

CITY OF PLYMOUTH

Subject: Progressing Plymouth's Local Carbon Framework
Committee: Support Services Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Date: 15 September 2011
Cabinet Member: Councillor Michael Leaves
CMT Member: Adam Broome
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Ref: JY/LCF1/
Key Decision: No
Part: I

Executive Summary:

In February 2010, Plymouth was chosen by the Government to lead one of nine UK pilot projects looking at the production of a Local Carbon Framework (or LCF). Led originally by the Department for Communities and Local Government and, eventually, by the Department for Energy & Climate Change, these pilots were intended to test the roll out of these Frameworks prior to their introduction to every council in the UK.

Each pilot was different. Plymouth's focus was on developing a low carbon economy and our inclusion was based on recognised work to reduce the City's carbon footprint and engage local businesses in doing so.

The LCF, which will update the City's Climate Change Action Plan 2009, tests a number of newly introduced ideas including the use of a local carbon budget that requires the application of baselines, targets, milestones and actions. Supported from the outset by the City's Climate Change Commission, the report benefits from their input which draws on the City's wealth of expertise in this subject and combines it with decision making and business leadership. In keeping with best practice in partnership working, the Commission will also contribute to the report's final content.

The 'Preliminary Findings' Report prepared by the Commission, together with the reports commissioned as background evidence, can be found on the Local Carbon Framework webpage at : <http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/environmentandplanning/sustainableplymouth/susclimatechange/localcarbonframework.htm>

Funding to support the pilot project was allocated by the Government and this allowed the Council to commission a number of key studies. It also allowed support for a programme of events and engagement with the local community. However, the outcomes of these studies have proved far more significant than expected. Given the focus of attention on this issue and the speed at which action is being taken within the City, it was realised that the LCF could have a greater strategic role than first thought. Further engagement with citywide partner organisations is therefore necessary and is strongly recommended.

It was originally planned to produce the final report for adoption in the Summer of 2011. This option has now been revised to allow for a further phase of consultation – the programme outlined in the Updated May 2011

report. It is now planned to complete the final report, with DECC's permission, by December 2011 for formal adoption in January 2012.

Corporate Plan 2011 – 2014:

The Local Carbon Framework (LCF) report will set out how the Council's commitments to sustainability could be achieved (page 33 of the Corporate Plan). The LCF will suggest solutions to reduce both the Council's and the City's carbon footprint, support knowledge transfer and, more specifically, support the actions required for a more environmentally friendly economy.

The recommendations of the LCF report will contribute significantly to achieving the City's vision and will underpin the delivery of the four main priorities outlined in the Corporate Plan (page 2)

- To deliver growth
- To raise aspirations
- To reduce inequalities
- To provide value for communities

In particular, its focus on developing a low carbon economy will support the aspirations for growth (page 7) with 'knock-on' opportunities for investment, employment and skills. It will also significantly impact on future opportunities for partnership working.

The LCF report will also contribute to scaling back the number of strategies and plans the Council has by contributing to a combined sustainability plan that will combine commitments to climate change, environmental values and the Council's corporate approach toward more sustainable workplaces (page 29).

The LCF will support the responses to two priority indicators (L1 Per capita CO₂ emissions in the LA area and L2 CO₂ reduction from public sector operations) by providing a series of recommended actions, baselines, targets and milestones for reducing the carbon footprint of the City.(page 15 & 16).

Finally, the report will outline how Plymouth could respond to the Government's proposals for enhancing local accountability for action on tackling climate change by providing clear recommendations for corporate action and adoption of more strategic sustainability partnering across the City.(page 31).

Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land

The financial implications of the LCF's recommendations could be substantial in terms of both investment and savings on a citywide basis. The study undertaken by the University of Plymouth, for example, highlights the contributions made to the City's economy by the low carbon and environmental sector. By reducing carbon footprints and saving on energy resources both the Council and partner organisations could make substantial savings in both £s and tCO₂ which, in certain circumstances, could also reduce contributions to the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme (or 'green' tax).

The proposed programme is not expected to place a major financial burden on the Council. Events and engagement will be undertaken with the minimum of financial input and will rely almost entirely on the prudent use of officer time, the access to local expertise (consolidated through the project) and the goodwill of partner organisations who have, to date, supported the report's production.

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Other Implications: e.g. Community Safety, Health and Safety, Risk Management, Equalities Duty and Equalities Impact Assessment:

No substantial negative impacts have been identified to date. At this stage the implications for complementary policies and strategies are being assessed and will be noted in further reports as they are defined.

Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:

Recommendation : To undertake 'Phase 2' of the LCF development as a programme of engagement and consultation prior to the production of the final LCF report in late 2011.

Responses to the development of the LCF to date, and the outcomes of the commissioned studies, have provided far greater opportunity for local action than was first estimated. The concept of developing a low carbon economy, and its implications for citywide aspirations, is rapidly gaining support; with issues such as low carbon energy featuring strongly in the prospectus for the Local Enterprise Partnership. The theme would also be highly supportive of emerging plans to create a Marine Energy Park in the city and, on a more down to earth note, in responding to two of the city's Priority Indicators (L1 per capita carbon footprints and L2 reducing the carbon footprint of public sector organisations).

Substantial interest in the low carbon economy is being upheld through national policy development and the Coalition Government's plans for localism, revised accountabilities at a local level, green investment and action on climate change within the economy. The City's LCF pilot status provides a clear and direct link with the Department of Energy & Climate Change in this respect.

The current emphasis on the need to pursue a low carbon future has resulted in a need for further analysis of the findings to ensure that the Local Carbon Framework's recommendations complement and support the City's current (and future) aspirations. This, in its own right will require more time to be completed properly and to the benefit of the City.

However, the main reason for extending the development of Phase 1 of the LCF is the need to advise colleagues and partner organisations of the options available for the report and to engage them in determining the final content of the report. As partnership support has been identified as essential to the delivery of the recommended actions, an extended period of engagement and consultation is being recommended.

Alternative options considered and reasons for recommended action:

The original proposal was to base the final LCF report on the findings of the commissioned studies and the interactive action undertaken between December 2010 and March 2011. For the reasons stated above, this approach has emerged as insufficient. Despite providing essential background evidence, a second phase is now required to ensure an effective response. Producing the report without extending the engagement would limit its credibility and deny the City the chance to benefit from some of the unique opportunities highlighted by the research.

Background papers:

The reports commissioned in support of the LCF can be found at <http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/environmentandplanning/sustainableplymouth/susclimatechange/localcarbonframework.htm>

An Executive Summary of the findings, to be used as a 'prompt' in the engagement process will be available at the same site from the 8th August 2011.

The outcome of the Green Skills Task & Finish Group is likely to be a proposal for a Green Apprenticeship Consortium for Plymouth. The paper setting out this proposal is currently being developed.

The Data Management Task & Finish Group have endorsed the development of a Climate Change Info Hub that will be co-ordinated by the IT Unit and will pilot Sharepoint 2010 for the Council.

The agendas and minutes for all the Task & Finish meetings and many of the associated events are available on the S drive and on request from the SD Unit Team.

Sign off:

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Originating SMT Member : MC1112.005											

Progressing Plymouth's Local Carbon Framework

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Plymouth's Local Carbon Framework (LCF) pilot project was awarded by DCLG in February 2010 at the recommendation of Government Office South West. In May 2010, central government responsibility for the pilot programme passed to DECC.

1.2 One of nine projects across the UK, Plymouth's project was to build on the role of Local Carbon Frameworks, responsibilities, accountabilities and local carbon budgeting in supporting the first steps towards a low carbon economy – an issue being closely supported through Government policy and an issue playing an increasingly influential role in proposals for the City's economy.

1.3 Although awarded, the 2011 election delayed the project bidding process; with agreement being reached in November 2010 and notification of the award reaching Plymouth on the 22nd December 2010. An initial injection of £50,000 had already been received and was used to fund three Graduate Interns whose roles were to support the LCF pilot project.

1.4 Between January and March 2011 (based on a detailed programme of events) the background to the LCF and hence the concept of local carbon budgeting was promoted across the City. A number of high profile studies were also commissioned to provide the supporting evidence required to underpin a series of recommendations.

1.5 The studies were :

- i. University of Exeter – Carbon Scenario Planning – footprinting economic sectors and using this data to predict future impacts.
- ii. University of Plymouth – The potential for a low carbon economy – establishing what the first steps might be and considering the skills and investment required.
- iii. The Marketing Works – Changing Behaviour – what is needed to encourage carbon awareness in different sectors across the City (focusing on SMEs, the community and private landlords).
- iv. University of Plymouth – Sustainable Tourism – the carbon impact as a case study.
- v. The development of an Energy Services Company for the City.

1.6 Two cross-departmental and inter-partnership 'task and finish' groups were also established to review :

- Skills – focusing on green skills and apprenticeships
- Data management – focusing on the creation of a climate change data hub for Plymouth.

1.7 In addition, time was spent researching methodologies for reducing the City's carbon footprint, establishing what a carbon budget might look like, how adaptation might be included in the LCF and how Plymouth's LCF might reflect the more dynamic approach being taken by national Government.

1.8 Plymouth's Climate Change Commission has overseen the development of the LCF from the outset and is providing an 'Editorial Board' to assist in its completion. The Board includes Prof Iain Stewart (University of Plymouth), Dr Tean Mitchell (Green Planet Media), Roger Higson (independent consultant) and Steve Whiteway of the Eco Business Group. A further business representative is being sought to join this additional Board.

1.9 Development throughout will be discussed with the corporate Communications Team.

2.0 Progressing the LCF

2.1 Our original intent was to complete the LCF report by June and to circulate it for comment over the Summer period. However a number of significant factors have influenced this action. In the majority of cases this influence is considered a positive gain:

- As a result of funding from DECC not being available for the events planned from April to September 2011, the interactive element of the LCF programme has been curtailed. The programme is now being revised to take into account this limitation on financial support.
- The studies proved to be more technically involved than expected – mainly as a result of their innovative research content – so final reports were not made available until late May 2011.
- The findings of the studies proved to be more significant than expected. As a result, a far greater element of consolidation is required to create a meaningful LCF paper that will provide support to the City.
- The focus on a low carbon economy is increasing on a weekly basis; providing a far greater baseline for analysis. Again, more time is required to ensure the final report supports the existing and emerging aspirations for the City's economy.

2.2 In addition, the LCF document will be integrated with the Sustainability 'Strategy' and Action Plan which is currently being developed further. Although these documents complement each other, their integration will require:

- Focusing the LCF as a basic 'action plan' for citywide sustainability
- Identifying overall timescales and outcomes required
- Consideration of other sustainability issues and whether these should be incorporated with the LCF

2.3 Consequently, more time will be needed to consolidate the content of the LCF paper and additional time would be needed to finalise the proposals through the 'consultation' phase due to the breadth of issues being discussed.

3.0 Proposed Actions and Timescales

3.1 The following Action Plan is suggested to complete the production of the LCF paper. The suggested interaction will be based on the Executive Summary created from the recommendations of the commissioned studies. The final LCF report will combine all recommendations and the outcome of the consultation.

Table 1 : Outline Programme of Engagement.

Action	Timescale	Partners
Approval of approach	20 th July 2011	Sustainability Programme Board.
Integration of views on PCC Policy	From 5 th Sept 2011	SDU team
Support Services Overview & Scrutiny Panel	15 th September	Panel Members
Meeting to establish links with LSP members	4 th August 9.00am	Claire Oatway
Progress to be reported to CMT	October 2011	Adam Broome
Progress outline and Executive Summary report (see LCF webpage ¹)	Publication 17 th August 2011	Climate Change Commission
Climate Change Survey	Publication 22 nd August Responses due 5 th September Report to LGG ² by 16 th Sept	SDU team
Establish programme of editorial meetings (Commission T&F group)	4 th August 2011 25 th August 2011 9 th September 2011 Dates for Oct, Nov and Dec to be agreed.	Climate Change Commission members.
Initial study briefings and interactive workshops : 1 : Behaviour changes 2 : Low Carbon Economy 3 : Carbon Scenario Planning 4 : Sustainable Tourism	28 th July 16 th August 8 th September October 2011	The Marketing Works Dr Tim Daley Anthony Norton Emma Whittlesea
Establish programme of updates to include : DMT/Corporate Business Managers Service Business Plan reps: Planning Housing Sustainable Transport Home Energy Climate change data hub VFM considerations Carbon Mgt considerations The ESCO The Marine Renewables Hub The Enterprise Zone The Growth Board The LEP Business Plan Education NB: This list is not exclusive.	By 31 st July	Asst Directors As detailed: Planning Team Colin Anderson/Paul Elliott Mark Smith (Transport) Colin Anderson (Housing) Julie McDonagh (ITC) Paul Chapman (VFM/Finance) Alex Hurth (Property) Jonathan Selman (Planning) David Wheeler

¹ See

<http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/environmentandplanning/sustainableplymouth/susclimatechange/localcarbonframework.htm>

² Local Government Group

		(University) Economic Development Douglas Fletcher/David Draffan/ Chris Grace Karl Sweeney
Develop the green skills element of the LCF. Establish a further series of Skills T&F group meetings. Extend discussions to PCC's green apprentice teams.	By 30 th September 2011 12 th August 2011 5 th September 2011 4 th October 2011 Meetings to Dec 2011. Outcome as a case study by 30 th September 2011.	LCF Skills T&F Group To include : Economic development Working Links Job Centre Plus. HR Sue Lorne/Nick Jones
Agree case studies for the report.	By 30 th September 2011	Guidance from Climate Change Commission. 186 Low Carbon Network members. Chamber members FSB members.
Agree stakeholder meetings : PCC staff (lunch & learn events) Chamber members 186 Low Carbon Network Local network members FSB/PMG members Neighbourhood Forums Conservative Group Labour Group Local interest groups Eco Business Group Support meeting of citywide decision makers. Programme to be developed.	Between 1 st August and 15 th October 6 th October 2011 October 2011	Key Links : Staff/members David Parlby SDU team Sarah O'Leary/Econ Dev Team Richard Thomas/Steve Gerry Nick McMahon Cllr Linda Bowyer Cllr Rennie Tba Steve Whiteway Business leaders Key decision makers
Agree content of web based Staff room survey seeking views on the concept. Extend this to the 186 Network and other key email networks.	August to Sept 2011	SDU team
Agree communications protocol for the programme. Regular press interaction.	By 31 st July Ongoing as agreed	Communications Unit Keith Rossiter/Green City Campaign (Herald)
Consultation with the LSP's Integrated Planning Group	October 2011	Local Strategic Partnership
Continued desktop research to provide the best possible background to the LCF including : Analysis of national policy	July to November 2011	SDU Team. Supported by the Climate Change

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Review of suitable indicators Consolidation of background evidence.		Commission and report authors.
Consolidation of the information gained in to the final report	Review on 3 rd October	Sustainability Programme Board.
Formal adoption	January 2012	CMT Cabinet planning Cabinet
Post adoption publicity and promotion	Ongoing 2012 to 2020	SDU Communications Unit

3.2 Projected Outcomes

3.3 The proposed interactive phase of the LCF's production will also enable the development of a number of recommendations for positive action that have emerged from the consultation and studies prepared to date. The intention is to review the potential of each of these recommendations and to include the final versions in the LCF report.

3.4 Although some of these 'projects' may appear simple, they will still require a commitment to development and, in some cases, the resources to apply them.

3.5 **Award Scheme.** An example is the renewed call for some form of 'award' that would recognise the efforts being made by local businesses to reduce the City's carbon footprint. Based on recognition at bronze, silver and gold levels, qualification for the award would include a set of criteria for each stage. Examples might be :

- For the bronze award – evidence that a carbon footprint has been established.
- For the silver award – evidence that an action plan has been drawn up and is being followed.
- For the gold award – evidence of positive outcomes and a reduced footprint over time.

3.6 Suggested by local businesses as a means of promoting those taking a positive approach to low carbon action, the scheme might include a plaque that could be displayed or a flag that could highlight inclusion. These would not require a substantial budget to be considered effective. However, if resources were to be made available, the incentives could be boosted by invitations to an annual awards dinner (perhaps with local sponsorship). The scheme could even be expanded with the potential to provide financial enticements such as a potential reduction in business rates (regulations permitting) in recognition of the commitments being made in each case.

3.7 As time is required to establish the potential for each of the recommendations, their development will also feature in the consultation for Phase 2.