



## Learning Brief 4: Bringing Community Planning Partners into your Council's Climate Change Declaration

### Introduction

The Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN) exists to support local authorities working together for a sustainable Scotland. SSN works towards this aim by providing Scottish local authorities with an effective support and improvement service on sustainable development, allowing information and learning to be shared.<sup>1</sup>

This learning brief has been developed with the Scottish Borders Council, to share information on their successful route to involving Community Planning Partners in the commitments made in Scotland's Climate Change Declaration<sup>2</sup>.

The priority audience for this resource is SSN members and their local authority colleagues. It will also be of relevance to anyone working in an organisation that forms part of a community planning partnership and wishes to take action on the causes and impacts of climate change in concert with their local Council.

### The Development Phase, or 'How it Happened':

The Scottish Borders Council (SBC) was the first Council to sign up to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration (SCCD); the formal signing took place on **16<sup>th</sup> Jan 2007**.

Shortly after signing, SBC began a dialogue with their New Ways partners (the Scottish Border's Community Planning Partners) to establish whether a wider response to the Declaration commitments was possible. The New Ways Project Team considered the issue in **June 2007**. A paper was tabled at a project team meeting explaining the background to the SCCD and the commitments made by SBC. The paper also outlined the implications and commitments required for a partner choosing to sign the SCCD. A recommendation that the New Ways partners sign a Community Planning SCCD was put to the group.

Meanwhile, in spring 2007, the Scottish Local Authority Climate Change Programme (SLACCP) Development Group was in the process of agreeing a partnership version of the SCCD, which could be used by councils to encourage sign-up by Community Planning Partners. This was understood to be a useful route to Councils meeting SCCD commitment 5, '*We commit to.... Encourage and work with others in our local community to take action to adapt to the impact of climate change, to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions and to make public their commitment to action.*'

<sup>1</sup> For more information on the Sustainable Scotland Network, please see [www.sustainable-scotland.net](http://www.sustainable-scotland.net)

<sup>2</sup> For more information on Scotland's Climate Change Declaration, please go to [www.sustainable-scotland.net/climatechange](http://www.sustainable-scotland.net/climatechange)

On the **5<sup>th</sup> October 2007** at the New Ways Climate Change Conference in Kelso four members of the New Ways partnership formally signed up to the Scottish Borders Declaration. The partners were Borders College, NHS Borders, Scottish Enterprise Borders and VisitScotland Borders.

## **The Delivery Phase, or From Commitment to Action:**

Since the partners signed up to support the Declaration attention has been focused on delivery of the commitments, and detailed discussions have been held with all of the signatories to agree on an implementation process.

Much work is currently being done to address the climate change threat, including, for example, a waste to energy plant at Borders General Hospital, providing energy for four months of the year; Scottish Borders Council initiatives on IT 'virtualisation' (which essentially takes standalone server and PC hardware as well as underlying software and "abstracts" them as "virtual machines", saving money and CO2 emissions); fleet tyre recycling and LED street sign lighting. All of the signatories have some level of internal action plan in place.

At a New Ways Community Planning Partnership meeting in **early March 2008**, David Hume (SBC Chief Executive) spoke to a paper stating that, along with the four New Ways Partners signed up to supporting the Declaration, all partners will effectively support the Declaration through the Single Outcome Agreement process, which includes commitments on climate change action. At the meeting David Hume reinforced that meaningful and coherent action is required to deliver the commitments.

Due to current organisational change within several partner agencies (Borders College, Scottish Enterprise Borders and VisitScotland Borders felt that it would be imprudent to take forward any substantial additional activities prior to the outcome of internal reorganisations), a decision was taken that SBC and NHS Borders would kick start the process, jointly leading on a range of carbon reduction issues within their own organisations. The implication is that these can be built upon by the other signatories once their internal reorganisations have come to a conclusion. David Hume asked that SBC and NHS Borders gain support for the joint proposals outlined in the paper, and emphasised that the proposals would involve a financial contribution.

The paper tabled by David Hume outlined the following proposals for SBC and NHS Borders in taking forward the Declaration:

**Scottish Borders Council Response:** *Scottish Borders Council is currently finalising a Strategic Implementation Plan (the product of a year's participation in the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme). This work fully complements the Council's existing Corporate Environmental Programme, and has helped the Council to establish its organisation's carbon footprint and will enable clear targets to be set for emissions reductions over the next 10 years.*

*The areas to be addressed by the programme are:*

- **Transport** – complete review of staff travel and fleet management
- **Waste management** – minimisation, recycling and diversion from landfill
- **Buildings management** – more efficient use of heating, lighting and office equipment
- **Street lighting** – review of management of installed equipment

*Underpinning all of the above is the need to raise staff awareness and encourage engagement in carbon reduction activity.*

**NHS Borders Response:** *NHS Borders are committed to the programme commenced in 1996, by the NHS in Scotland, to reduce energy consumption by 2% per annum and is working with the*

*Carbon Trust from May 2008 (Carbon Management Programme) to enable establishment of its organisation's carbon footprint to assist in continuing to achieve this target.*

*The NHS Borders future programme includes:*

**Procurement** – work with NHS National Procurement with regard to sustainable purchases

- **Capital Building Projects** – work with contractors to ensure maximum use of recycled materials in the build process
- **Waste Management** – decrease waste produced, improve waste segregation and increase recycling
- **Transport** – review staff travel and fleet management
- **Collaboration** – work with the New Ways partners to increase education and knowledge

In addition to these separate statements of intent, the two organisations have pledged to address some priority actions as joint measures: *Priority Joint Actions for SBC & NHS Borders 2008-09*

- **Staff Awareness and Engagement** – joint campaign, jointly funded to provide additional resource to begin April 2008
- **Green/Climate Friendly Communication (inc. Staff Travel)** – joint campaign, trial of dedicated/subsidised travel options to both main sites (SBC HQ and Borders General Hospital), investment in alternative communication modes e.g. video links, teleconferences, etc.
- **Protocol on Local Sustainable Procurement Options** – for items not on national contracts
- **Green/Climate Change Budgeting** – agreed approach to budget planning including spend-to-save allocations for energy efficiency, water management, etc, and assessing the environmental implications of budget decisions – a form of carbon budgeting.
- **Large project assessments** – assessing climate change impacts/effects of all large scale joint projects and committing to implement mitigation and adaptation actions.

## **Next steps: Meeting the new Pledges:**

In order to enable meaningful action towards these targets, the vital recommendation was made to agree to pursue a means of supporting this new/additional activity in the form of joint planning and budgeting.

The paper also included a recommendation that local indicators were used within the Single Outcome Agreement to monitor this activity against the national outcome: *We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production* (national outcome Number 14). The development of the SOA (including actions and indicators on climate change) is in process and the implications of this for the climate change commitments made by the New Ways partners has yet to be confirmed.

It was agreed that the once approved at SBC and NHS Borders, a list of actions to take forward the commitments would be agreed by the New Ways Project Team in the summer 2008.

**“By incorporating carbon management issues throughout the New Ways Single Outcome Agreement process, we are able to ensure that they are delivered as core business for all of our community planning partners. This is a substantial step forward and a huge opportunity to embed environmental responsibilities into everyone’s job.”**

***David Hume, Chief Executive, Scottish Borders Council.***