

County Council

15 February 2019

Agenda Item 6 (b) - Notice of Motion by Mr Jones

Climate Change – Briefing Note

The County Council has both a historic and a current commitment to adapting to our changing climate.

At a national level, the County Council signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change in 2005.

In 2012, the County Council took a key decision to sign up to Climate Local. This succeeded the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change. It offered a framework that enabled councils to reflect local priorities and opportunities for action. The County Council was a member of the Climate Local Steering Group.

The County Council was invited to become a member of the Local Adaptation Advisory Panel (LAAP) Steering Group in 2016. The LAAP provides a strategic steer to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) on local government adaptation issues and gives recommendations to Defra on the National Adaptation Programme.

The County Council has been a key partner on a number of partnership projects. The County Council was a partner in the 2003 to 2008 EU-funded project ESPACE (European Spatial Planning Adapting to Climate Events), which aimed to ensure that adaptation is recognised as an integral part of managing climate change at local regional national and European levels.

From 2009 to 2012, the County Council partnered Durham and Heriot-Watt Universities on a three-year research project BIOPICCC (Built Infrastructure for Older People's Care in Conditions of Climate Change). This research developed strategies to help ensure that the infrastructures and systems supporting the health and social care for older people (aged 65 and over) will be sufficiently resilient to withstand harmful impacts of climate change in the future, up to 2050.

The County Council offers advice to residents and businesses in increasing resilience to a changing climate.

Operation Watershed Active Communities Fund has been supporting local communities in West Sussex to reduce the risk of localised surface water and ground water flooding since 2013. Since 2013, the County Council has funded over 429 projects to a value in excess of £3m.

The 'What If...?' Programme trains and empowers local people to help themselves and the vulnerable to prepare, respond and recover from events that disrupt the community from normal life. It aims to ensure local communities are able to adapt to adversity by using local resources in an innovative way to meet the challenges of a changing society.

County-wide, in 2015, the County Council investigated policies in place (across the County Council, borough and district councils and the South Downs National Park Authority) to identify synergies and gaps in adaptation planning across the county.

The Sustainability Strategy 2015-19 committed the County Council to being an organisation where all services are protected against the risks of a changing climate. A risk assessment of services using UKCP09 projections was completed in 2015. This work is being refreshed using the UKCP18 projections and will be completed in summer 2019.

The County Council used the knowledge and experiences developed through risk assessing our services against a changing climate to help the West Sussex Environment and Climate Change Board to produce a business resilience manual.

The County Council is committed to reducing its carbon footprint by 50% by 2022. In 2017/18, the Council achieved a 17% reduction in our carbon emissions. This is a 45% reduction in our carbon emissions from our original baseline of 2011/12. To achieve this saving we have improved our building management systems, improved insulation and upgraded lighting both in our own buildings but also in street lights across the county. We have invested in renewable energy, and have solar installations on a number of our buildings.

In addition to savings that are a direct result of our actions, some of the savings seen are attributable to more favourable carbon conversion factors for the energy used.

The CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme is a mandatory UK Government scheme that requires participating organisations to purchase allowances for each tonne of carbon they emit. County Council CRC payments (as reported in the 2017/18 Annual Sustainability Report) are as follows:

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15*	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
£	138,111	157,858	368,416	346,551	309,732	299,484

* The large increase in our CRC in 2014/15 was due to the inclusion of energy used to power street lights and signs within the CRC scheme.

Steve Read

Director for Energy, Waste and Environment