

Hart District Council

CLIMATE CHANGE PANEL

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Aim

The Council has signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change which states:

“Hart DC acknowledges the increasing impact that climate change will have on our community during the 21st century and commits to tackling the causes and effects of a changing climate on our district.”

The Council has established a Climate Change Strategy with three themes:

- **Lead by example** - educating and encouraging others to take similar steps
- **Adapting** our ways of living to cope with climate change; and
- **Mitigating** the increase of climate change

Purpose

1. The Climate Change Panel (CCP) is an advisory body to the Cabinet to coordinate the contribution that all council services can make to maintaining and improving energy efficiency within the District.
2. The CCP will provide the forum for developing and recommending to Cabinet the strategy for the District Council on climate change, and for working to deliver the Council's priorities in the Hart Local Strategic Partnership (HLSP) and the Local Area Agreement (LAA)
3. The CCP will also engage via the Hart Climate Change Partnership (HCCP) of the HLSP with organisations and partners to develop a strong local voluntary and community sector which is an essential component of empowering local people, particularly those who are traditionally hard to reach.
4. To Review progress to date and further actions required, regarding the Carbon Trust report on the Civic Offices and the Hart Leisure Centre.
5. To Develop the Council's Action Plan to deliver the Climate Change Strategy and monitor and manage its implementation, and review progress and further actions required regarding commitments made by the signing of the Nottingham Declaration, on 28th September 2006.
6. The CCP will positively engage with Hampshire County Council (HCC) and the Hart Local Strategic Partnership (HLSP) in furthering the Council's aims in respect of climate change issues affecting the district.
7. The CCP will work together to identify gaps in provision, eliminate duplication of effort and encourage pooling of resources to achieve the joint aims of the Council and its partners.

Structure

1. The Climate Change Panel comprises an inclusive membership of Councillors and officers together with a representative of the LSP.

2. The local authority (i.e. Hart District Council) will take the opportunity that democratic legitimacy confers to provide vision and leadership to the local community on this issue.
3. The CCP is a standing panel reporting to Cabinet, and will meet monthly to consider and promote understanding of climate change within Hart, and ensure that actions are carried out. The minutes of the CCP will be reported to the next available Cabinet meeting.

Membership

1. Core Members of the CCP comprise:
 - 1.1 Leader of Council or deputy (Chairman and Member Climate Change Champion)
 - 1.2 Cabinet Member for Environment or deputy
 - 1.3 Cabinet Member for Planning or deputy
 - 1.4 Three other members nominated by group leaders
 - 1.5 Corporate Director (HDC Officer Climate Change Champion)
 - 1.6 Corporate Director (Partnerships Climate Change Champion)
 - 1.7 Head of Technical Services and Environmental Maintenance
 - 1.8 HLSP representative for Climate Change
 - 1.9 Head of Planning and Environmental Regulation
2. For the purposes of attendance at meetings all elected members of the Council and any other officers relevant to the work of the panel will be encouraged to attend and contribute to the work of the Panel.
3. A Vice Chairman will be appointed by the Panel to support the Panel in its work.

Voting

1. The Panel intends to seek consensus on all issues, however voting when required at meetings of the Panel will be on the basis of one core member: one vote.
2. The Chairman will have one normal vote and a casting vote if necessary.

Performance Management

1. The Panel will develop a Work Programme with specific actions and outcomes and will measure and manage its performance against this work programme on a monthly basis.