

# **Report to the Cabinet**

**Report reference: C/071/2007-08.**

**Date of meeting: 12 November 2007.**



**Epping Forest  
District Council**

**Portfolio: Environmental Protection.**

**Subject: Nottingham Declaration.**

**Officer contact for further information: Jim Nolan (01992 – 564083).**

**Democratic Services Officer: Gary Woodhall (01992 – 564470).**

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## **Recommendations/Decisions Required:**

- (1) That the Council becomes a signatory to the Nottingham Declaration and that the Declaration be signed by the Leader of Council and the Chief Executive; and**
- (2) That the principles of the Declaration be incorporated as appropriate within Council corporate documents.**

## **Report:**

1. Nottinghamshire County Council first published the Nottingham Declaration in 2000. It is designed specifically for Local Authorities to enable them to show their commitment to the management of climate change and associated environmental issues and sets in place the following actions:

- (a) work with Central Government to locally contribute to the UK Climate Change Programme, the Kyoto protocol and the 2010 Carbon dioxide reduction target;
- (b) participate in local and regional support networks;
- (c) develop plans with partners and local communities to address the causes and impacts of climate change, tailored to local priorities and community benefits;
- (d) publicly declare within appropriate plans and strategies, the commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the Council's own activities;
- (e) assess the risks of climate change and the implications for Council services and communities and adapt accordingly;
- (f) encourage all sectors in the local community to adapt to the climate change impacts; and
- (g) monitor progress and publish results.

2. To date over 200 local authorities have already signed the declaration which is attached to this Agenda.

3. The Overview and Scrutiny Environment & Planning Panel considered the Declaration at its meeting on 5 September 2007 and recommended as follows:

- (1) That the Panel considered the Nottingham Declaration as requested by Council on 24 April 2007;*

(2) *That on consideration the Panel recommends to Cabinet that the Council becomes a signatory to the Declaration;*

(3) *That consideration be given to future actions to be taken by the Council to address Climate Change including:*

(a) *the role as the Council as estate managers, as service providers and as community leaders;*

(b) *the development of a community-wide strategy and action plan, prioritising one or two significant service areas;*

(c) *adaptation and mitigation measures;*

(d) *any other issues raised; and*

(e) *that the above issues are considered by this Panel;*

(4) *That further reports be submitted to this Panel and the Panel's work plan be adjusted to accommodate this review; and*

(5) *That an audit be carried out to establish a baseline for the Council at the start of the agreement, to enable progress to be measured.*

#### **Statement in Support of Recommended Action:**

4. Climate Change is one of the most important issue facing this country and a lot of the action required to mitigate and adapt to that change is expected to be lead by Local Authorities. By signing the Nottingham Declaration the Council shows a commitment to this issue.

5. The Declaration requires the Council to engage with its partners and the community as a whole on climate change issues. There are a number of areas where this activity already takes place and this will need to be expanded. However, signing the Declaration does not necessarily commit the Council to significant additional investment at this stage. The recommended monitoring reports back to the Scrutiny Panel will identify what is possible within existing resources and where additional investment will be required.

#### **Other Options for Action:**

6. The only alternative option is not to sign the Declaration.

#### **Consultation Undertaken:**

7. None at this stage.

#### **Resource Implications:**

**Budget Provision:** None at this stage.

**Personnel:** Nil.

**Land:** Nil.

**Council Plan 2006-10/BVPP Reference:** "Green & Unique" – maintaining and protecting the local environment. "Economic Prosperity" – ensuring a thriving & sustainable economy

**Relevant Statutory Powers:** Various.

**Background Papers:** Report to Scrutiny Panel (5 Sep 2007).

**Environmental/Human Rights Act/Crime and Disorder Act Implications:** Actions within the Council and encouragement within the district to change behaviour so as to mitigate the

potential effects of climate change and protect the local environment and economy.  
**Key Decision Reference (if required):** Key Decision.