

**EAST HERTS COUNCIL**  
**CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

**August 2009**

**DRAFT**

**Version 1.2**

This page is intentionally left blank

## Introduction

East Herts Council recognises that climate change will bring challenges and opportunities, and that action is needed now, both to reduce emissions of global warming gases in order to help reduce more serious changes in the future (often referred to as mitigation), and to help us to prepare for those impacts of climate change that are already unavoidable (adaptation).

This strategy document describes briefly the causes of climate change and the changes that are likely to be experienced by the District of East Herts. The strategy consolidates East Herts Council response to climate change as a signatory to the Nottingham Declaration (see below).

The strategy defines the scope and objectives of the Council's activities in the context of actions being undertaken by other agencies. It comprises a **review** of actions that the District Council is already undertaking, and proposes **additional** measures to tackle the causes and impacts of climate change.

For ease of communication and implementation, current and proposed actions have been grouped under a series of topics that loosely reflect the Council's relevant service areas:

Each section includes a description of how service areas can mitigate the causes of climate change and how the service areas will be affected by climate change. The proposed actions have been assigned to named sections of the Authority for implementation.

Each action plan focuses primarily on measures to **mitigate** climate change by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. Where applicable, however, actions have been included that relate to **adaptation** - enabling the Council or wider District to better withstand the anticipated effects of climate change. Further work is proposed on adaptation, identifying risks to the District.

The Action Plan contains a mix of one-off **short-term** measures that should bring quick wins, and more strategic proposals for **longer-term** but ultimately further-reaching effects.

It is intended that the action plan will be **monitored** on an annual basis to ensure that targets are being met wherever possible. In addition, an annual **audit of carbon** dioxide (or carbon dioxide equivalents) emissions arising through the Council's operations will be undertaken to evaluate the

effectiveness of the Council's actions in reducing its contribution to climate change. The results of this "Carbon Footprint" will be publicised.

## **Climate Change**

Climate change is already happening and is potentially the most serious environmental challenge facing us in the 21st century. The scientific evidence from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is unequivocal. This evidence is accepted by most Governments, including the UK Government.

### **Mitigation and Adaptation - the dual challenge of climate change**

Avoiding dangerous climate change will require significant cuts in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 (climate change mitigation).

The urgency and scale of this task rightly dominates much of the climate change debate. However, even if we are able to cut all emissions today and became a zero carbon society, we would still witness a changing climate due to our historical emissions. Whatever we do to reduce emissions, scientific opinion suggests that we are committed to at least 30-40 years of climate change.

Ensuring that people, communities, infrastructure and wildlife are resilient to the unavoidable impacts of these changes is called 'climate change adaptation'.

### **The Nottingham Declaration**

East Herts is a formal signatory to the Nottingham Declaration. The Declaration recognises the central role of local authorities in leading society's response to the challenge of climate change. By signing the Nottingham Declaration councils pledge to attempt to address the causes of climate change and in so doing to help prepare their community for its impacts.

## **What is climate change and why does it matter?**

### The causes of climate change

Climate change, also known as global warming or the enhanced greenhouse effect, results from the rise in global temperature attributed to increasing concentrations of certain 'greenhouse gases' in the atmosphere. These gases affect global temperature by inhibiting the radiation by the earth of heat received from the sun. Up to a point, the greenhouse effect is essential, and without it, the earth would lose too much heat and be too cold for habitation by humans. The relatively recent and significant increase in certain greenhouse gases has, however, upset the balance and the earth is warming.

There is overwhelming scientific evidence (eg as reported by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) that human activity is the primary cause of climate change observed over the last 50 years. Some sources advocate that action is needed within the next 5 to 10 years to cut emissions of greenhouse gases to a level that should avoid catastrophic and irreversible climate change.

Although water vapour has the greatest impact as a greenhouse gas, levels of this have remained relatively stable and it is the changing concentration of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) that is the main focus of action on climate change. CO<sub>2</sub> contributes about 80-85% of the *enhanced* greenhouse effect, but other significant contributors include methane and nitrous oxide. The burning of fossil fuels such as oil and gas to provide heat and power, combined with large-scale deforestation (which both releases CO<sub>2</sub> and reduces its absorption through plant growth), are the two main ways in which human activities are contributing to climate change on a global scale.

### **Global impacts of climate change**

Average global temperature has risen by about 0.6°C over the last 100 years. Since 1860, twenty out of the twenty-one hottest years have occurred within the last 25 years; and globally, 2005 was the hottest year ever recorded.

The increased temperatures are causing the melting of ice sheets and the expansion of water in the oceans, leading to rising sea levels, as well as changes in ocean currents and increased surface ocean temperatures. These effects in turn contribute to changes in weather patterns and more unpredictable and extreme weather events.

The effects of climate change are likely to be felt in every country of the world, but it is the most vulnerable developing countries that are likely to experience the worst impacts whilst being the least able to cope. An increased frequency of extreme weather events will result in more frequent droughts, expanding deserts, wide-scale flooding (especially of coastal zones where most people live) and shortages of basic human requirements such as food and water. Potentially the lives of hundred of millions of people could be put at risk, and there will be increasing numbers of environmental refugees leading to possible international social unrest. The UK Government's Stern Review Report of 2006 predicts the vast global economic cost of climate change and calls for urgent international action.

'Climate change threatens the basic elements of life for people around the world - access to water, food production, health, and use of land and the environment'. (Stern Review Report 2006)

The view has been expressed that climate change is just a symptom of a larger global problem - the 'real' issue being that people living in the more developed countries are consuming the planet's resources at a rate exceeding that at which they can be renewed or replenished through natural processes. Proponents of this view cite evidence of increased rates of extinction of species and other impacts that cannot be accounted for by climate change alone. Whatever the case, action to tackle climate change must be seen as a step forward, as many actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will bring indirect benefits such as reduced consumption of manufactured goods and more efficient use of energy and water, as well as a heightened awareness of the impact that our lifestyles are having on the planet.

'No-one can predict the consequences of climate change with complete certainty, but we know enough to understand the risks. Mitigation - taking strong action to reduce emissions - must be viewed as an investment, a cost incurred now and in the coming few decades to avoid the risks of very severe consequences in the future'. (Stern Review Report 2006)

## **A national and regional perspective**

The impacts of climate change to date, and probable future impacts have been studied and modelled through the UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP), funded by DEFRA.

UKCIP reports that the decade of the 1990s was the warmest in central England since records began in the 1660s. Hot summer days with temperatures exceeding 25<sup>0</sup>C occurred almost twice as often in the 1990s as in the first half of the twentieth century. Air frosts are declining in frequency and the growing season is longer than at any time since 1772. UK winters are getting wetter, and a larger proportion of precipitation is falling in heavy downpours. Summers are getting drier. Sea levels are rising by an average around the UK of 1mm per year, after adjustment for land movements. An increased frequency of gales was observed in the last decade.

**POTENTIAL CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS IN THE EAST OF ENGLAND**

**(East of England Climate Change Graphic Maps from UKCIP02)**

*Graphic to be inserted*



### Potential Climate Change Impact in East Herts

Based on consideration of the potential changes in weather patterns predicted above, it is possible to anticipate a range of impacts on life in East Herts over the next 50 years. Some of these effects will be positive, other less so. Examples of potential effects include the following:

Land drainage	Increased incidence of flooding associated with high winter rainfall events.
Farming	Longer plant growing season, fewer frosts, greater need for summer irrigation/winter water storage. Possible change in cropping away from crops such as potatoes, towards maize, sunflowers etc. New pests and diseases, some pests able to breed faster. Potential for soil waterlogging and loss of soil structure in winter. Increased soil erosion due to wind and surface water run-off. Opportunities for diversification into tourism, renewables, biodiesel, biomass crops.
Wildlife	Wide range of impacts, often species-specific, many not yet understood. Species at southern end of range will be forced to move north or perish. Impact depends on capacity to migrate. Reduced summer rainfall, higher temperatures and increased abstraction will mean low water levels in ponds and watercourses, combined with higher concentrations of pollutants (less dilution) and lower dissolved oxygen levels. Higher annual temperatures will favour new species moving in from the south.
Health	Summer health problems, affecting especially the elderly, infirm and young children could increase, including those associated with heat, UV radiation and elevated levels of air pollutants such as ozone. In the long term new pests and disease organisms could move in from the south. There could be more stomach upsets and food poisoning incidents. On the positive side, there will probably be fewer cold-related deaths.

APPENDIX A  
AGENDA ITEM 9

Economy	Likely boost for tourism, especially outdoor summer leisure activities. Opportunities relating to energy efficiency and renewable energy. Higher costs associated with cooling, and refrigeration, lower heating costs. More frequent disruption to transport networks due to extreme weather events.
Building managers including householders	Higher summer cooling costs, lower winter heating and lighting costs. More frequent storms and increased incidence of flooding will increase maintenance and insurance costs. Saving opportunities from energy efficiency, renewable energy and rainwater harvesting. Higher landscape maintenance costs due to increased storm damage, faster and longer season of plant growth, and increased need for summer watering.

## Legislative, policy and general context

### International context:

- **Kyoto target** - legally binding since February 2005. For the UK, emissions of greenhouse gases to be reduced to at least 12.5% below 1990 levels by the period 2008-2012.
- **Energy Performance of Buildings Directive 2003** - intended to contribute to meeting the Kyoto protocol by reducing energy use in buildings across Europe (currently responsible for 40% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions). Facilitates the measuring of energy use in buildings by: introducing agreed measures of relative energy performance; regular inspections and re-evaluations; requiring higher standards for upgrading larger buildings; and improving standards for new buildings. Implemented in England and Wales by the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 and the Housing Act 2004 (see below).
- **EC Directive on the promotion of electricity produced from renewable energy sources** - set target of 12% electricity from renewable sources by 2010 and requires Member states to set their own renewable energy targets.
- **EC Directive on the promotion of the use of biofuels or other renewable fuels for transport** - requires Member states to source 2% of transport fuels from renewable sources by 2010.
- **EC Directive on end use efficiency and energy services.** Requires each member state to introduce a mandatory target for the annual amount of energy to be saved, attributable to energy services, energy efficiency programmes and other energy efficiency measures. Also requires a target for the annual amount of energy to be saved in the public sector, attributable to energy services, energy efficiency programmes and other energy efficiency measures.
- **EC Directive on the promotion of combined heat and power (CHP).** This aims to increase energy efficiency and improve security

of supply by creating a framework for promotion and development of high efficiency CHP.

**National context:**

- **Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007.** Requirements: (1) an Energy Performance Certificate and recommendation report must be provided to any prospective buyer or tenant whenever a building is to be sold or rented. (2) From April 2008 (subsequently relaxed to October 2008), large buildings occupied by public authorities or frequently visited by members of the public must have a clearly visible Display Energy Certificate and a valid advisory report. (3) Air conditioning units above a certain rated output are to be inspected at specified intervals.
- **Housing Act 2004** - resulted in the introduction of Home Information Packs (HIPs) and Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs). EPCs were to be introduced for all marketed sales of private sector domestic dwellings from June 2007 but a gradual phasing in has replaced this. Housing in all other sectors will require EPCs from Jan 2009 at the latest, and probably for social housing from Oct 2008.
- **National government target** - emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> to be reduced by 20% below 1990 levels by the period 2008-2012.
- **Energy White Paper 2003** (Our energy future - creating a low carbon economy) / UK Climate Change Programme - 10% of electricity to come from renewable sources by 2010, 20% by 2020; Reduction of domestic energy consumption by 30% by 2010; and 10,000 MW installed CHP generation by 2010. Set a goal to put the UK on a path to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 60% by 2050.
- **Energy White Paper 2007** (Meeting the Energy Challenge). This aimed to define a long-term strategic vision for energy policy combining environmental, security of supply, competitiveness and social goals. The EWP has four key goals:
  1. To put the UK on a path to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 60% by 2050 with real progress by 2020;
  2. To maintain the reliability of energy supplies;

3. To promote competitive markets in the UK and beyond, helping to raise the rate of sustainable economic growth and to improve the country's productivity;
4. To ensure that every home is adequately and affordably heated.

The EWP emphasises the leadership role that local authorities are expected to play.

- Government aspiration (published in '**Building a Greener Future: Towards zero carbon development**' - when considered over a period of a year, net carbon emissions from energy use in the home to be zero for all new-build homes by 2016. To be met by changes in the Planning framework, tightening of the Building Regulations and the Code for Sustainable Homes.
  
- **Local Government White Paper** (published October 2006). Set out a new performance framework for local government comprising 198 indicators for local authorities and local area agreements. Placed a duty on local authorities to lead their community and their partners on climate change. Five of the indicators relate to climate change. These are:
  - (1) NI 185 - CO2 reduction from Local Authority operators.
  - (2) NI 186 - Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions (to be determined and reported by DEFRA).
  - (3) NI 187 - Tackling fuel poverty.
  - (4) NI 188 - Adapting to climate change.
  - (5) NI 194 - Air Quality.
  
- **The Water Act 2003** - imposes a duty on local authorities to further the conservation of water both within their own buildings and across all residents and businesses (essentially to support the local water authority who have specific duties in this regard).
  
- **Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) 1995**. Focuses local authorities' attention on improving the energy efficiency of all homes and, in so doing, seeks to tackle fuel poverty and climate change. Every UK local authority with housing responsibilities must identify practicable and cost-effective measures to reduce energy consumption of all residential accommodation by 30% over a 10 to 15 year period. Annual progress reports to be produced. The HECA is currently being repealed.

- **Sustainable Energy Act 2003.** This aims to make provision for the development and provision of a sustainable energy policy in the UK, using the same measurable objectives as in the Energy White Paper (2003). Section 4 of the Sustainable Energy Act makes it clear that those energy conservation authorities in England and Wales who are falling short of their targets under the HECA can be held to account and may become subject to energy efficiency directions requiring them to improve their performance.
  
- **Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006.** Aimed at encouraging energy efficiency and micro generation and reducing fuel poverty. Places a new duty on local authorities to have regard to climate change in all their functions. The Act will:
  - (1) Require the secretary of state for DEFRA to report to Parliament each year on the UK's greenhouse gas emissions and progress on the steps taken to reduce them.
  - (2) Require government to set targets for the take up of micro generation.
  - (3) Extend the time that local authorities are able to prosecute against breaches of Part L of the building regulations.
  - (4) Require government to report to Parliament on compliance with Part L.
  - (5) Include provisions to ensure energy companies pay a fair price for electricity from micro generation.
  - (6) Make it easier for microrenewables to access the renewable obligation system.
  - (7) Set requirements for local authorities to do more to encourage energy efficiency.
  - (8) Allow energy companies to use emission reductions from micro generation to meet their targets.
  
- **Climate Change Act 2008**

This sets the government's commitment to 80% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2050 in statute (based on 1990 baseline), along with a series of measures to reach this target; establishes an independent Climate Change Commission; contains powers to enable the government to introduce an emissions trading scheme; proposals for annual reporting to Parliament on adaptation to climate change.

**Regional and sub-regional context:**

- Regional Spatial Strategy.
- Climate Change Report for the East of England (2005)
- Hertfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Hertfordshire 2021: A Brighter Future.  
This is the Sustainable Community Strategy for Hertfordshire and which was published in 2008. It also drives forward action on the Local Area Agreements, including NI 186 which is the only Climate Change related LAA to be agreed for Hertfordshire.

**Local Context:**

- Sustainable Community Strategy for East Herts 2009 – 2024
- East Herts Local Development Framework
- East Herts Transport Strategy ( in preparation)
- East Herts Public Health Action Plan
- East Herts Council Corporate Priorities
- East Herts Council Environmental Policy
- East Herts Council Energy Policy and Action Plan

**Examples of other drivers:**

- The rising cost of energy, due to increasing demand and increasing costs of production; dwindling national and global reserves of accessible gas and oil; and, the impending decommissioning of many of the UK's existing nuclear power stations.
- The Climate Change Levy effectively increases the price paid for use of fossil fuels such as gas, coal and electricity from non-renewable sources.
- Issues around the security of future supplies of gas and oil, an increasing proportion of which will be sourced from outside the UK.

**Carbon Emissions for the District of East Hertfordshire  
Graphic**

*Graphic to be inserted*



## **East Herts Council Carbon Emissions Baseline**

The Council's direct emissions are essentially those that the Council pays for - electricity, gas and oil used in our buildings, diesel used for our vehicle fleet, business travel including car miles and rail journeys, and waste we generate that goes to landfill.

In addition the Council purchases goods and services from external contractors in order to deliver many services. The greenhouse gases associated with that item or activity 'belongs' to the Council as well. This data is often more difficult to acquire, however, the Council has established an initial baseline assessment of its total carbon dioxide emissions covering the vast majority of the functions of the local authority. For the year 2008/09 the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions from both stationary and transport sources for East Herts Council was 4,519 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>. The methodology used to calculate this figure follows guidance issued by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (National Indicator 185).

Other emissions related to Council activities include staff commuting, and domestic waste, together with some non-carbon dioxide based emissions. It is not possible at the present time to accurately calculate these and as such they are not included in the figure given above.

## The Role of East Herts Council in relation to Climate Change

*'Local authorities are uniquely placed to provide vision and leadership to local communities, raise awareness and help change behaviours. In addition, through their powers and responsibilities .... they can have a significant influence over emissions in their local areas.'* (from 'Climate Change - the UK Programme: Tomorrow's climate, Today's challenge')

As a District Council, East Herts contributes to the causes and, to some extent, can influence the effects of climate change through many of its activities and services. For some of these activities, the Council can be considered to have a strong controlling influence, in relation to others the influence is less.

Those in the controllable category include the use of gas and electricity within corporate buildings the use of fuel in Council vehicles and for staff business travel, and the quantities (and types) of goods purchased and waste produced by the Authority. Activities and service areas that are influenced to a lesser extent by the Council include the use of gas and electricity in social housing stock and private sector housing, use of fuel by Council staff commuting to and from work, and the quantities of goods consumed and waste produced by households across the District.

East Herts Council has a range of powers that can be used to influence the decisions and activities of other organisations and individuals. These include its regulatory powers in relation to land use planning and building control, licensing (eg of hire cars and taxis) and air quality. Through corporate policies on matters such as household recycling arrangements, it can significantly influence the amount of waste produced in the District that is consigned to landfill. In addition the Council can exert a strong influence through its procurement activities and requirements set on external contractors in relation to service provision.

Influence can also be exerted through partnership working (eg via the Local Strategic Partnership), supply chain pressures (influencing suppliers), conditions of grant funding, arts and cultural activities (heightening awareness), informal education, through public relations and by lobbying (eg of central government).

APPENDIX A  
AGENDA ITEM 9

Arguably, one of the most powerful tools of influence that councils have in relation to other organisations is that of setting a good example and being a good community leader. Development and implementation of this strategy and associated action plans represents East Herts Council's commitment to being a wise and effective community leader.

It is proposed that actions be targeted on Council operations which have high levels of greenhouse gas emissions (generally CO<sub>2</sub>) over which the District Council has a strong control, as well as those areas of lesser influence where emissions are potentially high.

Operations from which greenhouse gases (generally CO<sub>2</sub>) are emitted include the following:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy use in corporate buildings</li> <li>• Fuel use by fleet vehicles</li> <li>• Staff and Councillor business travel</li> <li>• Waste produced through Council operations disposed of at landfill</li> </ul>	<p>high influence</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff commuting between home and work</li> <li>• Energy used in leisure buildings owned but not managed by East Herts Council</li> <li>• Goods and services procured by East Herts Council</li> <li>• Waste from households disposed of at landfill</li> <li>• Contactors providing services on behalf of East Herts Council</li> </ul>	<p>some influence</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy used in social and private sector housing</li> <li>• Energy associated with new developments</li> </ul>	<p>little influence but high emissions</p>

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| • Energy used by businesses |  |
|-----------------------------|--|

In addition, it is also proposed that existing opportunities for heightening the awareness of the wider community should be capitalised upon where this can be done without significant demands on staff time or financial resources (for example, through existing Council publications).

### **Indirect benefits of tackling climate change**

Although carrying out these actions will take time and resources, there are many benefits for the District, as listed in the Local Authorities' Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) climate change toolkit for regulatory services:

- Financial savings - from increasing energy efficiency and reducing waste.
- Improving air quality - reducing emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> will also reduce emissions and atmospheric levels of other pollutants and reduce the incidence of respiratory illness.
- Reduced traffic congestion - many actions aimed at reducing traffic emissions, such as promoting public transport and non-car travel, will reduce traffic and improve people's physical and mental health through air quality improvements, opportunities for physical exercise and greater social interaction.
- Job creation and local economic development - renewable energy and environmental technology is an important new business opportunity in the East of England.
- Enhanced community liveability - the combination of all the benefits resulting from activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will result in more environmentally-friendly and habitable communities.

## **East Herts Climate Change Strategy**

### **Key Aims**

The overall aim of the Climate Change Strategy is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with the operations of East Herts Council and that of the wider District whilst maintaining and, where possible, improving the quality of services provided to the residents of the District.

An aspirational target is proposed to reduce emissions of those greenhouse gases directly associated with East Herts Council operations\* by at least 25% by 2020 against a 2008 baseline.

\*including energy use in corporate buildings, fleet transport and staff/Elected Member business travel.

East Herts Council has also signed up to a wider target linked to the Hertfordshire Local Area Agreement of a 9.1% cut in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2011/2012 based on a 2005 baseline. This is a county wide target and East Herts will need to contribute to its achievement. However, it must be emphasised that East Herts Council does not have direct control over District wide emissions, but through this Strategy and Action Plan and by joint working with the Hertfordshire Local Strategic Partnership it is hoped to put appropriate structures in place that will assist with its achievement.

#### Note on derivation of target and baselines:

Any target that is chosen for CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction must be realistic in terms of what should be achievable, as well as challenging enough to ensure the changes that are needed.

The Climate Change Act 2008 sets the target for reducing UK CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 80% by 2050 based on 1990 levels, with an intermediate target of 26 - 32% by 2020.

According to DEFRA's statistics and projections for CO<sub>2</sub> levels in 2006, emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> are likely to have fallen by 5.14% between 1990 and 2006. Thus to meet the government's intermediate target of around 30% cut by 2020, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from all sources need to be reduced by 25% between 2006 and 2020, or around 2% every year.

It will be noted that several different baseline years are used. Unfortunately it is not possible to utilise a standard year as some baselines are set by international or national agreement. Local targets are based on the most recent dataset available. Local baselines will be kept under review and changes made to aid standardisation if appropriate and possible.

This is the basis for the District based target set out above.

To progress the aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in East Herts, ten key objectives have been developed as detailed in the section below. These objectives will be implemented through a range of actions, as set out in the Climate Change Action Plan appended to this Strategy document.

## **East Herts Climate Change Strategy Key Objectives**

Ten key objectives have been identified by East Herts Council to capture the range of climate change work with which the Council and its key partners are involved.

These are:

### Objective (1) Leadership

East Herts Council will lead by example through its approach to mitigation and adapting to climate change within the District. We will work with, and encourage others, to take action to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions and to prepare for the inevitable impact of climate change.

### Objective (2) Education and Awareness

To raise awareness and understanding about the causes and effects of climate change with all staff, Councillors and those who live and work within East Herts, and to provide guidance as to how everyone can play their part in tackling climate change.

### Objective (3) Energy

To reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of East Herts Council and that of the wider community we serve. This may be through the effective use and promotion of energy efficiency measures in both the domestic and commercial sectors; the appropriate use and promotion of renewable and sustainable energy technologies; and, the use of sustainable construction/design techniques for new developments as well as the refurbishment of existing buildings.

### Objective (4) Transport

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions resulting from travel (particularly road travel) from community and Council activities within the District.

Objective (5) Waste

To reduce community and Council greenhouse gas emissions within the District, through combined improvement to waste management and the promotion of waste minimisation measures.

Objective (6) Water

To work with key partners such as the Environment Agency and Water Companies, to secure effective local water resource management and to work together to promote the conservation of water and reduce climate change induced flood risk through appropriate policy development and public awareness campaigns.

Objective (7) Biodiversity

To increase the resilience and reduce the vulnerability of ecosystems in the District so that they can accommodate and respond to climate change.

Objective (8) Risk Management

To avoid or reduce direct and indirect climate change induced risks to Council property and services and to help reduce such risks to our local community (such as increased risk of localised flooding) by effective local action, including continued working with key partners.

Objective (9) Low Carbon East Herts

To establish a comprehensive carbon foot printing process for East Herts council activities and to develop initiatives to reduce carbon emissions with the ultimate goal of minimising greenhouse gas emissions from key Council business activities.

Objective (10) Forward Looking East Herts

East Herts will be a forward thinking and proactive local authority on Climate Change issues, open to considering new initiatives.



## **Implementation and Monitoring**

The East Herts Climate Change Strategy is a cross cutting strategy and actions are attributable to all Council service areas.

Heads of Service are responsible for actions that fall within their service areas and Executive Members for actions that fall within their portfolio, and also for taking climate change issues into account, where appropriate, in Council decisions including service planning and procurement.

Both the Strategy and Action Plan will be monitored in accordance with the Council's performance monitoring arrangements and it is proposed that a formal annual review is undertaken. This process will include an annual audit of carbon emissions (or equivalent) associated with Council activities and the monitoring of relevant indicators as appropriate.

Wherever feasible, actions will be included in relevant service action plans and staff job descriptions.

The new performance framework for local authorities and local area agreements includes indicator NI 185 which will require local authorities to monitor and report CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from specified operations. However, the target set in relation to this climate change strategy does not embrace all the emission sources covered by NI 185 because some emission sources are not directly controllable by the Council. For example, whilst the Council may raise awareness of staff in relation to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from car travel and seek to encourage travel by non-car means, it has no direct control over the distances that staff travel to work or how they choose to travel.

## **Action Plan**

The Climate Change Action Plan may be found in the Appendix to this Strategy.