

RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY REPORT

	Recommendation	Lead	Activity Currently Taking Place (& comments)
1.	We recognise the value of the work undertaken by Transition organisations and recommend that the County Council identifies a named senior officer to act as a contact point for Transition and other similar groups. [para 30]	PEP	Request clarification over seniority of officer contact required. Sustainability Team (PEP) are members of Malvern, Worcester & Bromsgrove Transition steering groups. Sustainability Officer met with Evesham Transition group start of October. Sustainability Advisor for Children's Services is building links between local Transition groups and local eco-schools, hosts joint Transition group events at BishopsWood Centre and is to host transition group training.
2.	We believe that if the County Council owns any land which might be suitable for local schemes, or for use (for example) as allotments, it should investigate further the possibility of making it available to volunteer groups (who could run their own scheme). [para 30]	Corporate Services	Agree in principle but think there are few if any landholdings not ear marked for development. Elgar House (ACS) has a demonstration garden & is running a staff gardening club. ACS could consider volunteer groups through social enterprise. Some schools already rent allotments. Countryside Services (Env Services) have assisted a number of schools, have developed a demonstration garden at Worcester Woods Countryside Centre & run a staff gardening club. WCC's website promotes promotes 'grow your own' via the Green Directory
3.	We recommend that the County Council should, like Somerset, formally commit to supporting and promoting transition and similar green groups. [para 33]	Cabinet	This would need to be a decision for members. The Council is already helping support Transition groups, is increasing emphasis on reducing fossil fuel use both in it's own operations and countywide, is working to support local businesses and offers grants to voluntary groups.
4.	The Transition movement handbook (and other books of similar ilk) should be available in libraries (at the time of writing, only one was available for loan in Kidderminster). [para 34]	Adult & Community Services	ACS have made the Transition handbook available at all libraries.
5.	We believe the Earthship project will help raise awareness, particularly among young people, of what can be done to help make buildings energy efficient and tackle climate change. We therefore recommend that the County Council should offer in kind support, such as printing and	Corporate Services Children's Services	Work already progressing. WCC Design Unit (Corporate Services) are working with The Hive. Links have also been established with New College, Worcester, a potential site proposed & there is now possibility of funding. A trial build took place in the grounds of Bishops Wood centre in July 2009. Adult & Community Services may be able to contribute to this type of project.

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	promotional material, as well as consider providing officer time from relevant directorates to help with, for example, finding sources of funding and completing applications. [para 38]		
6.	We recommend that the Council takes every opportunity to use the term climate change as an alternative to 'sustainability', e.g. Sustainability Stewards could become Climate Change Stewards (or Champions). [para 41]	PEP	Comms (PEP) will do this in most public communications. Sustainability Stewards have discussed this renaming. They would prefer stay with existing name as reflects a wider agenda of which tackling climate change is an important part.
7.	We recommend that similar aims to those of Nottinghamshire's magazine are applied to a specific section of the County Council's WOW magazine as well as the Council's internal staff magazine. [para 42]	PEP	Regular features already run in both publications. Comms' (PEP) recommendation is that an embedded approach is of preference rather than a stand alone section as this will reach a wider audience. Those not engaged will simply ignore a specific section. Partnership Matters includes articles as does Worcestershire Ambassadors newsletter. Climate Change newsletter goes to Worcestershire Partnership members. WCC Comms team are represented on Corporate Sustainability Stewards group.
8.	Messages about promoting a greener lifestyle and reinforcing what staff can do to tackle climate change should be shown on the TV screens throughout county hall. [para 45]	PEP	Already do this e.g. have promoted electricity monitor loan scheme, Warmer Worcestershire, Switch it off, Farmers markets, composting etc.. Sustainability Team & Comms (PEP) will review in terms of effectiveness and frequency.
9.	We recommend that greater practical help, advice and information should be provided to people on how they can make their homes more energy efficient, especially older houses.	PEP	WP Climate Change Group working within LSP to increase funding in this area (PEP coordinate group) – strong role of district councils in this work. LSP Warmer Worcestershire project is addressing this issue WCC Archaeology Service now offering Warmer Worcestershire assistance in identifying older homes and advising on how to treat. Energy Savings Trust (EST) have written to every household in Worcestershire to inform them of where to obtain energy efficiency advice, grants & directing to Warmer Worcestershire website. This was done in September. EST have agreed to fund & deliver training for volunteer energy champions within each district.

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	The Council should explore the possibility of working with suppliers, housing associations and district councils, either creating or promoting Energy Efficient Demonstration homes showing available products, renewable technology and advice on how to obtain/install. At the very least, the Council's website should act as a sign post to other organisations existing demonstration homes. [para 49]		<p>Switch it off campaign due to run Nov 9th – 13th '09 promoting electricity saving – various elements to campaign including family challenge</p> <p>PEP have linked economy watch webpages to energy efficiency pages on WCC green directory</p> <p>Sustainability Team (PEP) will undertake to sign post to existing demonstration homes through WCC online Green Directory</p> <p>NB Scrutiny report recommendations seem to miss out on the need for better energy efficiency advice & support to SMEs</p>
10.	We recommend that links should continue to be developed between the Councils Economic Development Department and green technology companies in Worcestershire. The County Council should promote and encourage the development of the green economy. [para 54]	PEP	Economic Development (PEP) are supporting this recommendation through projects such as Project Sterling. Funding also recently obtained (Sept 09) via AWM to promote the green technology sector in county.
11.	We recommend that delegated budgets to schools should be revised in light of forthcoming Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) and any guidance issued in this respect. [para 71]	Children's Services	<p>First CRC payments now due in 2011/12. DSCF guidance on how CRC should be dealt with went to Worcestershire Schools Forum in early October.</p> <p>From 2011/12 there will be provision for schools to be charged/rewarded by the Council according to how well each school does on reducing CO2 emissions, (in relation to the gains/cost incurred by the whole council through CRC).</p> <p>Paper on CRC, including proposals for dealing with financial aspects, planned to go to COMB in Nov - PEP, Corp & Finance</p>
12.	An Energy Manager is essential if the Council is to achieve the necessary reduction in CO2 Emissions. We recommend that a Corporate Energy Manager and Energy Officer be recruited at the earliest opportunity. [para 80]	Corporate Services PEP	<p>This post should save the Council, including schools, money and pay for itself several times over – a spend to save measure, however need to agree how this post will be funded in the first place.</p> <p>Comms (PEP) warn there is potential for media criticism and there is a need to stress it is a spend to save measure</p> <p>Note: The annual employment costs of an Energy Manager and Energy Officer team, as recommended by the Climate Change Scrutiny Report, would amount to around £76,500.</p>

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			<p><i>Typically, the employment of an Energy Manager can save at least 5% of an organisation's energy costs through improved staff awareness and education programmes alone. It is therefore reasonable to conclude that savings of up to £250,000 are potentially available from the Council's and schools' estates' annual £5 million energy bills relating to energy use in buildings. The employment of a permanent Energy Manager and Energy Officer team could be seen as making a strong contribution towards the Council's current and future plans for reducing expenditure.</i></p> <p><i>Based on a recent Carbon Trust report for County Hall Campus, it has been calculated the above employment costs would be recovered within 8 months if the team implemented the Trust's highest priority recommendations for the Campus; such as introducing a formal energy policy, monitoring and targeting, motivation and marketing, together with reviewing IT and data centre energy efficiency. The capital cost of these recommendations has been identified as £3,255. Total annual savings from these measures are predicted at £121,860.</i></p>
13.	<p>We recommend that the job description of a new Energy Manager and Officer should include setting up a similar scheme to that in Nottinghamshire to improve energy efficiency in schools. It should include applications for and administration of Salix funding on behalf of applicable Worcestershire schools. [paras 82 – 90]</p> <p>We believe an Energy Manager would be best placed to provide energy efficiency advice and recommend that, if appointed, providing enabling advice to schools should form part of his/her role. [para 108]</p>	Corporate Services PEP	<p>Corporate & Financial Services have had discussions with Salix, however pay back times are too short for much of the work required e.g. improved lighting. Corporate & Financial Services developing an internal spend to save mechanism for funding energy efficiency Measures, including in schools.</p> <p>Most schools have now had initial energy audits through the Display Energy Certificate programme. This is helping point schools to work that is needed.</p> <p>Developing the above work areas would be included in an Energy Manager's role see 12 above– Corp services</p>
14.	<p>Other authorities have set up volunteer staff schemes for volunteer energy wardens to help with, for example, recycling and reducing energy use. We fully support all of these actions and recommend that introducing such actions should again be included in the remit of an</p>	PEP Corporate Services	<p>Corp Services - Training & Development & PEP are working on broadening out ACS's existing Green Champions programme to the rest of the authority. The role of a Green Champion includes encouraging energy efficiency. Paper to go to COMB Nov. Energy Manager would link into this programme.</p> <p>Corporate 'Officer in Charge' training includes energy efficiency</p> <p>The Sustainability Advisor for Children's Services is working with National Grid on a similar volunteer scheme for National Grid employee "Energy Ambassadors" to work in schools. This should complement this work.</p>

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15.	<p>Energy Manager. [para93]</p> <p>We feel that more could be done to access other funding/grants to help tackle climate change and further reduce carbon emissions. Working with the Marches Energy Agency could be one way of achieving this and we recommend that initial negotiations should take place to investigate possible future benefits. [para 105]</p>	PEP	<p>Council now beginning working with Energy Savings Trust who offer free support and help with obtaining funding. Also in contact with MEA and will explore opportunities to work with them.</p> <p>WP Climate Change group (coordinated by PEP) have applied for LAA reward grant funding for two projects; a Countywide 'green loans' scheme for householders to use to install energy efficiency or renewable energy measures and an assisted loft clearance scheme to help those unable to clear their loft, e.g. elderly, prior to loft insulation. Will hear in New year if been successful.</p> <p>Warmer Worcestershire project now under way.</p> <p>PEP obtained funding from Tidy Britain Group to run a pilot EcoCommunities programme in localities in Bromsgrove & Redditch. This to take EcoSchools work out into the community and to include focus on energy efficiency</p> <p>WCC Beacon Council award funding a PEP led electricity monitor lending scheme in Worcestershire libraries. Already in Stourport library, due in Worcester, Evesham, Redditch, Bromsgrove, Malvern Hills and Kidderminster libraries from 26th Oct.</p> <p>AWM have confirmed funding for extension of Rethink Energy programme to whole of Worcestershire. (This will offer 50% grants to SME's to improve energy efficiency and install renewable energy systems)</p> <p>PEP have expressed interest in Low Carbon Communities Challenge funding from DETINI. This would support one community in an intensive energy saving project.</p> <p>WP Funding manager investigating further funding sources.</p> <p>There are other options; e.g. & Districts could follow Kirklees Council's example and offer insulation & renewable energy to all homeowners through loan scheme to be paid back upon sale of homes .</p>
16.	<p>We believe that the Council should clearly show its electricity use and fit energy monitors in all its buildings, including schools, to both raise staff and pupil awareness of energy costs and encourage a reduction in energy use wherever possible. The TV display screens in County Hall should be used to frequently display energy usage energy use and cost. [para</p>	Corporate Services PEP	<p>Agreed & working on this. This will link in with web-enabled smart metering. Corp Services aiming to install smart meters across council buildings including schools by March 2010. Corporate & Financial Services currently considering best way to procure this.</p> <p>Figures on council electricity use, including schools, for 2008/9 now available through NI185 reporting. This will be reported annually.</p> <p>8 Worcestershire schools will have LED screens showing energy use from January 2010.</p>

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	109]		
17.	<p>We recommend that that this Council lobby the Department of Children Schools and Families to introduce financial rewards to recognise the importance of teachers work as Eco-school co-ordinators. [para 111]</p>	Children's Services	<p>The framework for teachers' pay is set out in the national pay and conditions document. These arrangements require individual schools to formulate their staffing structures and already provide the flexibility for Headteachers and Governing Bodies to consider the payment of allowances for specific responsibilities.</p> <p>Suggest should be lobbying DCSF for Sustainable Schools Coordinators to be financially rewarded rather than EcoSchools specifically. DCSF aren't responsible for Ecoschools but are responsible for Sustainable Schools which is a framework that EcoSchools contributes to.</p>
18.	<p>We should not underestimate the huge contribution Eco Schools can make to awareness raising, reducing CO2 emissions and combating the effect of climate change.</p> <p>Given that the Council will be deemed responsible for school's CO2 emissions when the Carbon Reduction Commitment takes effect in 2010, we feel that all schools should be encouraged to carry out energy audits.</p> <p>We recommend that the Council ensures that a named officer is made available to provide support and advice for pupils' energy audits in schools. [para 114]</p>	PEP Children's Services Corporate Services	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>All schools over 1000m2 (majority) have had basic energy audits through the Display Energy Certificate scheme. Corporate services have arranged more detailed free Carbon Trust energy audits in largest schools</p> <p>Schools invited by PEP to take part in annual 'Switch it off' Campaign which includes carrying out their own energy audits.</p> <p>Financial Services' funded Schools Energy Award 08/09 led eight schools to carry out energy audits.</p> <p>Agreed but need to resource this. This would normally be part of an Energy Manager or Energy Officer's role. Refer to 12.</p>
19.	<p>We recommend that the profile of tackling and adapting to climate change (sustainability) should be raised and prioritised across all of Children's Services. There is considerable opportunity to expand Eco school award type support in youth clubs and colleges to build on</p>	Children's Services PEP	<p>In Jan 2010 Tidy Britain (formally EnCams) are to begin piloting the 'Eco-Centres' model with Youth Clubs and Children's Centres and an Eco-Communities model developed around clusters of Eco-Schools, Eco-Nurseries and Eco-Centres in four communities in Bromsgrove & Redditch. WCC lead for this project is the Learning for Sustainability Officer – PEP</p> <p>EST One to one Programme (PEP led) will include a focus on schools energy use</p> <p>Climate Change as a Corporate priority would help to raise priority across Children's Services</p>

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	the strengths this County has in this field. [para 115]		
20.	We recommend that any financial rules which prevent school construction being as energy-efficient as they could be, should be changed. [para 116]	Financial Services Corporate Services Children's Services	Para 116 has been revised, and changes to financial rules no longer appear to be necessary. (Refer to Martin Finch e-mail to Stella Wood dated 22/04/2009) The Council and its schools are one entity funded by taxpayers as a whole. Financial Services feel that cross subsidy is an inappropriate concept to use in this context. Rather than focus on perceived barriers we should concentrate on serving the long term public interest
21.	We recommend that the Council continues to identify schools (and any other) sites which have sufficient capacity for wood fuel boilers and explores every opportunity to make use of Bio Energy Capital Grant Scheme funding. It should also investigate ways of stimulating demand and growing the market for local wood fuel supplies, which has the added benefit of helping the local economy. [para 122]	Corporate Services Children's Services PEP	Agreed. Children's and Corporate Services (Property) will work together to identify suitable wood fuel boiler Opportunities on school sites, where funding is available and Governors agree installations will be made. Grant funding is already being applied for on all wood fired boiler projects, and received on the majority of schemes. The 'Grow with Wyre' project, which WCC Economic Development help support, is working to develop local wood supply network in the Wyre Forest area
22.	We recommend that the street lighting team continue to identify appropriate areas (where it is deemed unlikely to affect public safety) and carry out pilots for switching off street lights during the early hours. [para 130]	Environmental Services	Street Lighting will endeavour to attain savings in energy and carbon emissions by use of new technologies and initiatives. However before implementing a campaign of switching off lights, serious consideration must be given to legal precedent, and extensive local consultation undertaken. Pilot trials of low energy lighting currently taking place including LED and solar powered lighting on road signs & solar lighting on bollards. Further street lamps have been converted to low energy lamps. There are also street lighting dimming trials: lights on dual carriage way from southern link roundabout to County Hall and Canada Way, Worcester dim midnight to 6am. Street lamp column replacement project, due to start April 2010, aims to include energy saving measures.
23.	We recommend that Cabinet lobbies the government to increase the number of deregulated road signs on appropriate sites. [para 144]	Environmental Services	The latest changes in reflective signage need to be adopted and the legislation adjusted. Once the government standards have been changed it is felt that many signs would be suitable for deregulation and removal of illumination, saving both energy and carbon emissions. The County Council will approach Government to progress deregulation. New documents due to come into force 2010. Env. Services would welcome any pressure applied now.
24.	We like the simplicity of Worcestershire's one, two and three star Climate Change Pledge for organisations and businesses and	PEP	Agreed. Chamber of Commerce are now to lead on promoting to their members and other Businesses, promoting at events etc. PEP have produced logo for businesses to use when they sign up to the pledge.

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	recommend this should be marketed and promoted to target more businesses. [para 156]		
25.	We recommend that this Council should in future begin to map which and what organisations are doing in the county to combat climate change, identify gaps, and find out how they measure the effectiveness of what they are doing (outcomes). [para 157]	PEP	PEP are in part doing this through the LSP Climate Change work & Climate Change Pledge and this has also been addressed across WP via CAA but, depending on comprehensiveness of this, this could become prohibitively resource intensive.
26.	<p>It is clear that there is a lack of consistency in the Districts regarding the percentage of renewable energy required in new buildings (and whether it applies to homes or commercial properties) included in their individual Core Strategies. [see para 173 - PEP]</p> <p>The County Council needs to take a strong leadership role. County Council Planners should exert influence through the preparation of evidence to inform the work of the District Planners. County Council Planners should advise District Councils, for example, that Merton rule principles should be more vigorously applied across the County. Para 179</p>	PEP	<p>Strategic Planning (PEP) have produced a renewable research paper for Districts to use as evidence, but they do not have the power to require district councils to more vigorously apply the Merton rule. RSS policies will set minimum expectations for core strategies on this issue. Strategic Planning can make sure District's core strategies conform with the RSS.</p> <p>Strategic Planning (PEP) commissioned a study into the potential for large scale renewable projects in the County. The study concluded that wind, biomass & hydro are the preferred renewable energy types and that 3.5 % of county's energy consumption could be provided from these large scale renewables by 2026. Discussion is underway as to how this technical piece of work can be developed into a strategy & implemented.</p>
27.	We recommend that the Sustainable Procurement Strategy should specifically refer to promoting and encouraging locally sourced food at every opportunity. .para 183	Corporate Services	<p>Agreed & will be implemented (Strategic Procurement)</p> <p>Included in new catering contract for county hall</p>

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28.	We support the recommendations made in the recent 'Meal Provision' scrutiny report and recommend that the new contract for food provision should actively encourage tenders with reduced packaging and local produce. Para 187	Adult & Community Services	<p>Agreed & will be implemented (Strategic Procurement)</p> <p>The Scrutiny Report - Meals Provision for Older and Vulnerable Adults - has received Cabinet Member response and Officers have been made aware of the recommendations to encourage tenders with a sustainable element as described to include reduced packaging and local produce. Community Meals - A consultation process was arranged for the end of April 2009. – ACS</p>
29.	We recommend that Children's Services further encourage Worcestershire schools to take part in the Food For Life Partnership www.foodforlife.org.uk . We believe that schools should know and have some influence over the source of food being consumed. Para 195	<p>Children's Services</p> <p>PEP</p>	<p>The Children's Services catering team works closely with schools and caterers to encourage the procurement of local and seasonal food. This means that menus are healthier, less food preservatives are used and the distance food travels from the field to the children's plate is reduced. Seasonal and local food also helps children develop an awareness of food and re-connects them with its origins.. The Soil Association's food for life partnership scheme provides support and incentives for schools and caterers if they commit to the scheme. This is set at three levels, bronze, silver and gold. To obtain a gold award the school must provide meals that are 75% freshly prepared, 50% local and 30% organic, and more than 70% of pupils are choosing to eat school meals. The catering team will continue to recommend that schools ask contractors to show evidence of how they procure food and use local produce during the tender process and award contracts accordingly.</p> <p>This fits well with efforts to encourage schools to engage with growing their own food through an orchards project now being run for 2009-10 by PEP and CPD courses for teachers on growing food in schools run at Bishops Wood Centre</p>
30.	<p>...PFI schools provide school 'soft' services for the life of the contract (normally 25 years). This means, for example in Bromsgrove PFI schools, loss of Council control over services such as catering, waste and energy management.</p> <p>We believe that schools should know and have some influence over the source of food being consumed by their children. We recommend that the Council should negotiate further with existing contractors and ensure greater flexibility in future contracts.</p>	Children's Services Corporate Services	<p>The scope of services to be provided by the PFI contractor are agreed between the Authority and Schools. The performance specifications and quality threshold form part of the contract. As referred to above schools are required to 'sign up' to the contract specifications and conditions, as such these will be discussed and considered for future contracts based upon an evaluation and value for money assessment. All of the matters can be included within the output specifications and subject to value for money assessment – Children's Services</p>

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	<p>Para 197</p> <p>We recommend that the management contracts for the forthcoming Building Schools for the Future PFIs should contain... a requirement to ensure minimum CO2 emissions and maximum energy efficiency over the life of the contract. Requirements to promote locally sourced food and ensure more recycling of waste should also be included.</p> <p>We further recommend that climate change adaptation measures are incorporated into all new building designs. Designs need to be flexible enough to allow for increasing temperatures and intense rainfall in future. para 198</p>		<p>Corp Services Design Unit agree with the recommendation. New PFI projects should demonstrate diligent use of tools such as UKCIP impact assessments in order to accommodate climate change during the 25 year concession.</p>
31.	<p>We recommend that the Council should set up an award recognition scheme which immediately identifies quality food outlet businesses (e.g. restaurants, pubs and cafes) which provide at least 3 locally produced menu items. [para 202]</p>	PEP	<p>Destination Worcestershire run 'Worcestershire Breakfast' awards. There is a danger that WCC duplicates other existing schemes – e.g. Heart of England fine Foods and Worcestershire Life Magazine local food award. Would be better for WCC to concentrate its support on these existing awards. NB Worcester Evening News local directory including local food was supported by WCC – PEP</p>
32.	<p>We recommend the introduction of low-carbon procurement policies for ICT. [para 206]</p>	Corporate Services	<p>While the first priority is for ICT equipment and systems to be robust and fit for purpose, (thus avoiding waste & promoting resource efficiency), WCC IBS already consider energy efficiency when procuring and planning IT systems, (as the scrutiny report states), and they will continue to do so. Some clarification on what is meant by the term 'low carbon ICT procurement policies' would be helpful.</p>
33.	<p>We recommend that the Environmental Services Directorate ensures that the Council's Integrated Passenger Transport Strategy supports an improved network for</p>	Environmental Services	<p>The IPTS is based on accessibility to services criteria, which fully supports the improvement to the Counties road & footway networks, and promotes the use of more sustainable transport opportunities. There have been many improvements to walking bus routes, bus stops, footways and national cycle routes in rural areas from schemes delivered under the current and previous Local Transport Plans. Any improvements must however be subject to the cost benefit analysis process, and demand</p>

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	rural areas with more footpaths on roads to bus stops and safer walking and cycle routes. [para 207]		led (potential users) approach, of assessing schemes.
34.	The County Council has run successful campaigns such as 'Mission Impossible' to help encourage more recycling. We would like to see more recycling collections in schools and would encourage those schools which do not currently have adequate recycling facilities to seek out opportunities. [para 213]	Corporate Services Children's Services PEP Environmental Services	A corporate recycling tender is being prepared by facilities (Corporate Services) for most council buildings and potentially schools not already covered by recycling services. Most (not all) schools already have a recycling service. Recycling in schools is largely supported by District Councils. This varies slightly from District to District for logistical reasons Schools are sign-posted to this local support from the PEP's Eco-Schools and Sustainable Schools web-sites and directories Recycling of green waste by composting in schools has been supported by Environmental Services with training provided by Bishops Wood over the past 6 years and over 150 schools and settings have been provided with worm bins and compost bins Children's Services could provide training for School Bursars to help them appreciate that recycling can actually cost money though this can be offset in part by reduction in waste disposal charges. Schools can also contribute by purchasing more recycled materials particularly paper to stimulate the market for recycling paper. – Children's Services
35.	We recommend that the impact of future climate change, (not just flooding, but other extreme weather such as heatwaves, which are likely to become more frequent and severe), on services, assets & communities is considered and planned for across the council. [para 219]	PEP	PEP have developed a Climate Change Risk Assessment and all Directorates have been asked to identify business continuity issues from the potential impacts of future climate change. This information will be shared with District Councils and partner organisations where applicable
36.	We recommend that tackling Climate Change must become a Corporate Priority.	Cabinet	Decision for Councillors Environmental Services fully support the inclusion of Climate Change as a Corporate Priority. This was considered by Cabinet during corporate strategy week. A draft of the Corporate Plan is due to be released in December 2009.