


**Report of[x1]:** Head of Environmental Development

**To[x2]:** Executive Board


**Date[x3]:** 11 June 2008


**Item No[EM4]:**


**Title of Report [x5]: Climate Change Adaptation Plan**



**Summary and Recommendations**



**purpose of report[x6]:** Oxford City Council needs to develop  Climate Change Adaptation Plan to complement the existing strong programme of work focused on mitigation actions, encompassed within the Climate Change Action Plan, as well as comply with the full range of newly introduced climate change legislation/performance indicators.




**decision[x7]: Yes**


**Board member[x8]:** Cllr Tanner

**Report Approved by**  
Jeremy Thomas for Legal & Democratic Services, Chris Kaye for Finance & Asset Management.

**Policy Framework[x9]:** Carbon Management Strategy and Implementation Plan.



**Recommendations[x10]:** (1) To note that the Head of Environmental Development will carry out preliminary work to produce a framework for a Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the City Council's sphere of operations and assets.

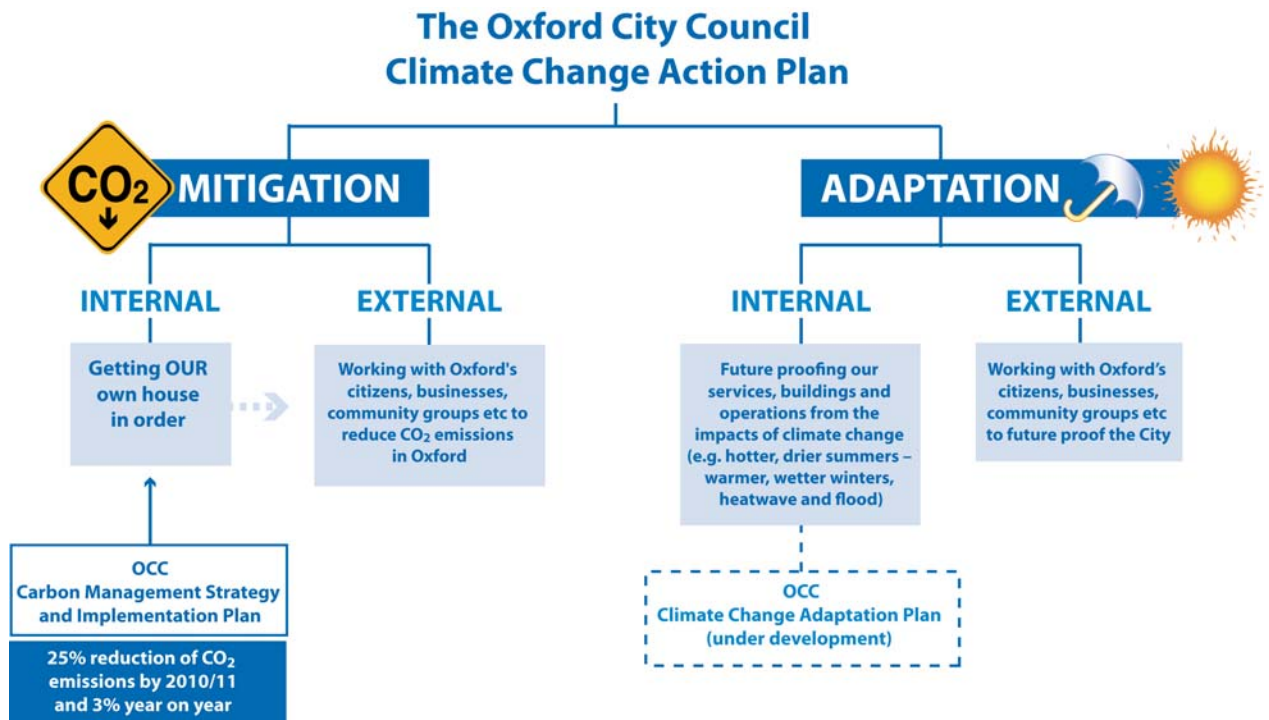
 To return to a meeting of the Board in six months time with a progress update on the Climate Change Action Plan and within that progress towards a Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

### Background

1. The main focus of current climate change related work within the City Council has been on mitigation actions. These are actions to reduce

carbon emissions from the City's operations and assets. This work includes the establishment of a Carbon Management Strategy and Implementation Plan (SIP) that will address mitigation internally and reduce internal carbon dioxide emissions associated with its operations and assets. Within the mitigation role there is also a strong programme of outreach work helping businesses, communities and households to reduce carbon dioxide emissions across Oxford City.

- The City Council also has a key role in ensuring that its community is sustainable in the face of a changing climate. The main impacts of climate change are likely to be milder and wetter winters, warmer and drier summers and an increased number of extreme weather events. The City will be affected in many different ways, as will many Council services. Adaptation actions are those that aim to achieve the future proofing of services, buildings and operations from extreme weather events.
- The establishment of a Climate Change Adaptation Plan to complement existing mitigation efforts is currently a missing part of the Council's overall approach to climate change. The chart below depicts the strategic fit of mitigation and adaptation approaches within the overall climate change action plan.



### Developing Adaptation

- Regardless of any mitigation (e.g. reducing carbon emissions) activities we undertake today, the science indicates that we are already committed to significant climate change (e.g. temperature increases) over the next 30-40 years that will significantly affect weather patterns including in the Oxford region.

5. It is now prudent to apply a risk management approach at the Council to assess our vulnerability to climate change, possible opportunities that may ensue and how it will affect our work programmes. This will enable us to plan and prepare more efficiently and effectively so that we can continue to perform our responsibilities and duties as a Local Authority into the future.
6. Addressing climate change adaptation will also help us improve financial and resource efficiencies by being proactive rather than reactive to the increased likelihood of extreme weather events and changing conditions.

### **Performance Indicators**

7. The Council is subject to new key performance indicators (KPIs) which relate to both mitigation and adaptation targets. The UK government is currently developing and implementing an adaptation policy for the UK (Adaptation Policy Framework) that will identify priority areas for action, for example protecting major infrastructure and ensuring sustainable communities.
8. The UK Climate Change Bill, currently going through the parliamentary process, will provide a legal framework to manage future emissions and will introduce a new system of Government reporting to Parliament including climate change adaptation indicators. LAA2 targets and other local indicators also have climate change related targets associated with them.
9. The City Council has signed up to the Nottingham Declaration in which the Council has pledged (along with hundreds of other LAs) to develop its approach to climate change adaptation.

### **Climate Change Adaptation Plan**

10. Implementation of a Climate Change Adaptation Plan at OCC will set out a corporate response and pathways to be pursued by each department. It will:
  - outline how Oxford City Council could commit to developing adaptive capacity and delivering adaptation actions across the City Council in the Corporate Plan.
  - formulate corporate adaptation principles that will apply to all departments (e.g. in response to flooding) re-emphasising the importance of partnership working and risk assessments.
  - incorporate climate change adaptation into risk management and business continuity functions – in an integrated way.

- support departments on an ongoing basis, so that ongoing risk assessment and appraisal of adaptation options occurs.

### **Financial Implications**

11. The devising of an Adaptation Plan may require some re-prioritising of appropriate staffing resources. There is sufficient resource within Environmental Development to carry out preliminary work towards production of a Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

### **Recommendations**

12. (1) To note that the Head of Environmental Development will carry out preliminary work to produce a framework for a Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the City Council's sphere of operations and assets.  
(2) To return to a meeting of the Board in six months time with a progress update on the Climate Change Action Plan and within that progress towards a Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

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**Background papers**[x12]: None

