

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY  
TO THE EXECUTIVE  
17 OCTOBER 2007

**Local Authority Carbon Management Programme**

**1.0 Introduction and Report Summary**

- 1.2 This report updates the Executive Committee on progress made in delivering the Council's Climate Change Strategy
- 1.3 In particular it details the Council's progress on the Carbon Management Programme, a Government sponsored programme that the Council is embarking upon this year to assist it with the delivery of reductions in its carbon emissions
- 1.4 The contact officer for this report is Paul Staines, Deputy Director Housing and Community Safety, telephone (01235 547621).  
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**2.0 Recommendations**

*The Executive note the progress made in delivering the climate change strategy.*

**3.0 Relationship with the Council's Vision, Strategies and Policies**

- 3.1 This report relates to the Council's Vision.
- 3.2 The report relates to the Council's Climate Change Strategy.
- 3.3 The issues raised in this report are also relevant to the following strands of the Community Strategy.
- Environment
  - Housing
  - Recreation, Culture and Leisure
  - Transport
  - Community

**4.0 The Local Authority Carbon Management Programme**

- 4.1 The Executive will recall that, earlier this year, the Council successfully applied to take part in phase 6 of the Carbon Trusts Local Authority Carbon Management Programme (LACM).
- 4.2 The LACM is a government sponsored project that provides professional technical and change management guidance to the Council as it progresses through a structured programme devised by the Carbon Trust.
- 4.3 The LACM will enable the Council to achieve the following.

- Establish an accurate baseline and realisable short and medium term targets for emissions reduction.
- Adopt a truly corporate approach to reducing emissions
- Get proper buy in from across the organisation.
- Realise cost savings from energy reduction measures.
- Reduce carbon emission

4.4 The main output from the programme is a Carbon Management Plan (CMP). This plan will contain details of the measures proposed to meet the Council's carbon reduction targets and will be presented to the Executive at its 8<sup>th</sup> Feb meeting.

4.5 Currently the Council has a long term target of a 60% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050 based on a 2007 baseline and a short term LAA2 target of 8% by 2010/11. Members will also recall that the possible adoption of an interim target of a 20% reduction by 2012 has been discussed.

## **5.0 Progress to Date**

5.1 The Executive will recall that the first important step the Council needed to take was to establish its carbon footprint. Without this knowledge of the current position it would be impossible to set challenging targets for the authority.

5.2 Accordingly the work of officers on the Climate Change Project Team has to date been almost entirely focused upon establishing this carbon footprint.

5.3 The detailed results have been published on the Council's intranet site, the headline results are;

- Baseline emissions for the Council (including contractor's emissions) amount to 4,226 tonnes costing £1.11 million.
- 41% of emissions are from the leisure centres operated by SOLL and CLS (70% of leisure emissions are from the White Horse Tennis and Leisure Centre).
- 32% of emissions are from waste fleet and grounds maintenance operations (85% of fleet emissions are from the waste contract).
- Council and civic buildings account for only 23% of total emissions.

## **6.0 Added Value**

6.1 The second important piece of work undertaken by officers has been to calculate the Added Value of proposed reductions in carbon emissions. This calculation involves taking the Council's proposed emissions targets and working out what financial savings achieving these targets would accrue.

6.2 The LACM programme is predicated upon the fact that the Council should be able to justify carbon emissions reductions financially as well as environmentally. For this reason the LACM advocates implementing measures which have a clear cost saving benefit.

6.3 Officers on the Climate Change Project Team have completed these calculations and estimate that, if the proposed measures are not implemented, the Council and contractors can expect to incur cumulative additional energy costs exceeding £1million over 5 years.

## **7.0 Proposed measures**

- 7.1 At this stage of the project the team are just beginning the task of establishing detailed action plans for the delivery of the carbon reduction target. However some early issues are apparent
- 7.2 The baseline information indicates that a successful strategy to reduce carbon emissions then, given the profile of the footprint detailed earlier, it has to include the leisure centres and both the incumbent and new waste contractor.
- 7.3 This presents a challenge to the Council as, under current contractual arrangements, reductions in contractor's energy costs brought about by measures funded or part funded by the Council would not result in the Council receiving any financial benefit.
- 7.4 Should the Council want to recoup its capital investment to reinvest in other energy saving projects, the Council will have to negotiate an agreement whereby a proportion of the savings accruing from energy saving measures is repaid to the Council.
- 7.5 In this context the Council's Deputy Director for Contracts and Procurement, supported by the Climate Change project Team has embarked upon the following actions
- The focus for the reduction of emissions from the Council's waste contract will be on the new contract currently being tendered for. All organisations taking part in the tender have been asked to submit an emissions reduction plan as part of the process which will set out how they will minimise the carbon footprint of the waste contract should they be successful.
  - The emissions footprint from the Council's leisure contractors is also the focus of early discussions and officers are confident that, given the burden of fuel costs currently being borne by the contractors, that they will be receptive to discussing how the carbon footprint of this aspect of the Council' activities can be reduced.

## **8.0 Financial Implications**

- 8.1 The Council has earmarked £75,000 each year in the capital programme for 2009/10 and 2010/11 and it is intended that the Carbon Management Plan will set out the most effective way to secure the emissions reductions within the available budget. This plan will be produced in draft form by 1<sup>st</sup> December this year. Prior to this the Climate Change Project Team will provide an outline proposal (for the budget setting process) showing how best to allocated these funds based on the early conclusions from ongoing work required to produce the Carbon Management Plan.

## **9.0 Conclusions**

- 9.1 This report sets out the progress to date on this key corporate priority. It demonstrates that the Council now has an accurate picture of its carbon impact and is well placed to set out its ambitions for carbon reduction over the life of the Climate Change Strategy.

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