

Delivering Low Carbon Growth in Cambridgeshire

Alex Plant

**Chief Executive,
Cambridgeshire Horizons**



Cambridgeshire
Horizons
driving forward sustainable communities



Policy Context

International Policy:

- Kyoto Protocol & Bali

National Policy

- Stern Report
- Eddington Transport Study
- Towards a Sustainable
- Transport Strategy (TaSTS)
- Code for Sustainable Homes
- Climate Change Bill



Transport Economic Evidence Study (TEES) – East of England



- Our own analysis shows transport as hardest area to address in carbon terms
- EEDA's TEES report takes Eddington principles forward – examines transport impact on productivity, CO2 emissions and employment – across all modes of travel
- Considers wider costs to the economy of transport constraints – stops short of pricing in carbon costs – suggests emissions up by 5% by 2021 under BAU
- Overall productivity losses from congestion are massive - @ £1bn per annum to UK economy – and these concentrated in London Arc and Cambridge
- Lower carbon outcomes push schemes up the list (so rail scores highly)
- Provides far better evidence base for regional decision-making and prioritisation

Regional & Local Responses


- Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) & Regional Economic Strategy (RES)
- Local Transport Strategy & Transport Innovation Fund
- LAA Targets
- County & District Council Climate Change Strategies



Horizons' Strategies, Studies and Reports

- Cambridgeshire Quality Charter for Growth
- Carbon Appraisal of the Long Term Delivery Plan (2008): Reviews carbon impact of infrastructure and identifies low carbon growth scenarios
- Horizons' Climate Change Report to Board includes:

 Renewable Energy Planning

 Water Services Infrastructure Planning

 Green Infrastructure Strategy

- Cambridgeshire Design Guide
- Sustainable Construction in Cambridgeshire – a good practice guide



FINAL DRAFT REPORT
Carbon Appraisal of the Cambridge Sub-Region
Long Term Delivery Plan

Prepared for: Cambridgeshire "Future"
By: ESC Ltd



Climate Change Action Plan for Growth



Strategic

- Quality Charter - Promoting the 4 'C' s
- Influencing RSS – location of new developments and locating jobs and people together
- Developing an Integrated Development Plan – addressing capital needs to deliver economic, environmental and social objectives
- Investment in low carbon infrastructure through new funding models e.g. variable tariff, Environment Bank, etc
- Consider possible policy challenges to be faced to enable medium/long term aspirations to be reached – including for transport strategies in light of ESD work and TEES, and for land use, planning and energy policies
- Supporting Sub-regional Low Carbon Strategies - e.g. LAA targets

Climate Change Action Plan for Growth



Infrastructure Provision

Energy

- Renewable Energy – establishing social, technical and economic viability of Biomass Combined Heat, Cooling and Power (CCHP) Plants; Role of Public Buildings
- Procurement - Anchor Loads – identifying how 600,000m² of new public buildings programmed for the Growth Sites can support the viability of new renewable heating and power schemes
- Energy Efficiency – for new homes the Code for SH will deliver high energy efficiency. The greater challenge is improving the energy efficiency of existing homes and buildings

Climate Change Action Plan for Growth



Water

- Water Cycle Strategies identify water services infrastructure for growth and the challenge of delivering low carbon infrastructure solutions

Transport

- Public transport improvements e.g. Guided Bus
- Reducing car use e.g. Walking and Cycling Strategies for new developments plus locating jobs, facilities and services accessible to people
- Appropriately located developments

Climate Change Action Plan for Growth



Sustainable Construction

- Improving skills e.g SMARTLIFE, National Academy
- Develop zero-carbon methodologies e.g. pilot projects

Waste

- Reducing and re-using construction waste

Green Infrastructure

- Reviewing the GIS to strengthen the role it can play in terms of Climate Change adaptation e.g. strategic flood risk and carbon sequestration
- Invest in large scale GI Project

The **BIGGEST CHALLENGES**

Behavioural Change

- New communities will be provided with the opportunity to adapt to low carbon living
- Showing the 'Art of the Possible'
- Transferring knowledge gained from delivering low carbon new communities to the challenges of reducing carbon emissions from existing communities
- Transport probably the toughest nut to crack – ability to travel has huge social and economic benefits but no technology yet exists that allows for longer-distance travel without some CO2 penalty
- Looking and learning Programme with the Quality Charter

The Context for Today

- None of us has experienced a low carbon future
- Many of us may fear or feel uncomfortable with what we understand a low carbon future will be like to live in
- Today is about sharing our understanding of what it could be like and what we are doing to shape this new future
- We have a unique opportunity to shape this in Cambridgeshire, given the scale of growth we are expecting, and the innovation and energy of a growing group of people across the public, private, voluntary and academic sectors all keen to develop workable low-carbon solutions
- What we would like you to take away today is a sense of excitement and interest about our future low carbon communities