

Climate Change Scrutiny Task Group

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At the full council meeting held on 25 March 2015, the following motion was agreed:

This motion recognises the adaptation and mitigation work undertaken by Gloucestershire County Council in response to climate change risks. The findings of the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) indicate that there are opportunities to substantially and significantly increase the transformation of our carbon intensive economy. Local investment now will bring substantial future savings and opportunities that benefit local economies.

In light of the above, this Council resolves to form and enact policy to develop the 'low carbon economy' that reduces greenhouse gas emissions according to AR5 recommended targets. Actions will include:

- i) Effective adaptation to climate change in the local transport plan, in waste management, in flood management and in energy use*
- ii) Support and investment in employment by promoting innovation and investments in environmentally sound technologies and infrastructure that enable sustainable livelihoods and low-carbon behavioural and lifestyle choices*
- iii) A further promotion of long-term sustainability and conservation to enhance biodiversity and special habitats, whilst also enabling responses in the viability of new and innovative types of agriculture and local energy and food production.*

Many adaptation and mitigation options can help address climate change, but no single option is sufficient by itself. Effective implementation depends on policies and cooperation at all scales, and can be enhanced through integrated responses that link adaptation and mitigation with other societal objectives.

In light of the above, this Council requests that a cross-party task group be set up in June and for a report to be brought back to Council by the end of the year. The remit being to look at the conclusions of the Fifth Assessment Report and ways in which action can be taken locally to address climate change and develop the 'low carbon economy'.

7.5.9 The task group is therefore of the view that the GFirst LEP should be providing advice to all businesses on sustainability and energy efficiency and should be supporting businesses contributing to the development of the low carbon economy.

Recommendation 6:

The task group asks the GFirst LEP Board to:

- **Recognise that climate change is an issue that will impact on the entire economy of Gloucestershire and that it needs to be addressed by all business sectors as well as the environment technology sector;**
- **Develop a coherent strategy to address the impacts of climate change (mitigation and adaptation) on the economy;**
- **Incorporate support for local businesses regarding the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and adoption of energy efficient measures, which will improve the viability and sustainability of Gloucestershire businesses, in their business advice.**

