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| Date of Meeting | 9th November 2006 |
| Title of Report | Signing the Nottingham Declaration |
| Portfolio | Environment |
| Link to Corporate Priorities | "Sustainability is at the heart of everything we do" |
| Key Decision | No |
| Executive Workplan Ref | Not applicable |
| Public Report | Yes |

Summary of Report

The Council recently established an Executive Working Group on Climate Change in response to the Government's Paper "Climate Change - The Programme 2006".

A major task of the Group in the next few months will be to create a structured policy for climate change followed by a clear strategy and an implementation plan. The Government asks local authorities to accept the scientific facts on global warming as proven and to act accordingly.

The first report of the Working Group is expected to be placed before the Executive in December of this year and it is expected to be a substantial document.

In the interim, preliminary work is taking place in a number of different contexts to ensure that the ground work is being laid for a truly corporate approach based on the Council's firm commitment to partnership working.

It would be wholly appropriate at this stage for the Council to commit itself to signing the "Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change" the manifesto for which is reproduced in full in this report.

Officer Recommendations

- 1. That the Council signs the "Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change" as a clear indication of the policy direction it wishes to take on the issue.**
- 2. That the Executive Working Group take the content of the Declaration and ensure that it forms a fundamental basis of any future strategy proposal on this matter.**

Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

| Financial Implications | Legal Implications | Community & Environmental Implications | Human Resources Implications | Equality & Diversity Implications |
|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The report asks the Council through the Executive to sign the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change

2. Options and Options Appraisal

- 2.1 Option 1: To sign the Declaration and request the Executive Working Group on Climate Change to incorporate its content into a strategy document.
- 2.2 Option 2: To defer signing the Declaration until the Executive Working Group on Climate Change has considered it.

3. Background Information (See Appendix 1)

- 3.1 The Government's paper on climate change appeared this year and asks public bodies to commit themselves to a series of actions. Some local authorities have already acted in a strategic manner to put in place plans and objectives to help counter the effects of global warming. The Declaration commits local authorities to taking action in close co-operation with stakeholders, A typical statement by a signed up local authority is quoted below.
- 3.2 *"Unless global measures are taken during the first half of the 21st century to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and stabilise their concentrations in the atmosphere, mankind may precipitate dangerous and unexpected changes to our climate by the end of the century together with a significant rise in sea level. Such changes would persist for many centuries and may indeed be irreversible."*

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 Although there are no direct implications to this report at this time, the production of a policy and a strategic plan will undoubtedly have future revenue and capital implications which will need to be included in the Medium Term Financial Plan. There could be energy savings as well as expenditure.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct implications for this report but there is a reference in the Declaration to welcoming additional powers.

6. Community and Environmental Implications

- 6.1 There will be considerable implications under this heading. In a sense if the Council does not make a noticeable impact under this heading, it will have failed to meet the aims of the Declaration.

7. Human Resource Implications

7.1 As with the other implications, the report in itself does not have direct Human Resource implications at this juncture. However, it is important to flag up at an early stage that if a viable and deliverable climate change strategy emerges from signing the Declaration, then there will be an impact under this heading. A cultural change will be needed, job roles and responsibilities may change, training will be needed and posts may change or new ones needed.

8. Equality and Diversity Implications

8.1 In a situation where profound and far reaching climate changes may take place, it will be essential that vulnerable groups be protected. Climate change will affect everyone but some groups may need special care and attention. This can range from protecting the elderly in periods of intense heat to ensuring that the occupants of residential buildings in flood prone areas, have appropriate advice and assistance.

9. Risk Analysis - See Appendix 2

9.1 The risks associated with inaction are spelt out in graphic detail in the Government Paper and are not regarded as optional. Increasingly, that which cannot be done voluntarily, could be the subject of legislation. The public will become insistent that the country's institutions take a positive leadership role in the task to effectively tackle global warming.

9.2 More prosaically, failure to begin the process of changing policy and strategy to achieve behavioural change by the Authority across all its structure, organisation and service delivery, will result in an adverse CPA judgement in 2008.

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| Appendices: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1- The Nottingham Declaration • Appendix 2 Environmental Agency Risk analysis |
| Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nottingham Declaration, the Government Paper - Climate Change Programme 2006. |

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

| Report | Committee & Date | Minute Reference |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None | | |