parish March 2009: 38 veteran trees recorded June 2010: 39 veteran trees recorded				03/2011
	7.1.12	Complete the survey of Moreton parish. March 2009: 10 veteran trees recorded June 2010: 27 veteran trees recorded				10/2010
	7.1.13	Complete the survey of Nazeing parish. March 2009: 152 veteran trees recorded June 2010: 164 veteran trees recorded				10/2010
	7.1.14	Complete the survey of Sheering parish. March 2009: 5 veteran trees recorded January 2010: 5 veteran trees recorded				03/2011
	7.1.15	Complete the survey of Stapleford Tawney parish. March 2009: 7 veteran trees recorded January 2010: 56 veteran trees recorded				03/2011

Conserve and raise awareness of veteran trees across the district							
Aim 7							
Targets	Actions and Updates	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring		
7.1 Identify the location of all veteran trees across the District on a parish by parish basis.	7.1.16 Complete the survey of Stanford Rivers parish. March 2009: 9 veteran trees recorded January 2010: 37 veteran trees recorded	EFDC, WT CoL	EFDC	03/2011			
	7.1.17 Complete the survey of Theydon Garnon parish. March 2009: 39 veteran trees recorded January 2010: 39 veteran trees recorded			03/2011			
	7.1.18 Complete the survey of Theydon Mount parish. March 2009: 9 veteran trees recorded January 2010: 20 veteran trees recorded			03/2011			
	7.1.19 Complete the survey of Waltham Abbey parish. March 2009: 263 veteran trees recorded January 2010: 369 veteran trees recorded			10/2010			
	7.1.20 Complete the survey of Willingale parish. March 2009: 13 veteran trees recorded January 2010: 48 veteran trees recorded			03/2011			
	7.1.21 Conduct a survey of veteran trees in Epping Forest						
	7.1.22 Record 3,000 veteran and notable trees on the Favourite Trees Website: February 2009: 2,005 veteran trees June 2010: 3,529 veteran and notable trees recorded 17 ancient trees, 2,584 veteran trees and 886 others.			03/2011			

Conserve and raise awareness of veteran trees across the district					
Aim 7	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring	
Targets	Actions and Updates				
7.2 Ensure the veteran tree survey data is disseminated to all relevant partners	EFDCWMT	EFDC	03/2010		
7.2.1 Supply data to the Woodland Trust's National Ancient Tree Hunt. January 2008: EFDC are signed up as partners. Records of approx 500 veteran trees have been transferred.					
7.2 Involve the local community including tree wardens in surveying for trees across the district.	EFDC, WT, City of London, FSC	EFDC	03/2011	EFBP	
7.2.1 Organise 3 veteran tree hunts in 2010					
7.2.2 Organise 3 veteran tree hunts in 2011					
7.3 Ensure the protection and conservation of wild service trees across the District.	EFDC, WT, CoL	EFDC	Ongoing	EFBP	
7.3.1 Record all trees on Favourite Trees web site. March 2009: 31 trees recorded January 2010: 44 trees recorded June 2010: 44 trees recorded					
7.4 Ensure the protection and conservation of native black poplars in the district.	BSBI, EWT, EFDC	BSBI	03/2011 03/2011 03/2011 ?? 03/2011	EFBP	
7.4.1 Identify all owners of black poplars across the district.					
7.4.2 Offer management advice as appropriate.					
7.4.3 Produce a leaflet for tree owners on the ecology of native black poplars and why they are special.					
7.4.4 Take cuttings of individual trees for inclusion in "clone bank" nursery.					
7.4.5 Record all known black poplar trees on the Favourite Trees Website. February 2009: 27 trees recorded. January 2010: 32 trees recorded June 2010 : 32 recorded					

HEDGEROWS

Encourage the appropriate management of hedgerows and endeavour to extend existing area of hedgerows						
Aim 8	Targets	Actions	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
8.1 Record species rich and ancient hedgerows across the district.	8.1.1	Undertake hedgerow surveys across the district starting with: 1) Roding Valley Meadows – No progress 2) Ongar parish – No progress 3) Cobbins Brook – No Progress 4) Parish boundary hedgerows – No progress	EWT	EFDC	03/2011	EFBP
8.2 Extend areas of hedgerows in the district.	8.2.2	Promote a minimum of four free hedge schemes per year to landowners, creating a min of 750m of new hedgerow.	Parish/town Councils, Essex County Council(ECC) Woodland	EFDC	Annually	EFBP
8.3 Increase the number of hedgerows that receive appropriate management	8.3.1	Inform and educate landowner with ancient hedgerows on their land to manage their hedgerows properly.	EFDC	FWAG	12/2009	EFBP
8.4 Describe the characteristic hedge types of the district.	8.4.1	To be completed after the initial hedgerow survey of northern parishes is completed.	EWT/FWAG	EFDC	12/2010	EFBP

SPECIES RICH GRASSLANDS

Achieve favourable management of species rich grassland in the district						
Aim 9	Targets	Actions	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
9.1 Halt the loss of species rich grassland.	9.1.1 Identify the owners of all grassland LoWS (40 sites) January 2010: 27 LoWS owners identified.	9.1.2 Continue to manage special roadside verges. January 2010: EWT, EFDC, CoL, BSBI and ECC have resurveyed and ID new suite of sites	EFDC, Parish/town councils	EWT	08/2008	EFBP
			ECC,EWT, CoL, BSBI	ECC	Ongoing	
			EWT/ECC	EFDC	03/2011	
			EWT/ECC	EFDC	03/2011	
9.2 ID key grassland sites in the Epping Forest District		9.1.3 Produce 10 PCM's and demonstrate that some positive management has been undertaken. January 2010: 6 produced June 2010: 8 produced				
9.1.4 Advise owners of grassland LoWs about appropriate grants and management.		9.1.4 Advise owners of grassland LoWs about appropriate grants and management.				
Key sites: Roding Valley Meadows SSSI, Warley's Meadow LoWS, Fernhill's, Yardley Hill SSSI, Yates's Meadow LoWS, Shepherd's Meadow LoWS, Matching Green LoWS, Hawksmere Spring NR LoWS and Gunpowder Park LoWS.						

Page 30

Increase the area of species rich grassland by appropriate restoration and creation						
Aim 10	Targets	Actions	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
10.1 To create 10	10.1.1 Create and restore 3.5 hectares of grassland per					
			WT, CoL,	EFDC	12/2008	EFBP

Increase the area of species rich grassland by appropriate restoration and creation						
Aim 10	Targets	Actions	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
	ha of species rich grassland in the district by 2010.	year. October 2009: 7 hectares of grassland created at Bobbingworth Landfill site February 2010 – Nazeing Church Fields	EWT, EFDC, LVRPA		annually to 2010	

HEATHLAND

Achieve favourable management of species rich grassland in the district						
Aim 11	Targets	Actions	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
	11.1 ID key heathland sites in the Epping Forest District	Key sites: Chigwell Row Wood LNR, Hainault Forest, Norton Heath LoWS, Epping Forest SSSI (Long Running and Deershelter Plain)	WT, CoL, EWT, EFDC, LVRPA		11/2008 annually to 2010	

Increase the area of heathland by appropriate restoration and creation						
Aim 12	Targets	Actions	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
	12.1 To restore 1 ha of heathland by 2010.	12.1.1 Restore one third of a hectare of heath land per year. January 2010: Norton Heath 0.2 h, Chigwell Row Wood 0.3h, Kate's Cellar (Epping Forest) 1.5ha	WT, CoL, EWT, EFDC, LVRPA	EFDC	12/2008 annually to 2010	EFBP

PONDS

Support the protection and appropriate management of ponds and their surrounding habitats in the district						
Aim 13	Targets	Actions	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring
13.1 Ensure that ponds and surrounding habitats are surveyed.	13.1.1 Identify location of Parish ponds by undertaking Parish pond surveys. January 2010: No progress	EARG EWT, WT, COL, LVRP, FWAG	EFDC	12/2010	EFBP	
	13.1.2 Produce list of significant ponds on partners land holdings. January 2010: No progress	EFDC	12/2010	EFBP		
13.2 Raise awareness of importance of ponds in the wider countryside and gardens.	13.2.1 Promote pond management and creation for biodiversity value when attending events. January 2010: Feedback from EARG required	EARG EWT FWAG	EFDC	Ongoing	EFBP	
	13.2.1 Distribute leaflets on pond management/creation. January 2010: Feedback from EARG required	WT, CoL, EWT, EFDC, LVRPA, FWAG	EFDC	12/2008	EFBP	
13.3 Restore existing ponds in the District through appropriate management.	13.3.1 Restore a minimum of 2 ponds per year. 2008: 2009: Nazeing Triangle LNR	EARG, EA	EFDC	Annually	EFBP	
	13.4.1 "Partners" to create a min of 2 ponds per year. 2008: 2009: Bobbingworth Tip and Swaines Green	EARG, EA, EFDC	EFDC	Ongoing	EFBP	

Support the protection and appropriate management of ponds and their surrounding habitats in the district					
Aim 13	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring	
Targets	FWAG				
	13.4.2 Encourage the public to create ponds where appropriate via EFDC website and by giving advice on creation and grant funding.				
13.5 Conduct surveys for Great Crested Newts (GCN).	EARG	EFDC	03/2008	EFBP	
	13.5.1 Undertake a GCN survey of Nazeing Parish, then concentrate surveys on known areas of population. January 2010: No progress				
	13.5.2 Undertake further surveys in known areas of population. January 2010: Feedback from EARG required	EARG	12/2008	EFBP	
13.6 ID key pond sites within the district.					
	Key Sites: Nazeing Triangle LNR, Epping Forest SSSI - Wake Valley Pond				

LOCAL NATURE RESERVES (LNRs)

To achieve Natural England's access to natural greenspace target of at least one hectare of LNR per 1000 population.					
Aim 14	Partners	Lead	Target Date	Monitoring	
<p>14.1 Increase the area of land declared as a Local Nature Reserve within the district. Achieve the designation of a further 30 hectares to meet NE green space target of 1ha of LNR per 1000 head of population.</p>	<p>ECC, CoL, Parish and Town Councils</p>	<p>EFDC</p>	<p>12/2010 12/2009 12/2011 03/2011</p>	<p>EFBP</p>	<p>14.1.1 EFDC has 9 LNRs covering 90ha. Investigate the potential for the following sites to be declared LNRs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Norton Heath Common, High Ongar (4.3ha) January 2010: Still in community consultation stage. Local opposition towards management 2) Swaines Green, Epping (9.64ha) January 2010: No progress 3) Worlds End, Roydon (4.6ha) January 2010: No progress 4) Apes Grove Wood, Lambourne (5.9ha) January 2010: Negotiations between EFDC and ECC established. Management agreement being looked at by Legal Sections

ACTION PLAN TARGETS COMPLETED

Target	Actions Completed	Date Achieved
<p>1.1 Establish effective mechanism for promotion, implementation, monitoring and developing of LBAP</p>	<p>Steering Group established with a range of partner organisations – 3 Steering Group Meetings held 19 November 2008, 25 February 2009 and 9 June 2010.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">June 2010</p>
<p>2.1 Establish a mechanism to publicise and raise awareness of biodiversity issues to local residents.</p>	<p>Web page developed on EFDC website for biodiversity, to promote the issue throughout the district. Link the EFDC Biodiversity page to all partners websites. Identify individual contact person within all parish and town councils in the district to facilitate closer working and better communication. (Partially done via Epping Forest Countryside Liaison Group)</p>	<p>December 2008 February 2009 April 2009</p>
<p>2.3 Organise and participate in promotional events across the district to promote biodiversity issues</p>	<p>Hold one promotional event per year, e.g. LNR Week. 2009 – EFDC partners with BBC Breathing Spaces 2010 - “The International Year of Biodiversity” EFDC signed up as partners: Volunteer Event held on World Environment Day June 2010 Ensure at least 7,000 volunteer hours are given on biodiversity projects across the district annually. 2008 Total = 7088 EFDC Countryside – 4544 hrs Essex Wildlife Trust (Roding Valley Meadows) – 2544hrs Essex Wildlife Trust (Gernon Bushes) – Not Known Epping Forest Conservation Volunteers - ??????</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ongoing Targets</p>

Target	Actions Completed	Date Achieved
	<p>Lee Valley Regional Park Authority – Not known Epping Forest Centenary Trust – Not known</p> <p>2009 Total = 9938 EFDC Countrycare – 4544 hrs Essex Wildlife Trust (Roding Valley Meadows) – 2544hrs Epping Forest Conservation Volunteers – 2850 hrs Essex Wildlife Trust (Gernon Bushes) – Not Known Lee Valley Regional Park Authority – Not known Epping Forest Centenary Trust – Not known</p> <p>Expand the Countrycare website and advertise all volunteering opportunities for the district.</p> <p>Organise a minimum of ten nature walks per year across the district.</p> <p>2008 - EFDC Countrycare – 4 walks</p> <p>2009 - EFDC Countrycare - 7 walks</p> <p>Develop 2 new biodiversity projects a year, with partners in the district.</p> <p>2008/09. 1. District wide Veteran Tree Hunt with Woodland Trust 2. Cripsey Brook Nature Reserve with Ongar Town Council.</p> <p>2009/10 1. Willingale Road Allotments, Loughton with Loughton TC 2. Bobbingworth Former Landfill Site 3. Thomas Willingale School Nature Area Project</p>	<p>May 2009</p>

Target	Actions Completed	Date Achieved
<p>2.4 Work towards achieving the objectives of NI197 (Biodiversity and LoWS)</p>	<p>Produce positive conservation management statements (PCMs) for 73 LoWS. Baseline 6 (April 2008) to achieve 73 PCMs (March 2011).</p> <p>TARGET 2009/10 – 35 LoWS in PCM ACTUAL 2009/10 – 46 LoWS in PCM</p>	<p>31 March 2010</p>
<p>3.1 Increase public understanding and interest in the value of biodiversity in gardens.</p>	<p>January 2010: EFDC partners for 2009/10 Breathing Spaces and 2010 International Year of Biodiversity.</p> <p>Promote school gardens/allotments and wildlife friendly areas within Allotments and School Grounds. Willingale Road Allotments Thomas Willingale School</p>	<p>January 2010 March and June 2010</p>
<p>4.1 Establish effective links/partnership projects with six farmers by 2010</p>	<p>Mark Iley EBP – links through Rural LAA strand</p> <p>Links/projects with a 6 farms/private landowners achieved.</p> <p>Barbers Wood LoWS The Mores LoWS Nazeing Church Fields LoWS Fyfield Woods LoWS Spains Wood LoWS Deerpark Wood LoWS</p>	
<p>5.1 Maintain, improve and restore the biodiversity of 30 ha of farmland in</p>	<p>Offer assistance to farmers to enable the uptake of agri-environment schemes across the district.</p>	

Target	Actions Completed	Date Achieved
the district by 2010.	Maynards Farm, Upshire – HLS application	January 2010
6.1 Promote positive management of LoWS woodland sites across the district linked to NI197.	Facilitate woodland owner applications to grant schemes where appropriate. Barbers Wood, Theydon Mount (EFDC CC - March 2009) Spains Wood, Willingale (EFDC CC - July 2009) Northlands Wood, Stanford Rivers (EFDC CC - July 2009) Deerpark Wood, Nazeing (EFDC CC - Nov 2009) Icehouse/Langford Bottom (EFDC CC - Dec 2009) Apes Grove Wood (ECC - Feb 2010) Great Wood (ECC - Feb 2010)	Ongoing
6.2 Identify the owners of LoWS woodland sites.	Send maps identifying woodland wildlife sites to all parish and town councils.	April 2009
6.3 Produce positive conservation management statements for all Woodland LoWS linked to NI197.	Produce 40 PCM Statement's and demonstrate that some positive management has been undertaken. January 2010 – PCM Statements produced for 21 woodland LoWS	
7.1 Identify the location of all veteran trees across the District on a parish by parish basis.	Complete the survey of Stapleford Abbotts parish. 163 veteran trees recorded. Complete the survey of Lambourne parish. 310 veteran trees recorded. Complete the survey of Theydon Bois parish. 101 veteran trees recorded.	April 2008 April 2008 April 2008

Target	Actions Completed	Date Achieved
	<p>Complete the survey of North Weald parish. 62 veteran trees recorded.</p> <p>Complete the survey of Roydon parish. 157 veteran trees recorded.</p> <p>Complete the survey of Epping Upland parish. 144 veteran trees recorded.</p> <p>Complete the survey of High Laver parish 75 veteran trees recorded</p> <p>Complete the survey of Little Laver parish. 15 veteran trees recorded</p> <p>Complete the survey of Ongar parish. 54 veteran trees recorded</p>	<p>April 2008</p> <p>April 2008</p> <p>April 2008</p> <p>August 2009</p> <p>August 2009</p> <p>October 2009</p>
<p>7.2 Involve the local community including tree wardens in surveying for trees across the district.</p>	<p>Organise 3 veteran tree awareness days in 2008 Launch of Ongar Tree Strategy, Ongar Training Day Upshire, Waltham Abbey Summer of Hugs Event, High Beach, Waltham Abbey Veteran Tree Hunt, Loughton</p> <p>Organise 3 veteran tree hunt awareness days in 2009. Lambourne Parish Sheering Parish Stapleford Tawney/Theydon Mount parish</p>	<p>19 April 2008 22 June 2008 05 July 2008 16 October 2008</p> <p>26 April 2009 17 May 2009 4 October 2010</p>
<p>7.4 Ensure the protection and conservation of native black poplars in the district</p>	<p>DNA Clone type known for all Black Poplars "Groups" within in the district undertaken by Dr K Adams BSBi</p>	<p>April 2010</p>

Target	Actions Completed	Date Achieved
8.1 Record species rich and ancient hedgerows across the district.	Sheering, Matching, Bobbingworth and the Lavers Parishes. - Local Hedgerows Survey Grant secured from DEFRA (April 2010) – 100 hedgerows to be surveyed.	Started June 2010
8.2 Extend areas of hedgerows in the district.	Promote a minimum of four free hedge schemes per year to landowners, creating a min of 750m of new hedgerow. 590m created (12 schemes) 915m created (14 schemes)	31 March 2009 31 March 2010
9.1 Halt the loss of species rich grassland.	Advise owners of grassland LoWs about appropriate grants and management. Dorkins Farm Meadow, Moreton All Saints Churchyard, Epping Upland The Mores, Fyfield Nazeing Church Fields, Nazeing	August 2009 August 2009 September 2009 January 2010

Annex 1

Organisations in Epping Forest Biodiversity Partnership (July 2010)

Epping Forest District Council
Essex County Council
Essex Biodiversity Project
City of London (Epping Forest)
Essex Wildlife Trust
Lee Valley Regional Park Authority
Botanical Society of the British Isles
Woodland Trust
Epping Forest Conservation Volunteers
Field Studies Council (Epping Forest)
Essex Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
Natural England
Environment Agency
Parish and Town Councils of the Epping Forest District
Epping Forest Burial Park

Annex 2 - Glossary of terms used and explanations.

Good Quality Field Margins

Field margins refer to the land between the field boundary feature and crop on arable fields (particularly cereals) or grasslands. Field margins of good quality are defined as ones which have high species and structural diversity and support key farmland species.

Public Surveys

Within the document reference is made to public surveys. This refers to survey work which will be co-coordinated by EF Countryside and partners and the local community. E.g. Epping Forest Tree Wardens for Veteran Tree Surveys and Essex Amphibian and Reptile Group for pond surveys.

Phase 1 Habitat Classification

This classification was developed in the 1980s for the purpose of mapping terrestrial and freshwater habitats within SSSIs and nature reserves, and for larger scale strategic surveys. The classification has subsequently been used extensively for major surveys, including a Phase 1 habitat survey of Wales completed in 1996. The classification has been adopted by the Institute of Environmental Assessors as one of the standard methods for preparation of Environmental Statements under the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 1988. The classification was originally published by NCC (reprinted by JNCC) and is supported by a field manual (JNCC)

Ancient semi-natural woodland is woodland that is known to have existed before 1600 and Secondary Woodland is woodland that has developed on land which at sometime has not been wooded.

Local Wildlife Sites are “a discrete area of land which is considered to be of significance for its wildlife features in at least a District/Borough/ Unitary Authority context”. LWS were identified and declared by the Essex Wildlife Trust following a phase one-habitat survey of the District in 1991 (revised 1996 and 1998). Formerly known as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs), County Wildlife Sites and Wildlife Sites. The Epping Forest District has 181 Wildlife Sites. That breaks down into 118 Woodlands, 39 grasslands, 19 mosaic sites and 5 fresh water aquatic.

Veteran trees are of interest biologically, culturally or aesthetically because of its age, size or condition. As a rule, a tree that is either over 250 years old or has a diameter of over 3 metres at breast height can be described as a veteran. However, other factors must be considered such as the location and past management of the tree.

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EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CLIMATE

CHANGE

STRATEGY 2009

Content

Introduction	3
What is Climate Change?	4
Objectives	5
Policy Background	6-7
What is the Situation Today?	8
• <i>What is happening with housing in the District?</i>	<i>9</i>
• <i>Energy Efficiency in the Council's Housing Stock</i>	<i>10</i>
• <i>Energy Efficiency in the Private Sector</i>	<i>10</i>
• <i>What is happening within planning?</i>	<i>11</i>
• <i>What is happening with waste and recycling issues?</i>	<i>11</i>
Evaluation and Review	12
Appendix 1, Action Plan	13-24
Appendix 2, Glossary of Terms	25-27
Appendix 3, References	28
Appendix 4, List of Related National Performance Indicators	28

Introduction

In November 2007 Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change. The declaration is a tool to secure commitment from UK Councils to tackle the causes and effects of climate change. The climate change strategy represents fulfilment of this commitment and addresses the causes and effects of climate change in our district.

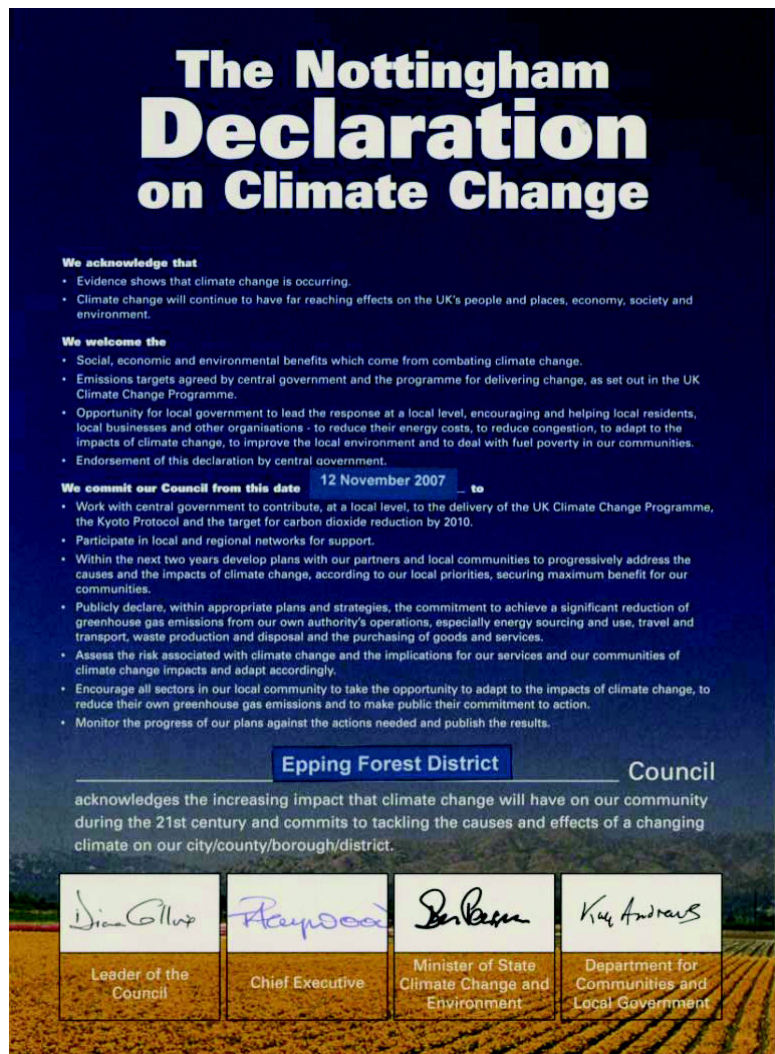
The main objective of this strategy is to reduce the green house gas emissions (principally CO₂) from the Council's own operations and from the district as a whole, and to prepare and adapt to predicted climate change impacts.

The Strategy is a combination of:

- Actions the Council is already taking, and will take in the future, to demonstrate best practice and leadership.
- Actions where we hope to encourage others to join us in taking them forward.
- Local awareness raising about the implications of climate change, and actions that can be taken to help us live more sustainably.

EFDC supports the view that there are enormous environmental, social and economic risks and some potential benefits associated with climate change. This strategy allows us to develop new projects and programmes for the District to mitigate and adapt to climate change, whilst enhancing and preserving local environmental quality. By working on improving the energy efficiency of our dwellings we are not only dealing with climate change but also tackling some social and economic problems such as fuel poverty.

This strategy is a Council document recognising what the Council is doing and intends to do to reduce the CO₂ emissions in the District . There are numerous actions the public can take to reduce their own carbon footprint, but these will not be discussed in this strategy as separate promotion material and campaigns will come out from this strategy.



What is Climate Change?

There is now a compelling scientific consensus that the climate is changing as a result of human activities. The burning of fossil fuels, industrial processes, agriculture, clearance of rainforest and other land uses all contribute to raising the concentration of man-made greenhouse gases in the atmosphere beyond the natural levels leading to excessive warming of the planet ⁽¹⁾.

The Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) leaves us in no doubt that human activity is the primary driver of the observed changes in climate. Defra ⁽²⁾

The world has already warmed by 0.74°C since the start of the industrial revolution and the effects of the warming are already apparent. There might be some initial positive effects, but without enough action to curb the greenhouse gas emissions substantially, climate change will lead to increasingly frequent and severe floods, droughts, storms, heat waves, as well as rising sea levels and the extinction of plant and animal species. The human cost will be high, with worsened famine, economic hardship, forced migration and armed conflict. ⁽¹⁾

Restrictions on the emissions of greenhouse gases must be negotiated internationally as well as nationally and locally. Everyone, individuals, households, businesses and organisations must deliver actions on climate change. Local authorities are therefore uniquely placed when it comes to dealing with climate change. This is something that Central Government recognises and it sees Local Authorities playing an important role in combating climate change, as stated in the Local Government White Paper 2006 ⁽³⁾. The new performance framework has five indicators relating to climate change, measuring emissions of greenhouse gases from the Council's own operations and from the community as a whole as well as indicators relating to climate change adaptation. It is an excellent tool for us as a local authority to be able to assess and measure if our actions are as successful as they need to be to achieve sufficient reductions in our carbon emissions ⁽²⁾.

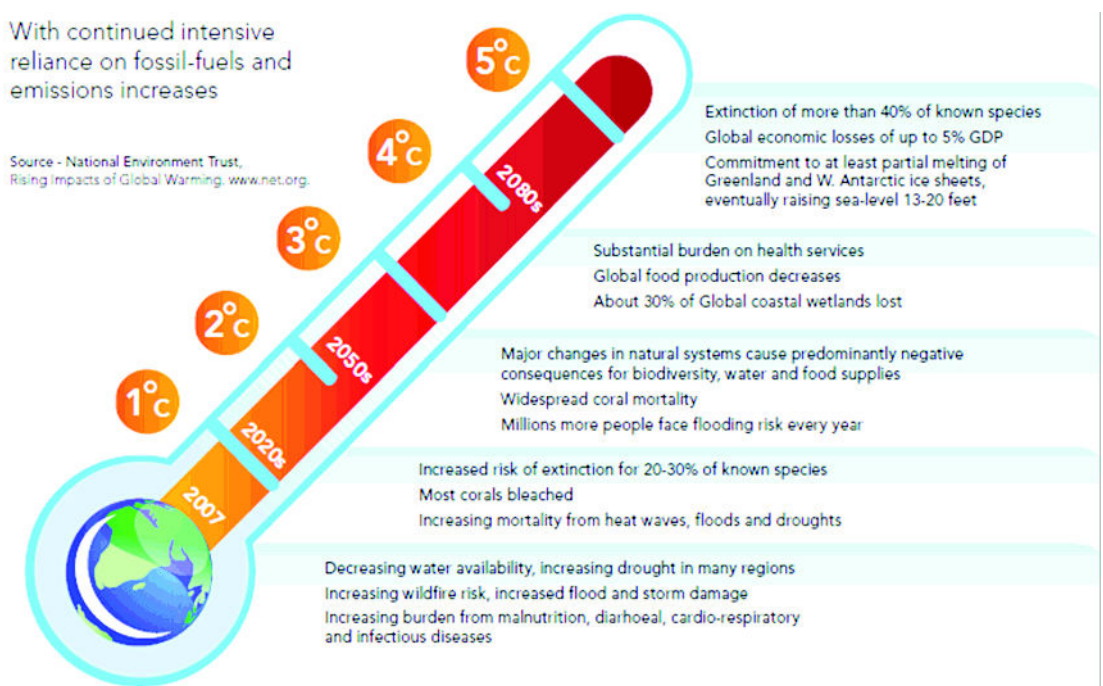


Figure 1. The projected increase in global average temperatures and the probable consequences

Objectives

- **Reduce our carbon footprint:**

Substantially reduce the amount of CO₂ and the other greenhouse gases we as a Council emit through all our services and operations.

- **Be a community leader:**

To reduce our impact and to lead by example, taking forward our knowledge, partnership and resources to encourage and help the wider community and stakeholders to become more sustainable.

- **Use our powers:**

Influence and use our powers in procurement, private housing, commercial sector and planning. Minimise the environmental impact of new development and ensure any future developments are able to with stand the challenge of the changing climate.

- **Prepare the Council and the District for the impacts of climate change:**

Make preparations to ensure the Council's assets and operations are resilient to the predicted climate change impacts and assist in the work to prepare the District for the new climate.

Policy Background

Globally

The Kyoto protocol is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In 1997 UK signed this legally binding agreement, which has the objective of reducing greenhouse gases emissions to 12.5% below the 1990 levels by 2012. The UK is on track to achieve this target. There are currently talks of post-Kyoto, which will determine what will happen after 2012, this will be further considered at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, in December of 2009. ⁽⁴⁾

EU Level

The European Commission's Action Plan on Energy Efficiency (2000) indicated the need for specific measures in the building sector, and in 2003 the European Parliament and Council agreed a Directive on The Energy Performance of Buildings, designed to promote energy efficiency and achieve a convergence of building standards across member states. Measures within the directive include;

- A methodology for calculating the energy performance of buildings.
- Performance standards on new and existing buildings.
- Certification schemes for all buildings.
- Inspection and assessment.

In the UK, this has resulted in the introduction of the Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) that every property now needs to have if it is being sold or let out. It also led to the introduction of the Display Energy Certificates (DECs) that every public building over 1000m² has to produce and have on display. Both these certificates look like the energy efficiency rating of electrical products where A is the highest rating and means that the house/building is very energy efficient whereas G is the lowest rating and hence means the house has very poor energy efficiency.

The EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) is another one of the key policies introduced by the European Union to help meet the EU's greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 8% below 1990 levels under the Kyoto Protocol ⁽⁴⁾.

The scheme is divided into phases for which Member States must develop a National Allocation Plan (NAP) approved by the European Commission. These plans must set an overall 'cap' on the total amount of emissions allowed from all the installations covered by the scheme. This is converted to allowances - 1 allowance equals 1 tonne CO₂. The allowances are then distributed by Member States to installations in the scheme.

Installations covered by the Scheme are required to monitor and report their emissions. At the end of each year they are required to surrender allowances to account for their installation's actual emissions. They may use all or part of their allocation, and have the flexibility to buy additional allowances, or to sell any surplus allowances generated from reducing their emissions below their allocation.

National

The government published the Energy White Paper in May 1997. This set out the national framework for responding to the challenges of future energy supplies as well as climate change mitigation, energy efficiency and fuel poverty. The Energy White Paper was the precursor to the legally binding targets of CO₂ emissions in the 2008 Climate Change Act.

The Planning and Climate Change supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1 was published in December 2007, and describes how regional and local planning can contribute to reducing CO₂ emissions. This puts the onus on local development documents to provide a framework that promotes and encourages renewable and low carbon energy generation technologies at a local level.

The Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act was passed in 2000 committing the Government to eradicating fuel poverty entirely across the UK by 2016-2018.

The Climate Change Act received Royal Assent in November 2008. The Act sets out legally binding targets for the UK to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by at least 80 per cent by 2050, and 26% by 2020. A Shadow Committee on Climate Change has already been formed to provide advice on policies and proposals to set and meet the carbon budgets. ⁽⁶⁾

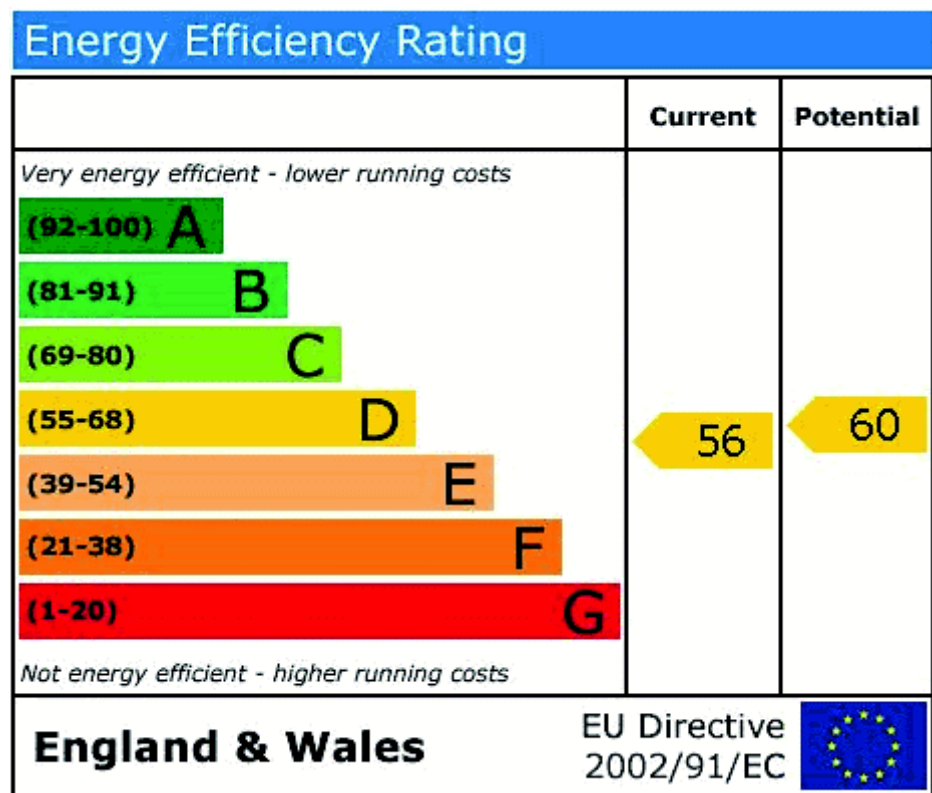


Figure 2. A typical Energy performance certificate.

Regional and Local

EFDC is working with Essex County Council on the Local Area Agreement (LAA). Priority 9 'Our World' in the Essex LAA (2008-2011) is focusing on the reduction of the domestic, business and public sector carbon footprint. EFDC has set a target of 8% reduction of CO₂ per capita in the district by 2011 compared to 2006. This target also coincides with one of the national performance Indicators (NI186) that means that we have to report on the progress annually to government. ⁽⁷⁾

In the Local Government Act 2000 under Section 2, councils have the power to do anything they consider likely to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of their areas in order to respond to the needs of their local communities. The government has made it clear that local authorities have a lead role in providing community leadership on climate change. As a Council we aspire to continuing action on climate change that will be fully integrated into our society and that will ultimately achieve a sustainable district for residents, workers and visitors. ⁽⁸⁾

What is the Situation Today?

According to the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) figures for 2006, Epping Forest District as a whole emitted 1,187,000t of CO₂. However, the figure that we are using in this strategy is 776,000t of CO₂, because Defra adjusts the total emission by subtracting emissions from motorways that are beyond our control, and industries located in the District that are already covered in the European trading scheme of Carbon. This is because one of the government's performance indicators that is connected to climate change (NI186) uses this total figure, and Defra then use that figure to calculate that the average person in our district emits 6.3t of CO₂ per year. This is slightly lower than the average CO₂ per capita in Essex which is 6.7t (all 2006 figures, which are the latest available). (7)

However, the amount of CO₂ emitted in our District is still too high, we therefore need to reduce the amount substantially. As a target EFDC has signed up to reduce this figure by 8% in total by 2011. This means that the average CO₂ per capita will be reduced to 5.8t of CO₂ per capita by then. This reduction is not enough but it's a start and after 2011 the reduction of emissions will need to increase with a new smart target based on experience of reducing emissions between 2006-2011. In setting EFDC's target, consideration was given to the work undertaken in connection with LAA2. (7)

Much of the emissions in our District come from the domestic sector (mainly residential use of electricity, gas and oil) - 45% of total emissions (see Figure 3). The remaining 55% comes from industry and commerce (33%) and transport (22%) This highlights the importance of using less energy in our homes.

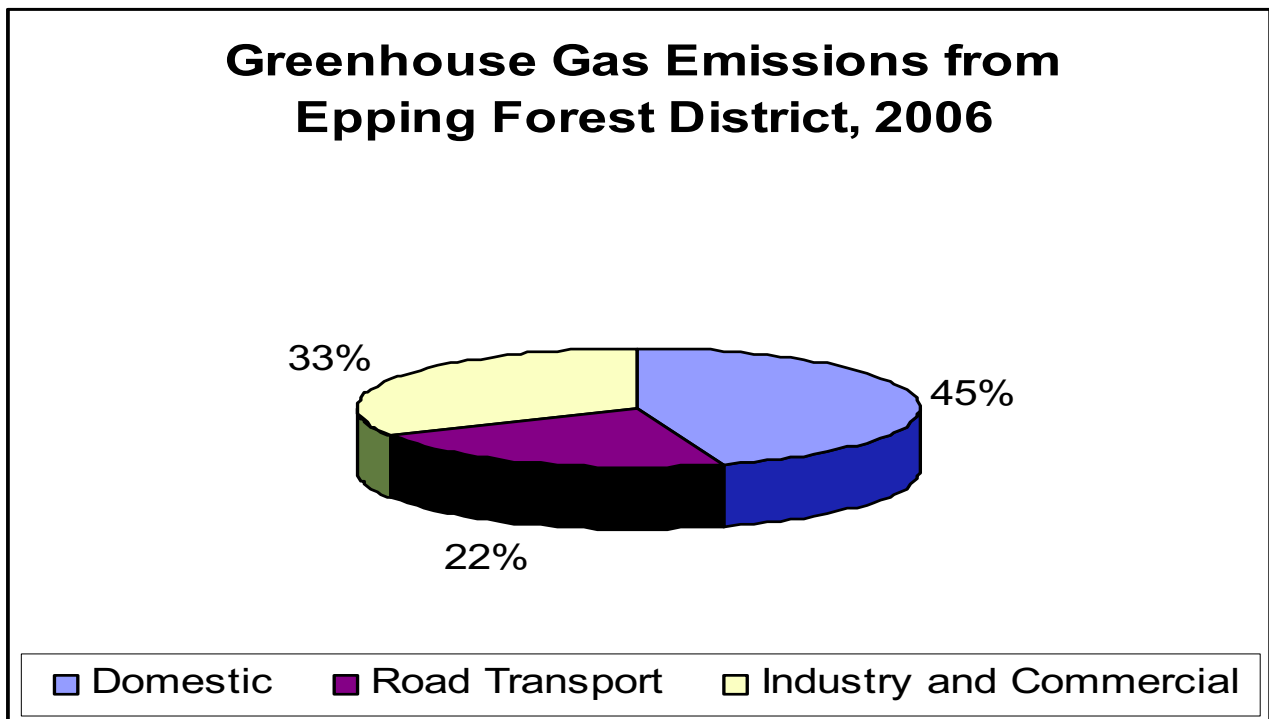


Figure 3. Percentage greenhouse gases emissions from the different sectors (Defra).

What is happening with housing in the District?

Epping Forest District Council's Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) returns demonstrate that from 1995 to 2008 the energy used in homes has been reduced by 15%, with an annual average reduction of 1.7% (from 0.3-3.5%).

Improving the energy efficiency of properties is very important in the fight to counteract climate change but there are also other important benefits. By improving the energy efficiency of the properties you reduce the fuel bills, which helps to alleviate fuel poverty and making homes more comfortable and healthy to live in.

In 2007 the Council produced a Fuel Poverty Strategy setting out realistic and achievable measures for dealing with the factors that give rise to fuel poverty. It outlines a multi-agency approach by Essex County Council, Epping Forest District Council, the Primary Care Trust (PCT), Voluntary Action Epping Forest, Warm Front, the Essex Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (EEEAC) and energy supply companies to alleviate fuel poverty for all the residents of the District, regardless of tenure.

The aims of the Strategy are to:

- Raise awareness of fuel poverty among both professionals and the public
- To provide a good quality advice service to all residents;
- To ensure that all residents have access to available services;
- To target fuel poor households; and,
- Improve the levels of affordable warmth for all tenures.



Energy Efficiency in the Council's Housing Stock

The Housing Directorate has a stand-alone Strategy on Energy Efficiency that was produced in 2006. As this was prior to the incorporation of private sector housing into the Directorate, it only concerns the Council's own stock. The Strategy is due to be reviewed in 2010.

The Council has an ageing stock profile with the majority of the stock built between 1945 and 1980. Average Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) ratings of the stock are therefore reduced as a result of the lack of more recently built properties with improved energy efficiency. The stock also includes properties built prior to 1945 with solid walls. If these are located in rural settings they may not be served by mains gas and are likely as a result to have low energy ratings.

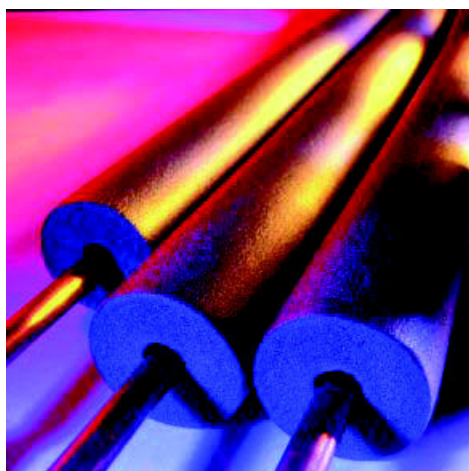
In 2006 the average SAP rating of the Council's stock was 66. There are no national figures currently available with which to compare this, but in 2003 social sector housing nationally had an average SAP rating of 57, compared to 59 for the Council's own stock. The Council's target is to achieve an average SAP rating of 68 by 2010 however it will be increasingly difficult to improve existing average SAP ratings as the measures necessary are expensive and will require ongoing maintenance.

Over the five-year period 2006-2011, the Council has committed a total of £5,864,000 to ensure that all Council properties will meet the thermal comfort and the heating criteria contained within the Decent Homes Standard by 2010.



Energy Efficiency in the Private Sector

The mean SAP rating in private sector homes in the District is 58 (House Condition Survey 2005), which is comparable with national figures. The proportion of properties with a SAP rating below 30 and 20 is lower than the national figure. The lowest mean SAP rating is in the privately rented sector, detached houses and in pre-1919 properties. It is also in the privately rented sector that we find most of the households in fuel poverty, 14.8% compared with 3.2% for owner-occupiers.



In 2005 it was estimated that 4.1% (1,800) of private sector dwellings in the District were in fuel poverty compared with the national average of 11% for England. These figures are likely to have increased due to recent sharp increases in energy prices. In addition, 13.3% (6,100) of private sector dwellings failed the thermal comfort criteria of the Decent Homes Standard. While most of these properties were not adequately insulated approximately 1,400 needed new heating.

Vulnerable householders (older people on low incomes, families on low incomes and people receiving disability benefits) may be eligible for Small Works Assistance or a Thermal Comfort Grant from the Council to help them insulate their home and/or get new heating. The Council also works in partnership with Warm Front, Essex Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (EEEEAC) and utility companies to offer grants or discounts on insulation, new heating and other energy efficiency work.

What is happening within planning?

The Planning Directorate ensures that the new Building regulation's part L which concerns 'conservation of fuel and power' and the Planning Policy Supplement 1 regarding sustainable development and the Planning and Climate change supplement to policy 1 is being enforced in all developments.

Alterations to the Local plan were also adopted in July 2006 to improve the energy conservation performance and sustainability of new developments. These policies CP4-6 sets out that we as a Council can demand that new developments need to show that they have considered the energy conservation and sustainability issues appropriately before they get the planning permission approved.

The Planning Directorate is working on producing the new core strategy for the Local Development Framework, which will have its first consultation in the summer of 2009 with the aim of being fully adopted by 2012.

The Council's Countryside Management Service, Countrycare, works to conserve and promote the biodiversity of the District. It undertakes a wide variety of community-based activities and coordinates a regular programme of practical conservation work. Part of this work includes an annual tree-planting programme, which sees on average 2,500 trees planted per year. In the last 20 years the service has overseen the planting of over 50,000 trees. This work is vital as one of the many benefits of planting trees is that they absorb CO₂, and that helps mitigate climate change.

Countrycare also helps to manage three of the District's Local Nature Reserves that have a dual purpose - flood defense and biodiversity. This work and management on other land helps to adapt the District to Climate change as areas with a quality ecosystem and high biodiversity are more resilient to climatic change.

*Epping Forest
Countrycare*

Visit the website at www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/countrycare

What is the happening with waste and recycling issues?

Waste generates greenhouse gases both in the production stage of the product and then again when the product is broken down in the form of methane emissions from the landfill sites. It is therefore very important to address both these issues. As a Council we are therefore encouraging everyone to try and consume less; that's the only way we can cut the emissions from the production stage. We also encourage everyone to recycle as much of their waste as possible to avoid putting more waste in our landfill sites.

The rate of recycling in the District has drastically improved since 2005 when wheelie bins were introduced. Before the wheelie bins residents in the District only recycled about 26-27% of their waste whereas last year (2007/08) the recycling rate was up to 41.7%, which is a very good result. To be able to increase this figure further, more materials, which can be recycled, are being added. For example the recent decisions of the Council to add the collection of food waste for recycling, and the implementation of recycling in multi occupancy dwellings.

Evaluation and Review

The climate change strategy needs to be reviewed annually, where progress on the tasks will be evaluated and the need for more action reviewed. The action plan will therefore be adjusted to include new targets and tasks annually to guarantee effectiveness and that relevant progress is made.



Appendix 1 - Action Plan

Priority 1: STRATEGIC

Task	How	Who	Resources*	When	Milestones
Create a climate change strategy describing how the Council will achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions and adapt to climate change impacts.	Through work done by the Green corporate working group.	L Ingwall Green CWP	Existing	March 2009	Strategy published (Improved performance of NI185, NI186, NI187, NI188 and NI194)
Update existing procurement policy for all Council purchases to include 'green' and local issues.	Through work done by the procurement strategy group	B Palmer D Jolly	Existing	March 2010	Updated procurement strategy that includes more 'green' and local issues implemented
Ensure whole organisation contributes to energy, water, paper and recycling saving targets.	Appoint 'green champions' from each section/Directorate	L Ingwall	Existing	May 2009	Reduction in energy, water and paper use. (Improved performance of NI185 and NI186)
	Add to agenda of team meetings. Request this from CEF	J Preston CEF	Existing	May 2009	
Provide training to key staff on how to complete a sustainability check as part of wider committee report template training.	Add to existing training	J.Preston S Hill	Existing	March 2009	All committee reports consider the sustainability of their proposals. (Improved performance of NI185 and NI186)
Establish steps required to achieve the BS 8555 standard and eventually EMAS accreditation	Produce report	L Ingwall	Existing	March 2010	Briefing report produced
Develop a Carbon management program	Start by recording and monitoring energy usage against benchmarking targets	L Ingwall M Hobbs M Bateman Carbon Trust consultant	Need funding	Dec 2009	Carbon Management Programme set up. (Improved performance of NI185 and NI186)

Priority 2a: REDUCE OUR OWN CARBON FOOTPRINT - BUILDINGS

Task	How	Who	Resources*	When	Milestones
Produce guidance and reset individual room cooling unit controls in the Civic offices	Work with Carbon Trust consultant	L Ingwall M Hobbs M Tipping	Existing	June 2009	No excessive usage of the cooling units (Improved performance of NI185 and NI186)
	Set up guidance brief throughout the Council next to monitors				
Develop environmental training for new employees	Work with HR to set the training up	L Ingwall P Maginnis	Existing	Nov 2009	Environmental training is mandatory for all new staff (Improved performance of NI185 and NI186)
	Make it mandatory corporate training				
Increase staff awareness of energy and other environmental issues, through training and incentives.	Run awareness raising campaigns within the Council.	L Ingwall	Existing	Ongoing	When employees remember to switch their PC and monitor off at the end of the day. (Improved performance of NI185 and NI186)
	Continue to educate through e-mail updates and other incentives and training.				
Continue and improve the efficiency of the office lighting	Civic Offices - automatic lighting control new installations and upgrade to existing systems	M Tipping M Hobbs / M Bateman L Ingwall	Phased programme over 3 years. Budget provision for 2008/09 approved. Bid for 2009/2010 going forward	Ongoing	Completion of each phase within financial year of budget (Improved performance of NI185 and NI186)
	Civic Offices Replacement of failing light fittings		Funding been deferred to be re-considered for 2010/11	Ongoing	Completion of each phase within financial year of budget
	Civic Offices Replacement of car park lighting bollards		Existed	Dec 2008	Completed

	Survey other EFDC's offices in regards to lighting and the possibility to achieve savings by changing type of lighting and controls.		Existing	Ongoing	When no lights are left on unnecessarily in the offices.
	Reduce office lighting by encouraging staff cooperation.		Existing	Ongoing	When no lights are left on unnecessarily in the offices.
Reduce the emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and particulate matter (PM ₁₀) from the Council's services and operations	Reduce the business and commuting mileage of staff working for the Council.	L Ingwall	Existing	March 2011	Achieved a significant reduction in our NOx and PM ₁₀ emissions. Leading to a improved performance of NI194
Civic Offices Heating and ventilation control for Civic Suite	Planned Maintenance Programme	M Hobbs/ M Bateman	Budget provision for 2008/09	March 2009	Completion of project within financial year (Improved performance of NI185 and NI186)
Civic Offices Replacement of mechanical valves and control in Council Chamber	Planned Maintenance Programme	M Hobbs/ M Bateman	Budget approved for 2009/10	March 2010	Improved performance of NI185 and NI186
Civic Offices replacement of Night Storage heating in Rear extension	Planned Maintenance Programme	M Hobbs/ M Bateman/ D Mankin	Capital programme 2009/10	March 2010	Improved performance of NI185 and NI186
Civic Offices replacement of heating system in Conder building	Planned Maintenance Programme	M. Hobbs/ M. Bateman/ D. Mankin	Capital programme 2009/10	March 2010	Improved performance of NI185 and NI186
Civic Offices - replacement of existing single glazed windows with double glazed units - Conder building	Planned Maintenance Programme	M Hobbs/ S Mitchell	Capital programme 2009/10	March 2010	Improved performance of NI185 and NI186
Civic Offices - upgrade control system to central boiler house	Planned Maintenance Programme	M Hobbs/ M Bateman	Capital programme 2009/10	March 2010	Improved performance of NI185 and NI186
Civic Offices provision of solar panels to offset energy spend (gas or/and electricity)	Planned Maintenance Programme	M Hobbs/ M Bateman	Bid for Capital programme 2010/11	March 2011	Deferred to be re-considered for 2010/11
Investigate potential energy savings for the leisure centres	Energy audit	L Ingwall	Existing	Jan 2010	Energy Audit report is complete

Priority 2b: REDUCE OUR OWN CARBON FOOTPRINT – TRANSPORT

Task	How	Who	Resources*	When	Milestones
Produce staff Travel plan to promote 'green' alternatives.	Conduct staff survey	C Overend P Maginnis L Ingwall	Existing	June 2009	Implemented new travel plan (Improved performance of NI185, NI186 and NI194)
	Promote the car sharing scheme				
Produce a green fleet review and implement the suggested actions	Work with the consultant from the Energy Saving Trust	L Ingwall	Existing	June 2009	Implementation of the suggested actions (Improved performance of NI185, NI186 and NI194)
Investigate the possibility to introduce a fuel supplement to the council's fleet	Produce report	L Ingwall	Existing	Sep 2009	All diesel vehicle in the Council's fleet use the fuel supplement (Improved performance of NI185, NI186 and NI194)
Offer economical 'green' driving training to staff	Set up a training programme	L Ingwall	Existing	March 2010	Staff know how to drive economically (Improved performance of NI185, NI186 and NI194)
Review the replacement of electricity powered pay and display machines with solar power	Produce report	P Blamey	Existing	June 2009	Review completed and percentage of solar powered pay and display machines in the District is publicised. (Improved performance of NI186)
To review the problem of commuter parking (to encourage the use of public transport)	Produce report	Q Durrani	Existing	Dec 2009	Completed report (Improved performance of NI186 and NI194)

Priority 3: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Task	How	Who	Resources*	When	Milestones
Produce an educational 'Energy Efficiency Guide' for the District.	Investigating working in partnership with Essex CORE	L Ingwall	Existing	June 2009	Energy Efficiency Guide published and distributed (Improved performance of NI186 and NI194)
Expand the community engagement programme to raise awareness and encourage residents to reduce their environmental impact.	Set up awareness raising campaigns	L Ingwall	Existing	Ongoing	When the CO2 per capita in the District has been reduced with 8% (Improved performance of NI186 and NI194)
	Continue to organise Green Festival and other events				
	Continue holding presentations in schools				
	Continue working with the Youth Council				
Assist local businesses to understand and reduce their environmental impact.	Produce environmental guidance to local businesses	L Ingwall, V Willis	Existing	Nov 2009	Information sent out to local businesses (Improved performance of NI186 and NI194)
	'Close the Door' Info and other corporate info with NNDR			Ongoing	
Publicise info for others of the climate change strategy and integrate appropriate actions into the strategy.	Publish strategy on website. Raise awareness through Council media and Council publications such as Forester	T Carne S Mitchell	Existing	June 2009	Good awareness of the strategy among the District

Priority 4a: HOUSING – SOCIAL HOUSING

Task	How	Who	Resources*	When	Milestones
Improve the energy performance of Norway House	Replace the 250 tungsten lights with low energy equivalent lights	A Kossick	Existing	Dec 2008	When only low energy light bulbs are used wherever possible (Improved performance of NI185 and NI186)
	Insulate the loft			March 2009	
Raise awareness of the importance & benefits of improving the energy efficiency of homes and how much energy can be saved through a change of behaviour.	Articles in as many publications as possible.	EEAC EST H Thorpe	Existing	Monthly	When tenants have adopted a more energy efficient behaviour (Improved performance of NI186 and NI187)
	Talks to already formed groups, i.e. Womens Institute, tenant liaison groups and other clubs.				
Continue to increase the amount of insulation measures in Council properties	Determining those properties without measures	Officers already involved with visiting properties, i.e. Housing Repairs Officers, Officers in Planned Maintenance	From budget and hopefully from continued grants from utility companies	Ongoing	Increase in number of installs from previous years (Improved performance of NI186 and NI187)
Investigate possibility of using renewal energy applications	Identifying possible properties/sites and arrange for appropriate provider to survey & give estimate	Housing Assets	Existing	When majority of properties have received insulation measures.	When installed solar panels have proved to be energy efficient by monitoring past and present utility bills. (Improved performance of NI186 and NI187)

Priority 4b: HOUSING – PRIVATE HOUSING

Task	How	Who	Resources*	When	Milestones
Investigate the possibility to introduce new measures to increase the uptake of zero and low carbon technologies in existing private housing.	Investigate providing grant incentives	L Ingwall	Need further funding	Nov 2010	When the CO2 per capita in the District has been reduced with 8% (Improved performance of NI186 and NI187)
	Set up a partnership with a supplier/installer to provide discounts and carry out promotion.		Existing		
Promote the importance of energy efficiency to private sector landlords	Produce guidance If possible, obtain list from letting agencies and mail merge	C.A.R.E. & Grants Team	Existing	Oct 2009	Take-up of interested persons (Improved performance of NI186)
Continue offering Thermal Comfort Grants	Through work carried out by C.A.R.E. and Grants Team	C.A.R.E. & Grants Team	Existing	Ongoing	When the CO2 per capita in the District has been reduced by 8 % (Improved performance of NI186)
Continue to offer advice and referral service to members of the public in the private sector	Through work carried out by C.A.R.E. and the Grants Team	Private Sector Housing Team	Existing	Ongoing	When the CO2 per capita in the District has been reduced by 8% (Improved performance of NI186)
Implement the London Commuter Belt (LCB) sub-Regional carbon reduction and fuel poverty project.	Through working group set up by LCB private sector Housing Group	Private Housing Manager (Policy, Grants & C.A.R.E.)	Funding agreed for 2009-2011	From April 2009 to March 2011.	When the CO2 per capita in the District has been reduced by 8% (Improved performance of NI186 and NI187)
Continue to implement the tasks in the fuel poverty action plan	Working interdepartmental and through partnership in the District	L Swan H Thorpe L Ingwall	Existing	Ongoing	Substantial reduction in the number of households living in fuel poverty (Improved performance of NI186 and NI187)

Priority 5: PLANNING

Task	How	Who	Resources*	When	Milestones
Ensure new developments are resilient to predicted climate change impacts such as heat waves, water shortage and flooding	Through the new core strategy LDF	J Preston J Kersaw	Existing	Sep, 2009	New developments that require planning permission have reasonable adaptation measures (Improved performance of NI188)
	Use building regulations and planning policies to ensure new developments are adapted to predicted climate change impacts.			Ongoing	
Provide training to planners where skills are a shortage and provide guidance to developers and the public to support the sustainability requirements.	Set up workshops	J Preston L Ingwall	Existing	Ongoing	Guidance published, and training given to all appropriate staff (Improved performance of NI186 and NI188)
	Develop guidance document				
In the LDF process, incorporate planning policies to ensure that new developments in the District contribute to a reduction in CO2 equivalent emissions, including a percentage of renewable energy measures, and consideration given to reduce water consumption.	Introduce appropriate new policies	J Preston J Kersaw L Ingwall	Existing	Sep, 2009	Through LDF, ensure that new development results in a 40% reduction in CO2 emissions and lower water consumption (Improved performance of NI186)
Introduce and apply a 'Merton' rule requiring at least 10% on-site renewable energy for new developments	Include in new core-strategy	J Preston L Ingwall	Existing	Sep, 2009	Merton rule implemented (Improved performance of NI186)
Introduce and apply the 'Uttlesford' policy. When an application comes in for home extensions the Council will require that cost effective energy efficiency improvements like loft	Include in new core-strategy	J Preston L Ingwall	Existing	Sep, 2009	Policy implemented (Improved performance of NI186)

and cavity wall insulation is carried out on existing dwelling to compensate for the extra energy that will be used in the extension.					
Continue and expand the plantation of more trees and hedges in the District.	Implementation of Country care's work plan and the Local Biodiversity Action plan	P Hewitt	Existing	Ongoing	When 4500 trees have been planted by the end of 2009

Priority 6: WASTE AND RECYCLING

Task	How	Who	Resources*	When	Milestones
Continue to improve our domestic recycling rates and investigate other means to reduce waste in the District	By introducing a more sustainable waste and recycling service	Q Durrani	Existing	Oct 2009	Achievement of the aspirational target of 65% of recycling by 2020.
	Campaign to encourage recycling and home composting by residents			Dec 2009	
	Improve services, promotion and educational work			Ongoing	
Reduce the amount of paper waste from offices	Invest in double sided printers so all staff have access to one	D Newton L Ingwall	Need funding	Dec 2009	10% reduction in the amount of paper that we use
	'Think before you print' campaign				
	Only buy toilet paper that is made from recycled paper				
Investigate recycling performances in all Council's offices and improve performance where necessary	Site audit report and recommendations	M Tipping L Ingwall	Existing	Dec 2009	Improvement in the recycling performance of all offices
Continue the awareness raising program in schools and community groups	Hold presentations in the District on waste and recycling issues	D Marsh J Falco	Existing	Ongoing	When the understanding of recycling has increased significantly
Investigate the possibility of a transfer station within the District	Produce a feasibility report	J Gilbert Q Durrani	Existing	Dec 2009	Completed report distributed to relevant partners

Priority 7: ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Task	How	Who	Resources*	When	Milestones
Achieve level 0 and level 1 in Essex Adaptation Framework	Carry out audit of existing plans / relevant risk registers	L Ingwall	Existing	March 2009	To meet Government and LAA2 targets on NI188
	Produce brief for Directors and portfolio holder to raise the awareness of climate vulnerabilities and opportunities	L Ingwall			
	Ensure adaptation is embedded in the decision-making processes across all the Council's service areas.	J Preston L Ingwall			
To achieve level 2 in Essex Adaptation Framework	Members and Service heads have a detailed understanding of risk in all vulnerable areas	J Preston L Ingwall M Tipping	Existing	March 2010	To meet Government and LAA2 targets on NI188
	Undertaken a comprehensive risk-based assessment of vulnerabilities to weather and climate, now and future.				
	Identify priority risks for all the five Directorates				
	Identify the most effective adaptive responses for our District				
	Incorporate adaptive responses into strategies, plans, partnerships and operations				
	Implement appropriate adaptive responses in priority areas				

	Working with LSP to identify climate risks and opportunities that affect delivery of LSP objectives				
To achieve level 3 in Essex Adaptation Framework	Produce an action plan that demonstrates how the risks and opportunities from climate change will be managed	J Preston	Existing	March 2011	To meet Government and LAA2 targets on NI188
Ensure all new developments incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) where necessary	Through the work done by the flood risk zone assessment and the flood alleviating scheme	J Preston, Q Durrani	Existing	Ongoing	When all developments that require SUDS incorporates them (Improved performance of NI188)
Undertake an impact assessment including both impacts covered by existing risk management systems (e.g. flood risk plans, community risk registers etc) and the identification of new or emerging risks arising from projected climate changes.	Through interdepartmental work on assessing the impact of climate change in our District	J Gilbert, JPreston	Existing	Dec 2009	Assessment complete (Improved performance of NI188)
Implementation of the actions identified in the adaptation action plan and a continues review of the plan and its measures	Work with LSP and other partners	J Preston	Need funding	Ongoing after March 2011	Implementation of the actions identified (Improved performance of NI188)
Review the policy of the flood risk zone assessment to incorporate the impacts of climate change	Produce the report	Q Durrani	Existing	Dec 2009	Report produced and distributed (Improved performance of NI188)
Review the performance of the flood alleviating scheme to reflect climate change	Produce the report	Q. Durrani	Existing	Dec 2009	Report produced and distributed (Improved performance of NI188)

* **Existing** resources means that the task has an approved council budget, or relies on existing established staff.

Appendix 2 - Glossary of Terms

Adaptation

Refers to the action that is taken to adapt/ prepare for the changes that are and will happen to our environment due to climate change. For example, we need to prepare ourselves that the number and severity of floods will increase.

Biodiversity

Or biological diversity includes the whole variety of life on Earth. It includes all species of plants and animals, and their genetic variation and all ecosystems that we can find on this earth. This means it encompasses all living things from microscopic organisms to the largest trees. Not just exotic, rare and endangered plants and animals are included, but also those that are found in our back gardens, parks and ponds.

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)

Is a gas that is released to the atmosphere when fossil fuels such as oil, natural gas and coal are burnt. Carbon dioxide is the major green house gas that causes the earth's climate to change.
Carbon foot printing

Is a measure of the amount of carbon dioxide or CO₂ emitted through the combustion of fossil fuels; in the case of an organization, business or enterprise, as part of their everyday operations; in the case of an individual or household, as part of their daily lives; A carbon footprint is usually expressed as tons of carbon dioxide or tons of carbon emitted on a yearly basis

Carbon Neutral

Is a term which refers to the reduction and offsetting of the impacts an organisation has upon climate change. For an organisation to be truly carbon neutral 100% of its direct and indirect emissions must be accounted for. This needless to say is very difficult to achieve, thus it is best to refer to activities in this area in terms of reducing a carbon footprint. The best way to do this is to follow a hierarchy, similar to the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse recycle), but instead of the three 'R's using the three 'M's:

- Measure - determine your carbon footprint and where you are going to draw your boundaries - will you include staff travel to work, the embodied carbon in the materials you buy, or restrict it to organisation energy use and business travel?
- Mitigate - reduce your carbon footprint through energy efficiency measures and changing business practices (eg teleconferencing rather than flights).
- Mandate - when appropriate actions have been taken to reduce carbon emissions, you can mandate a suitably accredited organisation to offset the remaining carbon emissions for you.

Carbon Offsetting

Refers to services that try to reduce the net carbon emissions of individuals or organisations using mandated proxies. These proxies buy and remove from the market carbon credits that are issued to organisations that have reduced their own emissions and / or increase their absorption of greenhouse gases. Offsetting can be done through regulated schemes such as the United Nations Clean Development Mechanism, or by

voluntary offsets purchased from a range of different organisations offering this service. Carbon offsetting should not be considered to be a short cut to reducing an organisation's carbon footprint, and its effectiveness to actually reduce CO₂ emissions very much depend on what type of project the money is invested in.

Carbon Reduction

Is the act of reducing fossil fuel energy consumption in order to reduce emissions of the green house gas carbon dioxide in the atmosphere in the pursuit to combat climate change and global warming. Essentially it is a way in which we can all act, or make changes to our current lifestyle/business activities that can reduce wasteful use of energy to ensure that we reduce the harmful carbon emissions entering the atmosphere. This would include more efficient use of existing energy supplies, for example through insulation or technological improvements and use of a low-carbon energy source e.g. a wind turbine or wood fuel boiler.

Climate Change

The warming of the atmosphere, due to increased levels of greenhouse gases, is causing the world's climate to change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) stated that most of the global warming over the last 50 years is 'attributable to human activities'.

Greenhouse Gases (GHG)

The 6 gases which accumulate in the upper atmosphere and trap infra-red energy thereby causing global warming and resulting climate change. The six greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

The IPCC is a scientific intergovernmental body set up by the United Nations Environment Programme UNEP and by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The IPCC was established to provide the decision-makers and others interested in climate change with an objective source of information about climate change. The IPCC does not conduct any research nor does it monitor climate related data or parameters. Its role is to assess on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis the latest scientific, technical and socio-economic literature produced worldwide relevant to the understanding of the risk of human-induced climate change, its observed and projected impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation.

Mitigation

Refers to the action that is taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and tackle climate change, thereby limiting the most severe impacts.

Nottingham Declaration

The Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change requires local authorities to work with the community to tackle climate change at local level. By signing the declaration, local authorities commit themselves to implementing a climate change strategy and action plan. This involves cutting carbon emissions and instigating measures that help others to do the same. The declaration is the most widely recognised policy statement on the subject. Epping Forest District Council is a signatory.

Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP)

Is an assessment method for calculating how energy efficient a house is. The assessment provides a SAP rating between 1 (very poor) and 120 (very energy efficient).

Sustainable Development

"Is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". Brundtland Commission (1987).

The report highlighted three fundamental components to sustainable development: environmental protection, economic growth and social equity. The environment should be conserved and our resource base enhanced, by gradually changing the ways in which we develop and use technologies.

Appendix 3 - References

1. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2007) IPCC Fourth Assessment Report [IPCC Fourth Assessment Report: Working Group I Report "The Physical Science Basis"](#)
2. Department of Environment, Food and rural Affairs <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/about/index.htm>
3. Department for Communities and Local Government (2006) Strong and prosperous communities – the local government white paper www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1137789
4. UNFCCC 2008. Kyoto Protocol 1997 http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php
5. The European Union, Emission Trading System in perspective www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/EU-ETS-In-Perspective-Report.pdf
6. Local Government Information Unit <http://www.lgiu.gov.uk/briefing-detail.jsp?&id=2036&md=0§ion=briefing>
7. Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/globalatmos/download/regionalrpt/local-regionalco2-ni186indicator.xls
8. Office of Public Sector Information www.opsi.gov.uk/Acts/acts2000/en/ukpgaen_20000022_en_1

Appendix 4 - List of Related National Performance Indicators

NI185 – Percentage CO₂ reduction from Local Authority (LA) operations

NI186 - Per capita CO₂ emissions in the LA area

NI187 - Tackling fuel poverty - % of people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low and high energy efficiency rating

NI188 - Planning to Adapt to Climate Change

NI194 - % reduction in NO_x and primary PM₁₀ emissions through local authority's estate and operations.

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