

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE HORIZONS**

**Agenda Item No: 12(c)**

**Cambridge Climate Change Charter and 10:10**

*To:* **Cambridgeshire Horizons Board**

*Date:* **23<sup>rd</sup> March 2010**

*From:* **Delivery Manager**

*Purpose:* **To propose Horizons Board become signatories to the Cambridge Climate Change Charter and 10:10 campaign.**

**To identify the basis for development of a carbon management plan for Cambridgeshire Horizons.**

*Recommendation:* **The Board is invited to:**

- a) Formally sign up to the Cambridge Climate Change Charter and 10:10 campaign.**
- b) Support the proposals for the work up of a carbon management plan to be used as a tool for future infrastructure prioritisation.**

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## **1.0 Purpose**

Demonstrable public commitment to carbon savings is now an integral part of any organisation's corporate responsibility. Cambridgeshire Horizons has already undertaken a number of activities to understand its environmental impact and explore ways of mitigating this. There is however a need for Horizons to demonstrate its commitment to carbon reduction both in how it manages its own business and also in its role delivering sustainable communities.

This report identifies the local Cambridge Climate Change Charter and the national 10:10 campaign as two important mechanisms for Cambridgeshire Horizons to sign up to.

## **2.0 CAMBRIDGE CLIMATE CHANGE CHARTER**

2.1 The charter is co-ordinated by Cambridge City Council and has already been signed by a variety of local businesses and public organisations. It is a voluntary pledge, demonstrating an organisation's high-level commitment to take action against the impacts of climate change.

2.2 There are a number of key elements to signing the charter, as described below:

- Baseline organisational carbon emissions
- Develop an action plan and set targets to reduce emissions
- Publicise this work and identify opportunities to work with other organisations

2.3 The actions in the charter are not statutory, but by signing up it is the responsibility of organisations to monitor their progress and publicise their activities as they see fit.

## **3.0 10:10 CAMPAIGN**

3.1 10:10 is a national campaign encouraging business, organisations and individuals to cut 10% of their carbon emissions by 2010. In practice this requires organisations to reduce their carbon footprint by at least three percent in a single year. The campaign is being run by a number of organisations including the Carbon Trust, Energy Savings Trust and the Guardian. It is a voluntary campaign and contains no obligatory commitments.

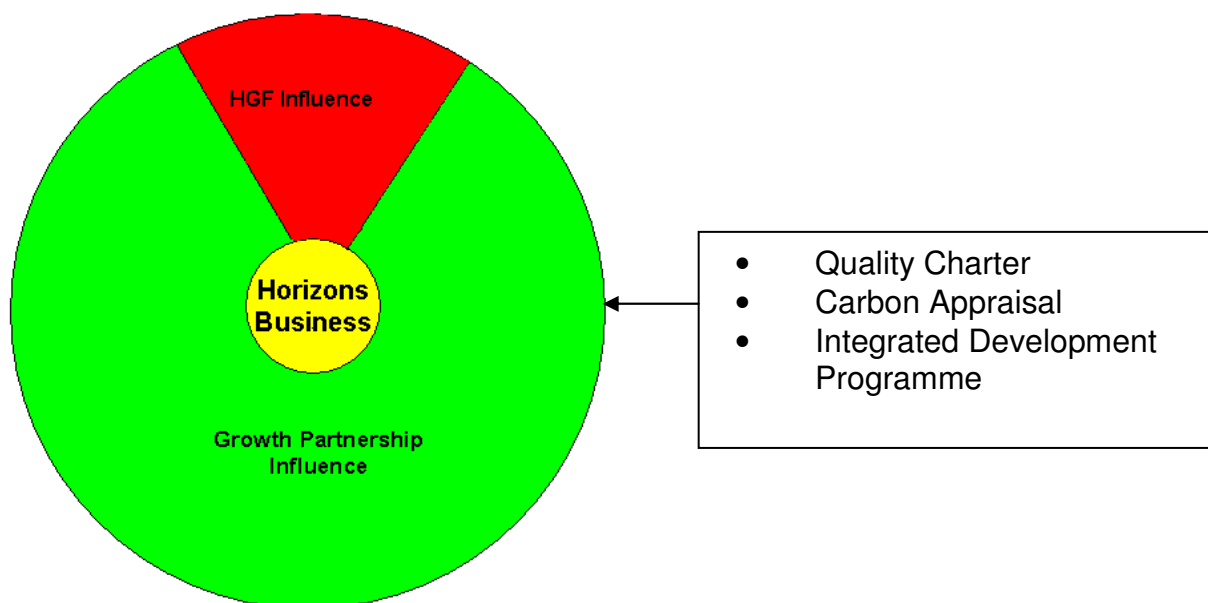
3.2 The campaign focuses on four main areas of carbon emissions: grid electricity, on-site use of fossil fuels, vehicle fuel use, and air travel. Emissions from other activities can also be counted if deemed necessary.

3.3 Like the Cambridge Climate Change Charter, providing a baseline of carbon emissions is a recommended first step. This should be used to inform proposals for carbon reduction that can then be monitored over the course of a year. Companies that sign up will be listed on the campaign website and are encouraged to use the 10:10 logo on public-facing documents.

- 3.4 Both campaigns require similar activities (baselining, actions to reduce carbon, publicity, etc) and could easily be undertaken as a single exercise. Cambridgeshire Horizons has already measured its baseline carbon footprint
- 3.5 Publicising this work is a central part of both campaigns. We will therefore discuss this work with partners, encourage all staff to carry out carbon saving activities, and provide updates to Horizons board on our progress in reducing emissions.

#### 4.0 What we are already doing?

- 4.1 There are four key areas of work that Horizons are developing as part of its carbon reduction commitments:
- Establishing a baseline for Horizons business carbon footprint. This work was undertaken by Cambridge Architectural Research August 2008. A footprint of 44.8 tonnes was established and an action plan to reduce emissions identified.
  - Supporting staff learning and development to understanding carbon footprinting and its relevance to the organisation and its work. This includes the Quality Charter learning programming but also work with Horizons through Cambridge Carbon Footprint started in June 2008.
  - Understanding the Growth Agenda carbon footprint through the Carbon Appraisal of the Long Term Delivery Plan ( June 2008)
  - Influencing the Housing Growth Fund investments to support carbon reductions and using the Integrated Development Programme (December 2009) to raise the low carbon infrastructure investment opportunities.



The diagram above shows the key areas of work to influence carbon reduction

- Business Carbon Footprint – in yellow
- Control/Influence into the HGF funds – in red
- Influence with the Growth Agenda and Partnership – in green

## 5. Growth Agenda – carbon footprint

- 5.1 Understanding our organisational carbon footprint is only the first step towards achieving significant carbon savings. More substantial carbon savings can be achieved through the growth partnership delivering low carbon infrastructure. The Carbon Appraisal of the Long Term Delivery Plan estimated that without substantial investment in zero or low carbon infrastructure, the planned growth for the Cambridge sub-region<sup>1</sup> would lead to an additional 0.5 million tonnes per annum by 2031. The carbon impact of infrastructure is also considered in the Integrated Development Programme for Cambridgeshire, which examines the carbon impact of each package of projects, in addition to listing climate change-specific projects.
- 5.2 Future infrastructure plans must continue this trend and ensure carbon impacts are fully considered and understood. In future this understanding will need to be developed towards prioritisation. Use of Housing Growth Fund is the most significant area of influence that Horizons may be able to offer to the growth partnership. A discussion will need to take place on how future Housing Growth Funds and other available funds may support those projects that lower carbon impacts. Whilst some projects that result in an increase in carbon emissions (e.g. road construction) will still be necessary to deliver growth, it is hoped that overall carbon emissions will be considered as part of the decision making process for funding, with greater priority given to those projects with a potential to reduce the carbon impact of growth.
- 5.3 Housing Growth Fund is the area where Horizons can have the greatest impact in de-carbonising the growth agenda; wider overall impacts can only be achieved through the collective work of the growth partnership as a whole. The Cambridgeshire Quality Charter for Growth, which all local authority partners have signed up to, sets clear parameters for delivering sustainable growth, with climate change as one of its central components. A number of further works sit beneath this, providing a more detailed analysis of climate change and its impact on the growth agenda, including the Carbon Appraisal of the Long Term Delivery Plan and the consideration of carbon within the Integrated Development Programme.
- 5.4 It is vital that the Horizons Board starts to consider how to further embed climate change in all work relating to growth. Under discussion is the idea to develop a carbon management plan, this will clearly outline the carbon impact of the growth agenda and identify where and how measures to reduce emissions may come forward.

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<sup>1</sup> The study was commissioned before Horizons' remit became countywide and therefore only considers the Cambridge sub-region

## 6. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The carbon impacts of the growth agenda are now well understood, translating this understanding into action is the next, most crucial challenge. Horizons will demonstrate its commitment to tackling climate change through signing up to the 10:10 and the Cambridge City Climate Change Charter, and the board be used to monitor progress and hold the organisation to account in delivering against these targets. However this is only one part of a much larger challenge.
- 6.3 Achieving major carbon savings will require the support and commitment of all partners. The Carbon Appraisal of the Long Term Delivery Plan and the IDP have provided a starting point for assessing the carbon impacts of different infrastructure options, but your views on whether a carbon management plan to identify the carbon impacts of the growth agenda and how to influence these will be helpful.

The Board are asked to:

- Endorse Horizons' signing up to the Cambridge Climate Change Charter and 10:10 campaign.
- Support the proposals for the work up of a carbon management plan to be used as a tool for future infrastructure prioritisation.