



Cabinet 17 September 2008

Tackling Climate Change in Suffolk: Development of the CRed Suffolk Climate Change Partnership

1. Summary and Reasons for Recommendations

- 1.1 In the Council's Climate and Energy Action Plan, the Council agreed to support partnership working across Suffolk to address the climate challenge. This county-wide partnership, called the CRed Suffolk Climate Change Partnership (CRed Suffolk), has been operating successfully since December 2006.
- 1.2 The current funding of CRed Suffolk finishes at the end of 2008. Furthermore, for the Partnership to operate effectively changes need to be made to its governance and delivery structures.
- 1.3 This report sets out proposals to formally establish the role of the Partnership and provide it with sufficient resources to make progress to tackle climate change in Suffolk in line with the new Local Area Agreement.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is **RECOMMENDED** that, subject to the approval of full Council,:-
- (1) the CRed Suffolk Climate Change Partnership (CRed Suffolk) be formally adopted by St Edmundsbury Borough Council as the appropriate mechanism for co-ordinated climate change action across Suffolk;
 - (2) new delivery and governance proposals identified in the report to Suffolk Chief Executives' Group, attached as Appendix A to Report Z242 be supported; and
 - (3) funding of £2,875 be identified from current balances to support the Partnership for the remainder of 2008/2009 and £12,857 a year be found from existing budgets for three years covering Local Area Agreement 2.

3. Corporate Objectives

- 3.1 The recommendations meet the following, as contained within the Corporate Plan:-
- (a) Corporate Priorities: *'Raising standards and corporate efficiency'; 'Improving the safety and well being of the community'; 'Securing a sustainable and attractive environment'; and 'Creating a prosperous local economy'.*

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4. Key Issues

- 4.1 In April 2007, Council approved the adoption of the St Edmundsbury Climate Change and Energy Action Plan (Minute 117(A)(1) refers). The Action Plan was developed in order to focus Council action to tackle the impact of climate change and energy dependency within the Council and in the wider community of St Edmundsbury.
- 4.2 In the Action Plan, the Council agreed to support partnership working across Suffolk to communicate the issues and instigate action in communities within the Borough and beyond in Suffolk to address the climate challenge. The officers have led the development of this County-wide partnership, called the CRed Suffolk Climate Change Partnership (CRed Suffolk), since December 2006.
- 4.3 Work of CRed Suffolk has been supported financially through successful bids for funding, in particular from the Performance Reward Grant (Round 1) along with in-kind support from the local authorities in Suffolk and other non-local authority organisations. This funding has allowed specific work to be undertaken to deliver outcomes which have benefited both this Council and the Borough. A summary of key work and outcomes is summarised in a report presented to the Suffolk Chief Executives' Group (SCEG) in July 2008, and is attached as Appendix A to this report.
- 4.4 The current funding of CRed Suffolk finishes at the end of 2008. Furthermore, for the Partnership to operate effectively changes need to be made to its governance and delivery structures. This need comes at a time when Central Government has introduced new National Indicators of Local Government Performance, which incorporate climate change, while a new Local Area Agreement for Suffolk (LAA2) has been negotiated with Government Office:East covering the period 2008-2011 within which climate change is a key issue.
- 4.5 The report to SCEG sets out proposals for a new governance and delivery structure for CRed Suffolk along with a funding model which would formally establish the role of the Partnership and provide it with sufficient resources to make progress to tackle climate change in Suffolk within the framework and for the duration of LAA2. The proposals have the in-principle support of each local authority in Suffolk.

5. Options considered

- 5.1 The following delivery options for the future structure of the Partnership have been considered:-
- (a) do nothing;
 - (b) co-ordinating group with no dedicated central resource;
 - (c) joint delivery team (as a minimum comprising of a Partnership Manager and operational budget); and
 - (d) third party delivery commissioned by the Partners.
- 5.2 The SCEG report summarises the advantages and disadvantages of each option. Option (c) is considered the most appropriate way forward based on the review.
- 5.3 The benefits of Option (c) are that it would:-
- (a) ensure co-ordination between partners to deliver the Suffolk Climate Action Plan and meet National Indicators and LAA2 targets;
 - (b) provide clear focus and flexible approach to delivery;
 - (c) allow the inclusion of non-local authority organisations; and
 - (d) establish the Partnership as a legally constituted body so giving better access to funding.

6. Community impact *(including Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and diversity issues)*

6.1 General

6.1.1 There is an overwhelming body of scientific evidence highlighting the serious and urgent nature of climate change. This will not only affect global communities but also communities within our Borough over the coming years

6.1.2 Our communities are also at risk from a shift in energy dependency. Much of the Borough is off the mains gas supply network, leaving communities vulnerable to the fluctuating price of oil. Furthermore, households have experienced dramatic increases in the cost of domestic energy over the last 18 months, which is likely to have put more households into fuel poverty.

6.1.3 Significant barriers, whether perceived or actual, exist which prevent individuals and organisations taking action. These include the level of awareness and understanding of the impact of an individual's lifestyle, and an understanding of what action can be taken, and the anticipated cost of taking action. Additionally, the lack of effective communication and delivery mechanisms for local action designed to mitigate or adapt the local community to a changing climate are preventing progress being made.

6.2 Diversity

6.2.1 Although different communities will be affected in different ways with a changing climate, every community will be affected in some way. There will be people in the Borough who will be particularly prone to the extreme weather events increasingly associated with a changing climate; those whose health could be adversely affected, those with property or livelihoods in vulnerable locations, and those with insufficient resources to adapt. There are also an increasing number of households and businesses which cannot afford to invest in energy efficiency or alternatives to conventional fossil-fuels because the rising cost of living.

6.2.2 The CRed Suffolk Climate Change Partnership is needed to provide an effective co-ordinated response to these challenges to our communities.

7. Consultation

7.1 Discussion between partners took place at the CRed Suffolk Steering Group meeting of 8 April 2008 as to the preferred option. Members present included local authorities, Go-East, Environment Agency, Suffolk Acre and West Suffolk College. A clear view was expressed that the Partnership should be closely linked or aligned with the Suffolk Strategic Partnership and the development of LAA2, and that the preferred delivery arrangement is Option 3.

7.2 The proposals have been presented to directors and chief executives from each local authority in Suffolk and in principle support has been given.

8. Resource implications *(including asset management implications)*

8.1 The proposed funding model to cover the work planned during the period of LAA2 is set out in the table below.

	Costs (£)			
	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Total:	47,500	145,000	145,000	145,000
Estimated contribution from Suffolk CC	27,500	55,000	55,000	55,000
Estimated contribution from each district/borough council (including Borough Council)	2,857	12,857	12,857	12,857

It is proposed that this Council's contribution will be met from existing budgets across the corporacy.

8.2 Local authority in-kind support would also be necessary based on the range of projects taken on by the Partnership and local activity levels. This element is difficult to quantify at this time. Funding from other partner organisations or external sources may be available in order to either reduce these contributions or support specific initiatives but this cannot be confirmed at this time.

8.3 Funding from other local authority partner organisations or external sources may be available in order to either reduce these contributions or support specific initiatives but this cannot be confirmed at this time. CRed Suffolk has been able to secure funding from non-local authority sources to support current work to the end of 2008. Using these resources, CRed Suffolk has helped a number of communities secure over £100,000 of funding this year in the first round of the high profile East of England Development Agency (EEDA) 'Cut Your Carbon' campaign. This money will be used directly by the successful communities to undertake capital projects to tackle climate change in their locality. Continued funding of CRed Suffolk could lead to further successful bids by supported communities.

8.4 Other resource implications (revenue or capital) may also result from the Suffolk Climate Action Plan and other projects that are identified in supporting the work. These will range from awareness raising activities to specific action orientated projects, on a local or multi-area basis.

9. Risk Assessment *(including Health & Safety)*

9.1 The following risks will be avoided by adopting the recommendations:-

- (a) **Legal:** Missing statutory requirements including targets negotiated under the Local Area Agreement 2 to address climate change in Suffolk;
- (b) **Political/strategic:** Ineffective progress of the Suffolk Climate Action Plan and the St Edmundsbury Climate Action and Energy Action Plan;
- (c) **Environmental:** Poor uptake of measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions locally;
- (d) **Community:** Ineffective support for our local communities to help them take advantage of energy efficiency measures and adapt to a changing climate;
- (e) **Community/Economic:** Personal and property losses due to extreme weather;
- (f) **Economic:** Missed opportunities for innovation and new markets; and
- (g) **Tactical:** Missed opportunities for shared working and external funding.

10. Legal or policy implications

- 10.1 The Borough Council has been in the vanguard of strategic and operational work to tackle climate change; examples include being the first local authority in Suffolk to adopt a climate action plan, leading the CRed Suffolk Climate Change Partnership and investing in renewable energy in new building projects. Continuing our support of CRed Suffolk will be the most effective way of meeting key policy commitments within our Climate and Energy Action Plan.
- 10.2 All local authorities are required to measure their performance to tackle climate change against a set of National Indicators mentioned in Paragraph 3.4. The local authorities in Suffolk are already taking advantage of the existing forum created by CRed Suffolk in order to consider how best to meet the new requirements.
- 10.3 The shape of local government in Suffolk will be changing fundamentally during the period of LAA2. The proposals set out in the SCEG report take account of likely changes. Any new authorities will still be required to report on the National Indicators, thus work carried out in the interim will still be beneficial for any future structure. In addition, the work of CRed Suffolk strengthens the role of councils within Suffolk and their impact and involvement in regional climate change work.

Wards affected	ALL	Portfolio Holder	Environment and Street Scene
Background Papers	Report to Suffolk Chief Executives' Group, July 2008	Subject Area	Environment

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Report Title	Greater Partnership Working on Climate Change - CRed Suffolk Development
Agenda Item	
Author	<p>Matthew Ling (Head of Environmental Services, Ipswich Borough Council)</p> <p>Peter Gudde (Environmental Management Officer, St Edmundsbury Borough Council)</p> <p>Matt Hullis (Specialist Leader - Environment Strategy, Suffolk County Council)</p>

1. Actions Recommended

The recommendations are to agree:

(i) to develop the CRed Suffolk Climate Change Partnership (CRed Suffolk) as the appropriate delivery mechanism for co-ordinated climate change action across Suffolk.

(ii) to implement the new delivery and governance proposals identified in this report and support it with the appropriate resources.

(iii) to provide funding in order that CRed Suffolk can be developed to meet (i) and (ii) above as follows:

- Suffolk County Council - £27,500 for 2008/9 and then £55,000 per year for the subsequent three years covering LAA2
- Each district and borough council - £2,857 for 2008/9 and then £12,857 per year for the subsequent three years covering LAA2.

These recommendations and the accompanying report follow discussion with, and in principle support from Suffolk Chief Executives and their Directors with specific responsibility for this area of work.

2. Reasons for Recommendation

The work of CRed Suffolk over the last three years has made a significant contribution to raising awareness of climate change in Suffolk and enabling action on climate change. It has won national awards for its work, and is recognised by Go-East as a best practice exemplar. To date its achievements include;

- high profile public engagement projects (over 30,000 people engaged, with over 10,000 individuals signed up to CRed Suffolk),
- worked with public and private sector organisations to reduce their climate impact
- co-ordinated the draft Suffolk Climate Action Plan (SCAP).
- made a significant contribution to the development of the Creating the Greenest County priority in the Community Strategy and to the adoption of Climate Change associated National Indicators in Local Area Agreement 2 (LAA 2).

Increased national awareness of the implications of climate change is now putting pressure on local authorities to take on a high profile community leadership role. This has now been identified as a statutory requirement by central government.

We now have significant local and national drivers to develop awareness raising into tangible actions for our communities. These include:

- Statutory performance indicators with challenging targets incorporated into LAA 2
- Meeting the aims of Community Strategies (e.g. the Suffolk community strategy has an aim of achieving a 60% reduction in carbon emissions by 2025 (from 2004 levels).
- Increased legislation and guidance (e.g. Climate Bill, Code for Sustainable Homes).

CRed Suffolk has provided some extra capacity for tackling climate change, but this resource is time-limited and now needs to be developed to ensure that the identified actions of the draft Suffolk Climate Action Plan to mitigate and adapt to climate change are resourced and LAA2 targets are met.

CRed Suffolk is currently funded through the Performance Reward Grant until December 2008. A timely decision is now required to secure the future of this Partnership for at least the duration of the LAA 2 period, 2008 to 2011, after which further review should occur linked to progress with the targets in the SCAP and LAA 2.

The practical benefits to each partner are as follows:

- Support to deliver on National Indicators NI186 (Community CO₂ reduction) and NI188 (Adapting to climate change) under the Local Area Agreement 2.
- Support to deliver community and business engagement initiatives on climate change and energy
- Access to funding opportunities with partners
- Effective local authority response to CAA and CPA demands for local authorities to respond effectively to climate change in their community areas.

3. Main Body of Report

3.1 Background to CRed Suffolk

Prior to 2005, there was no single vision or coordination of local authority (or other sectors') effort to address climate change issues in Suffolk. CRed Suffolk was formed in 2005 to address this challenge and now comprises a range of stakeholders including:

- all Suffolk local authorities
- Environment Agency,
- Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre Anglia,
- Groundwork East of England and
- Suffolk Acre.

CRed Suffolk is supported by the University of East Anglia which gives the Partnership access to internationally renowned climate research and carbon reduction knowledge.

CRed Suffolk was set up to provide tools, develop capacity and ensure consistency in addressing climate change in Suffolk. Go-East and the East of England Sustainable Development Roundtable provided initial funding. With funding from the Suffolk Strategic Partnership Performance Reward Grant and through CRed Suffolk partners, CRed Suffolk is running a two-year programme of projects to raise awareness and improve the delivery of services to the community to tackle climate change in Suffolk. Details of the current project work streams are set out in Annex 1.

3.2 Current Resources and Funding 2006-2008

The current two year work programme is funded as follows:

- PRG1 award - £112,000
- Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre Anglia - £14,000
- Groundwork East Of England - £14,000
- Suffolk County Council - £10,000
- Environment Agency - £4,000.

The principal contribution of the Local Authority partners is in-kind support comprising staff time to manage and support the work of the Partnership, use of facilities and ad hoc funding for specific projects and events. Along with sponsorship secured for specific initiatives, the total value of ad hoc funding does not exceed £7,500. Separate funding was secured from Defra Climate Challenge Fund to run two mass communication projects. These have run parallel to, but separate from, the funding listed above.

The current funding pays for 2.5FTE staff working across the whole of the Suffolk area. These comprise one part-time post managed by Waveney DC supported by Mid Suffolk DC, and one full time business advisor post managed by Groundwork. The project fund also pays for consumables as well as specific tools and consultancy provided by the UEA aimed at carbon reduction, community foot printing and pledging. No funding is allocated to managing the Partnership or project management, with responsibility falling jointly on staff at the Borough Councils of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich for overall lead.

The period of the funded work ends in December 2008, although projects are likely to continue until Spring 2009 at which time funding will be exhausted and work will cease.

The Partnership currently operates under a Memorandum of Understanding which encourages the participation of signatory organisations rather than imposing contractual obligations. Separate legal agreements have been established between individual partners where necessary to manage specific funding in support of the work of the Partnership.

3.3 Key Reasons for the need to develop the partnership

There are a number of key reasons for developing the Partnership:

- The Partnership has provided a mechanism for coordination and sharing knowledge and developing opportunities for joint working within a strategic environment
- Expertise has been developed across the partnership and needs to be maintained and developed.
- Community Strategies in Suffolk (both SSP and LSPs) and the Creating the Greenest County initiative have introduced climate change as an area of priority action, but no additional resources have been identified for delivery.
- Local Authorities need to deliver on the new National Indicators for climate change, specifically NI185, and 186 and 188 within the Local Area Agreement 2. A coordinated response to the LAA indicators on climate change will ensure that each local authority will benefit and that a consistent approach will be developed across Suffolk.
- The Suffolk Climate Action Plan needs appropriate governance and a delivery mechanism to ensure that the Plan is effective
- Future legislation is likely to impose statutory requirements on Local Authorities to tackle climate change
- Government feedback on performance through a Beacon application, submitted on behalf of Suffolk Local Authorities in May 2007, identified the need for better co-ordination and resourcing
- The current structure of the CRed Partnership is not a legal entity with a formal constitution so cannot bid for certain types of funding. This has resulted in missed opportunities for leveraging in external funds.

3.4 Proposal for delivery

The following options for the future structure of the partnership have been considered:

Table 1 – Delivery options

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1. Do Nothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of existing staff Reliant on informal arrangements and ad-hoc working SCAP actions not delivered No co-ordinated approach to meeting National Indicators/LAA 2 targets Unconstituted body so unable to bid for additional funding
2. Co-ordinating Group with no dedicated central resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working within existing informal framework (MoU) where negotiated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no dedicated officer time to co-ordinate activity Not enough capacity to deliver all desired outcomes from SCAP Only partially co-ordinated approach to meeting National Indicators/LAA 2 targets Unconstituted body so unable to bid for additional funding Loses existing central staff resource
3. Joint delivery team (as a minimum comprising of a Partnership Manager and operational budget)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-ordination between partners to deliver SCAP and meet National Indicators/LAA 2 targets Clear focus and flexible approach to delivery Would include non-LA organisations Legally constituted to enable better access to funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would need commitment of additional resources from partners to ensure viability Success constrained by ability to secure additional funds
4. Third party delivery commissioned by the Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear focus for delivery Can be targeted project work (i.e. budget specific, bought in when required) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would require a group to be established to co-ordinate activity Less flexible approach than Option 3 Reduces the capacity for development within Suffolk LAs Significant financial support needed

Discussion between partners took place at the CRed Suffolk Steering Group meeting of 8th April 2009 as to the preferred option. Members present included Local Authorities, Go-East, Environment Agency, Suffolk Acre and West Suffolk College. A clear view was expressed that the partnership should be closely linked or aligned with the Suffolk Strategic Partnership and the development of LAA 2, and that the preferred delivery arrangement is Option 3.

The outcomes needed from long-term investment in the Partnership include improved delivery and improved performance and meeting government statutory targets associated with climate change related activity. Furthermore, this investment will maintain the leading position of Suffolk's local authorities as a national example of partnership working on climate change.

The benefits of Option 3 are that it is more inclusive and readily enables non-Local Authority partners to participate in climate change strategy and action across Suffolk. This option is also consistent with the emerging LAA 2 and more able to co-ordinate focused activity to meet LAA 2 targets.

In order to continue current partnership working, as a minimum it is recommended that the Local Authority partners fund the establishment of a Partnership Manager for the duration of LAA2. This post would have responsibility, among other activities, for coordinating work to meet the climate change National Indicators within the adopted LAA2 and the Suffolk Climate Action Plan as well as securing additional funding to develop additional resource. This role is currently carried out by

Ipswich Borough Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council in-kind and will not continue beyond early 2009.

3.5 Finance

The total financial commitment for the period covered by the Local Area Agreement 2 is set out in Table 2.

Table 2 – Proposed funding and contribution covering LAA2 period

	Costs (£)			
	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Element 1: Partnership manager	27,500	55,000	55,000	55,000
Operational budget	5,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Element 2: Community, business and p/t admin posts	15,000	80,000	80,000	80,000
Total:	47,500	145,000	145,000	145,000
Estimated contribution - SCC	27,500	55,000	55,000	55,000
Estimated contribution – each district/borough council	2,857	12,857	12,857	12,857

Note - Inclusive of on-cost for staff

2008-9 Element 2 costs are covered to December 2008 by PRG1 funding

Local Authority in-kind support would also be necessary based on the range of projects taken on by the Partnership and local activity levels. This element is difficult to quantify at this time.

Funding from other LAA partner organisations or external sources may be available in order to either reduce these contributions or support specific initiatives but this cannot be confirmed at this time. CRed Suffolk has been able to secure funding as in 3.2, and has helped a number of communities secure additional funding this year in the first round of the high profile EEDA Cut Your Carbon campaign.

Other resource implications (revenue or capital) may also result from the Suffolk Climate Action Plan and other projects that are identified in supporting the work. These will range from awareness raising activities to specific action orientated projects, on a local or multi-area basis.

3.6 Proposal for Governance

The proposed Partnership governance arrangements are set out in Figure 1. Terms of Reference and a suitable constitution would be determined once the new structure is agreed. It is anticipated that the Steering Group could report to the emerging governance structure for delivery of LAA 2 on progress against the targets.

3.7 Impact of LGR

The proposals included in this paper aim to address the issue of tackling climate change across Suffolk, building on the work done to date by CRed Suffolk and delivering action that supports LAA2. The climate change NIs in LAA2 are part of the 198 new NIs in the performance framework, and are therefore reported on by all the local authorities. Any new authorities will still be required to report on these NIs, thus work carried out in the interim will still be beneficial for any future structure. In addition the work strengthens the role of councils within Suffolk and their impact and involvement in regional climate change work.

4.0 Conclusions

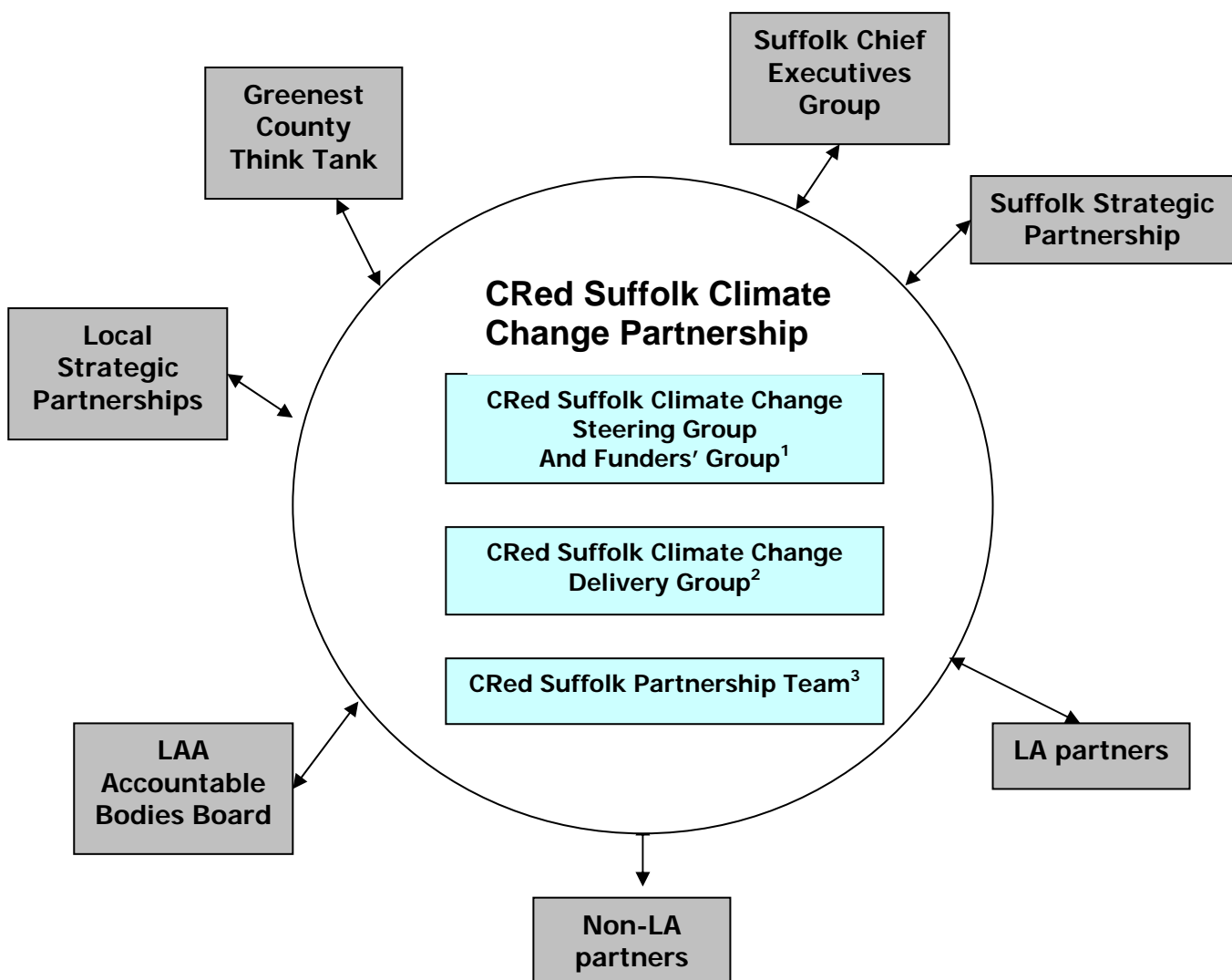
The CRed Suffolk Climate Change Partnership is the key to delivering the Suffolk Climate Action Plan which will form an essential part of the Creating the Greenest County priority within the Suffolk's Community Strategy. Specifically, the SCAP will be central to the achievement of targets under National Indicators 186 and 188, and consequently to successful outcomes for each Suffolk local authority within in LAA 2.

Funding to support existing staff delivering CRed Suffolk objectives will cease in December 2008. In order to deliver the actions within the SCAP it has been identified that further resources will be required to co-ordinate and develop activity. Direct benefits to each Suffolk local authority have been set out in the report.

Future development of CRed Suffolk will require the agreement of the Leaders and Chief Executives Group to the proposed delivery and governance structures in this report and a commitment to source the required funding.

It is requested that Leaders and Chief Executives support the CRed Suffolk Climate Change Partnership so that the new structure and delivery can be established.

Figure 1 – Proposed Governance structure of the CRed Suffolk Climate Change Partnership



¹This Group would comprise current membership of the CRed Suffolk Climate Change Partnership Suffolk Steering Group with enhanced senior management representation and accountability to represented

organisations. The Funders' Group would consist of organisations contributing to core costs of the CRed Suffolk Partnership Team.

²This Group would comprise the project leaders and CRed Suffolk Partnership Manager.

³ This would comprise of the CRed Suffolk Partnership Manager and dedicated partnership staff.

Annex 1

The CRed Suffolk Project – workstreams funded by PRG 1

1. Establish a carbon footprint for local communities and organisations leading to the development of a Suffolk-wide carbon footprint to enable climate change action plan to be established.
2. Raise awareness and promote behavioural change in (a) individuals and , communities and (b) businesses, so that they can adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change
3. Provide advice and help to individuals, communities and businesses to assist them to reduce their energy demand and contribution to climate change.
4. Review and update relevant contingency plans for vulnerable areas including areas of existing and future flood-risk, subsidence, and extreme weather events
5. Reduce energy and resource use in the building and construction sector
6. Encourage the adoption of green travel plans by organisations in Suffolk.

Additional unfunded work carried out by CRed Suffolk

This work has included:

- Researching a preliminary CO₂ footprint for Suffolk – this work preceded the Government's publication of its intentions to establish National Indicators for Local Authority and community carbon reduction targets
- Preparing funding bids to extend existing and develop new work – a successful application to PRG Round 2 has resulted in the establishment of a schools media competition.
- Designing and publishing the climate-related webpages on the Green Suffolk website in order to develop a one-site authoritative repository of information and guidance for individuals, communities and business.
- Investigating establishing a climate fund to support new initiatives to deliver carbon savings and improve community climate resilience in Suffolk – this work has in part resulted in the setting up of the Suffolk Green Fund.
- Researching, managing and publishing the draft Suffolk Climate Action Plan (SCAP)
- Submitting a Beacon application under Round 9 – Climate change.