

## Camden Local Strategic Partnership

<b>Meeting</b>	4 July 2008
<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Proposals for a Camden climate change alliance</b>
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<b>Purpose</b>	This report describes proposals being developed by the council following the LSP's support for a climate change alliance at its recent seminar on sustainability.
<b>Recommendations</b>	The LSP is asked to endorse the proposals for a climate change alliance in Camden.

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 At the LSP seminar on 15 April 2008 entitled "Making Camden a Low Carbon, Low Waste Borough", it was agreed that proposals for a climate change alliance focusing on practical issues, and with light governance arrangements, would be brought to the LSP meeting on 4 July.
- 1.2 The idea of the climate change alliance was greeted enthusiastically by the 40 organisations present at the Camden Business Summit on 11 June. Feedback from businesses at the event suggests that they would welcome the opportunity to have their efforts to tackle climate change at a local level externally validated. Echoing comments from businesses at the LSP seminar, they were clear that there should be opportunities for businesses to take the lead wherever possible.
- 1.3 This report provides proposals on the formation of a climate change alliance consisting of public, private and voluntary organisations based within London Borough of Camden. The purpose of the partnership would be to reduce carbon emissions produced from non-residential sources, therefore helping to contribute towards the LAA borough wide reduction target of 8.5% by 2010 and any future targets. Organisations joining the partnership would sign up to joint targets and would receive support to help them achieve these.

## 2 Context

### ***Relevant targets in Camden's LAA***

- 2.1 The LSP has included National Indicators 186 (per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the local authority area) and 191 (residual household waste per household) in the Local Area Agreement. For NI186, we have agreed a target to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 8.5% by 2010 (based on a 2005 baseline). This target was

informed by analysis undertaken by consultants SEA-Renue on measures and resources required to achieve a range of possible targets and was subject to robust negotiations with Government Office for London.

### ***Existing practice***

- 2.2 In 2007, LB Islington established a Climate Change Partnership, which adopted an emissions reduction target across its members of 15% by 2010, which would equate to an overall borough wide reduction of 1.76%. In year 1, the partnership achieved an overall reduction of 7% and increased its membership to over 100 organisations. The success of this scheme in recruiting organisations, gathering baseline information, achieving reductions and establishing a collaborative borough wide movement to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions has provided useful learning for neighbouring boroughs on how to progress this type of initiative.
- 2.3 The City of London is also establishing a Climate Change Pledge, partnering with the Pure Trust which aims to encourage firms to take a responsible attitude to managing their carbon emissions. The firms who sign up to the pledge have agreed to measure their carbon footprints, and to reduce them through energy efficiency measures and the offsetting of a proportion of their unavoidable emissions. All signatories to the pledge have agreed to publish their carbon footprints and to monitor and report on progress. The pledge is due to be launched in late June 2008.
- 2.4 Better Climate for Camden, a London Development Agency funded environmental business support programme hosted by LB Camden was launched in October 2006 and has to date supported 120 organisations in Camden to improve their environmental performance. Support has been provided through on-site visits, events and workshops on a range of sustainability issues including energy, green procurement, staff awareness schemes, reducing waste and using greener modes of transport. The first Better Climate for Camden annual awards held in February 2008 proved extremely popular and recognised the achievements of the businesses involved in what will become an annual awards ceremony. The LDA funding stream for this 3-year programme ceases in April 2009 and continuation funding is currently being sought from both the LDA and the European Regional Development Fund, with the latter requiring a greater focus on small and medium enterprises.
- 2.5 The idea for the climate change alliance was discussed on 18 June at the Better Climate for Camden Advisory Group meeting, composed of local business leaders, environmental experts and representatives from local business partnerships. The group agreed that the scale of business support in Camden needed to increase beyond the 150 businesses targeted through the LDA funded project and also supported the idea of committing to targets and a measurement and monitoring process.

### **3 Proposal for how the Camden climate change alliance would operate**

#### ***Membership and governance***

- 3.1 It is proposed that the climate change alliance would be independent of the LSP, although it is hoped that all LSP members will become partners. It is suggested that a steering group is formed drawn from staff in the organisations responsible for facilities/energy/environmental management. The steering group would probably need to meet on a monthly basis but meetings would become less frequent over time, becoming quarterly as the alliance matures. It is proposed that progress with the alliance is reported to the LSP on a 6-monthly basis.
- 3.2 It is envisaged that the alliance would initially aim to engage and recruit the borough's largest organisations as a priority, but without excluding any smaller organisations which are interested from the initial phase.

#### ***Scope of the partnership***

- 3.3 A key early consideration is whether the partnership should focus narrowly on climate change mitigation or on broader sustainability issues such as climate change adaptation, waste, water, food, biodiversity and sustainable procurement. It is suggested that many firms will be interested to work on the broader agenda, and indeed this has been the experience of the Better Climate for Camden initiative. We therefore propose that the alliance is implemented in a phased approach, with an initial focus on carbon reduction as this will make the biggest impact on this agenda
- 3.4 It is further proposed that Camden's existing successful business brand - *Better Climate for Camden* - would be an appropriate name for the partnership as it is a known brand with a constituency of around 120 businesses.

#### ***Baselines, target-setting and reporting***

- 3.5 Another key decision is whether the partnership should agree a common method for establishing baselines and target-setting and whether progress against these should be made public. Making emissions data publicly available may be a barrier to some organisations signing up and an alternative might be to publish aggregate data for the partnership. However, both the Islington and City of London schemes have adopted an approach to set and report against baselines publicly and this would clearly give the Camden alliance the greatest credibility. This is therefore the approach we propose.
- 3.6 It is proposed that the tool being used by LB Camden to establish its baseline for another national indicator - NI185 (CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from local authority operations) - is used to establish baselines for partnership members in a

consistent manner. LB Camden would be able to offer advice to alliance members in establishing baselines using this tool.

- 3.7 Targets could take a number of forms including annual reduction targets, 3-5 year reduction targets or LAA time-period targets. It is proposed that the targets adopted by the alliance would be voluntary. The purpose of the alliance is to encourage organisations within the borough to work together towards a shared goal and target on climate change.

### **Resources**

- 3.8 LB Camden's Sustainability Team would be able to support the establishment, management and ongoing co-ordination of the alliance and the steering group would identify any further resources required during its initial meetings.

### **Proposed timetable including launch**

- 3.9 Our proposal is that the alliance would hold a soft launch in October 2008 focusing on our commitment, the aims and the founding partners involved. Baselines and targets would then be set and further partners recruited over the following few months before a full launch in April 2009. A timetable of partnership activities is set out below:

<b>2008</b>	
Last week Jul	First meeting of the steering group with representatives from LSP member organisation
1 <sup>st</sup> week Sep	Second meeting of steering group
Last week Sep	Soft launch with founding partners
Oct	Recruitment of further organisations to alliance Training in base-lining and data gathering to members
Nov	
Dec	
<b>2009</b>	
Jan	2008 baseline capture for all partners Target setting
Feb	
Mar	Launch of alliance Beginning of partnership activities
Apr	

### **Activities of the alliance**

- 3.10 Camden's Sustainability Team would provide and co-ordinate a range of support and activities for partnership members including:
- Site visits, audits and action plans

- Case studies
- Fact sheets
- Quarterly events
- Workshops
- An annual awards ceremony

3.11 Better Climate for Camden currently administers a small grant scheme funded by the LDA. The alliance could also administer, subject to external resources being identified, a small capital grants scheme to enable smaller businesses to make efficiency improvements such as upgrading boilers, installing insulation, switching to low-energy lighting and installing local level renewables.

#### **4 Conclusion and next steps**

4.1 The LSP is asked to endorse these initial proposals for the Camden climate change alliance and provide comment and feedback in order to help shape its future direction, activities and governance.

4.2 The Council's Sustainability Team will contact LSP members asking for nominations to join the Steering Group, which will help to develop the proposals further.