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TR42	The Authority's response to Climate Change	
Service Area	Policy & Community Services	
Lead Officer	Liz Green	
Cabinet Member	Portfolio Policy	
Description	<p>The Council signed the original Nottingham Declaration and is to consider in due course whether to sign the proposed Nottingham Declaration 2, which will require the Council to do 'all that is in its power' to reduce its impact on climate change. The current economic climate means changes will only be implemented when it can be shown that the investment will not only reduce emissions, but can also lead to financial savings, i.e. reduce use of energy. The risks to the Council's response to climate change are:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Failing to respond to Nottingham Declaration 2 principles - Failing to use more sustainable energy sources - Failing to reduce CO2 emissions <p>This would lead to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The reputation of the Council being negatively affected - Continued reliance on fossil fuels that will become increasingly expensive 	
Opportunity	<p>Reducing the Council's impact on the environment, improve sustainability of energy and water sources, and reduce use and costs of non-renewable energy sources. Provide evidence of leadership for individuals or other organisations wishing to improve their green credentials, i.e. increased recycling rates, waste minimisation.</p>	
Nature of Risk	<p>Strategic – Sustainability /Green Issues Operational – reviewing the way we deliver services to consider the impact on and by the environment</p>	
Consequences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Council's carbon footprint does not reduce - Not fulfilling our commitment to the Nottingham Declaration - not delivering on our promise to the public - Waste is not minimised - Additional costs for providing front line services, e.g. provide more advice to the public, more frequent maintenance of council assets, sustained levels of waste to landfill (particularly food waste and resultant methane emissions) - Council services are unable to respond to demands - Inability to deliver against the Council's priority - Loss of reputation 	
Work Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building awareness of Climate Change for Officers and Members • Home working • Cycle buy – although a low take up 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move to one building • Reduction in the number of computer servers • New roofing at the North Herts Leisure Centre in Letchworth - upgrading the insulation and reducing heating costs • Reducing courier service • New printers to reduce waste paper • HEEP (Herts Essex Energy Partnership) signposting for residents • Warm Front Grants signposting for residents • Improved energy improvements to Letchworth pool, showers and NHDC office toilets • Supported sustainable planning projects • Risk Assessments 'to service delivery arising from climate change' by service areas completed • NHDC Waste services recycled 50% of residents waste in 2010/11 and generated £1.02m of revenue from the sale of recyclables and recycling credits for the council • Commercial recycling trial will be launched to businesses in Hitchin and Letchworth in 2012 • Flats recycling scheme continues to grow • On-street recycling trial in Letchworth underway • Schools recycling continues to grow • Office recycling commenced March 2011 and up to 31 August 2011 has reduced waste and increased revenue from the sale of recyclables • A Senior Planning Officer has attended 3 day training sessions at no charge to NHDC. This set of sessions has reinforced knowledge on Climate Change issues and the information will be used to help write our planning policies
Ongoing Work	Corporate Climate Change Working Group continues to meet quarterly to drive the Strategy Work to prepare the NHDC Travel Plan continues

Sub Action	Status Icon	Action Due Date	Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Completed
			Agree priority actions for climate change action plan.	31-Mar-2011	Yes
			Review climate change working group.	30-Sep-2011	Yes
			Evaluate impact of activities carried out by service areas and revise strategy accordingly.	31-Dec-2011	Yes
			Report progress against plan	31-Dec-2011	Yes
			Report progress against plan	31-Mar-2012	No
			Refresh Climate Change Strategy	31-May-2012	No