

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Response to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission's Climate Change Adaptation Scrutiny Panel</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>23 September 2010</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Acting Director of Strategy &amp; Governance</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Thurstan Crockett</b>	<b>Tel: 29-2503</b>
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<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Forward Plan No: CAB17788</b>	
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE****1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 In 2009, a scrutiny panel was established by Overview and Scrutiny Commission to investigate:

*"..what work needs to be done to make good progress in planning for a changing local climate."*

- 1.2 This response sets out to address the recommendations of this report including how the city can increase its preparedness for extreme weather events made more likely by climate change.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 That Cabinet notes the recommendations of the report from OSC and acknowledge the work of the scrutiny panel.
- 2.2 That further work in respect of the recommendations from the OSC, which fall beyond the remit of the Cabinet, be taken forward through the Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership and the City Sustainability Partnership.

**3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:**

- 3.1 Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Panels consist of cross party groups who carry out short, sharply focused pieces of work. The terms of reference agreed by this panel were:
- (1) To gain an understanding of the climate change threats and opportunities facing Brighton & Hove and the impact these will have
  - (2) To review the current preparedness of BHCC and its partners to adapt to the foreseeable consequences of a changing local climate

- (3) To identify through a gap analysis risks that need to be addressed through improved adaptation planning
  - (4) To develop a timetable for this work to be undertaken
  - (5) To consider the best means through which to monitor progress made in reaching level 4 of NI188<sup>1</sup>
- 3.2 The panel subsequently held a series of evidence gathering meetings and drew together the report ‘Planning for a changing local climate’, a summary of which is at Appendix 2.
- 3.3 Climate change adaptation can be defined as:  
*‘... the process of building resilience and preparing households, businesses, infrastructure, public services and vulnerable parts of our society to cope with the impacts of climate change, and to take advantage of any new opportunities that result.*

The scope of the panel recommendations on this is extensive and it is therefore right that Cabinet considers them carefully.

- 3.3.1 As a coastal city, Brighton & Hove clearly has to be very aware of coastal erosion, sea level rise and storm surges at very high tide times of year. We also need to better understand risk from flooding due to downpours and – conversely, the likely frequency and intensity of heatwaves and drought in future.
- 3.3.2 The council is currently working with the City Sustainability Partnership to revise the city’s Climate Change Action Plan and this is a timely opportunity to considerably enhance and develop the adaptation section of the plan.
- 3.3.3 The administration has considered all 13 recommendations and a fourteenth, in effect, about monitoring and is in broad agreement with them all. The recommendations and the administration’s comments in response, along with dates for implementation, are set out in Appendix 1.

**4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 Sustainable Transport, Emergency Planning & Business Continuity, Communities Team, Partnership Community Safety Team, Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership, City Sustainability Partnership are being consulted.

**5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The council will need to examine funding options both externally and internally available to support the development of the recommendations within this report. A number of external funding grants are currently being explored to support the climate change work that may be required to be undertaken within the council. Further work will be required alongside the Brighton & Hove Strategic

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<sup>1</sup> Scoping report for the Panel dated September 09

Partnership to identify potential neighbouring local authorities and other bodies that will also support initiatives associated with this report. Funding through Local Public Service Agreements (LPSA) is available to support the LCLIP and UKCP09 work and this will need to be detailed to Cabinet in due course. Funding of £275,000 in total has been made available over 2009/10 and 2010/11 from DEFRA to support the development of the Surface Water Management Plan for Brighton and Hove City Council.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Rob Allen*

*Date: 08/09/10*

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 Cabinet's consideration of OSC's report and recommendations, and Cabinet's response, fulfil their duty under section 21B of the Local Government Act 2000, requiring them, within two months of receiving OSC's report or (if later) their notice to Cabinet:
- (i) to consider the report and associated recommendations, and
  - (ii) to respond to OSC, indicating what (if any) action it proposes to take

*Lawyer Consulted:*

*Oliver Dixon*

*Date: 08/09/10*

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 An Equalities Impact Assessment is being undertaken by the City Sustainability Partnership but further work will be necessary to assess the equalities implications of any significant policy changes implemented as a result of

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 Adapting to climate change is all about sustainability and this is reflected in the plans to develop a Local Climate Impacts Profile being commissioned by the City Sustainability Partnership.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 None foreseeable. Issues relating to disorder and arson arose in panel evidence in connection with heatwaves and should be explored as part of the LClip work.

Risk & Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 Local impacts of climate change features on the corporate risk register and risks will be assessed as a key part of the LClip process in order to get a strategic picture in each service delivery area of the impacts of different local climate change-driven severe weather events.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 These are significant given the nature of severe weather events and the increased probability of greater frequency, so work with the Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership on this will be essential.

**6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):**

- 6.1 It would theoretically be an option not to prepare for a changing climate locally, but this would not be responsible or based on sound science and the extensive scientific consensus about climate change.

**7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 The executive has to respond to Scrutiny recommendations within two months, and given the summer break, this was the earliest realistic opportunity.
- 7.2 To take forward the issues raised by the OSC report.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices:**

- 1. Table of Scrutiny panel Recommendations, with the administration’s Comments in response, with dates for implementation.
- 2. Climate change Adaptation Scrutiny Panel report summary: “Planning for a changing local climate”.

**Documents in Members’ Rooms**

None

**Background Documents**

None