



Report to: Cabinet

Subject: Energy Policy

Author: Peter Baguley - Head of Planning and Environment

Date: 6 November 2008

Background

In June 2008, Cabinet approved the draft Energy Policy as a basis for public consultation.

Consultation Replies

A total of three responses were received, raising issues relating to the need to set targets and appoint a responsible officer, the opportunity to improve energy efficiency in residential homes, and the opportunity to promote recycling amongst staff and residents.

Response

In terms of targets, the Borough Council has already committed to 'arrange for an environmental audit of the council, ... with a view to guiding it on how to achieve the maximum practical reduction in carbon emissions and costs' (Council, November 2006). This has been achieved and the results were reported to Cabinet in June 2008. From this exercise, the Energy Policy has emerged. The policy however does not include specific targets. This is in recognition of the fact that the Council is still taking its first steps with regards to reviewing both energy usage and its overall consumption of carbon. It is anticipated however that targets will emerge as part of the ongoing review of the policy.

The action plan attached to the policy does have a number of proposals to reduce energy usage across the whole range of the councils services. A plan for the implementation of these is being developed.

The plan also reflects that, as a large employer in its own right, the Council has the opportunity to promote energy awareness amongst its own staff, both in terms of work and domestic consumption. The Head of Planning and Environment is to lead a discussion about the Energy Policy and good energy practice at the forthcoming Chief Executives briefings.

The policy has also been amended to reflect the Portfolio Holders views regarding the regular monitoring and reporting of fuel, energy and water usage, which should result in improvement over time.

The Borough Council has agreed the establishment of a Carbon Reduction officer, to be based in the Public Protection (formerly Environmental Protection and Private Sector Housing) team.

Local Area Agreement targets

The Energy Policy will be key in contributing towards the achievement of the NI 186 carbon reduction target. Updated baseline information for this measure has recently been published which shows the trend in carbon emissions for the county (per capita emissions in tonnes);

	Old 05 emissions	Revised 05 emissions	06 emissions	Change Revised 05 - 06
Ashfield	6.4	6.2	6.3	+0.1
Bassetlaw	10.5	10.1	9.5	-0.6
Broxtowe	5.8	5.4	5.4	0
Gedling	5.1	4.9	5.0	+0.1
Mansfield	6.0	5.8	5.7	-0.1
Newark and Sherwood	10.5	10.1	10.0	-0.1
Rushcliffe	7.6	7.2	7.4	+0.2
Total	51.9	49.7	49.3	-0.4
Average per LA	7.4	7.1	7.04	

This shows that emissions in Gedling increased slightly from 2005 to 2006, mostly as a result of increased emissions from industry and transport. The Energy Policy identifies the impact that staff work and commute related journeys have upon this.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet adopt the Energy Policy, and receive regular updates on its implementation.

Appendix

Energy Policy

Aims;

1. That the Borough Council is committed to contributing to improving the local and global environment.
2. That the Borough Council commits to seeking to improve its own environmental performance.
3. That the Borough Council will seek to use its influence and resources to encourage others within the borough to take responsibility for reducing the carbon impact of their own activities and therefore contribute to meeting target NI 186 in the Nottinghamshire Partnership Local Area Agreement.

Details;

The Borough Council will aim to minimise its use of resources by;

- Minimising waste production
- Recycling and re-using more materials
- Sustainable procurement
- Investigate energy and water saving projects
- Regularly monitoring energy usage

The Borough Council will aim to protect the environment by;

- Promoting the development of renewable energy
- Promoting energy efficiency improvements in new and existing buildings
- Directing new large scale development to sustainable locations
- Enhancing the natural environment of the Borough

The Borough Council will encourage others to act more sustainably by;

- Encouraging local businesses and residents to adopt good environmental practices
- Promoting transport alternatives to car based journeys
- Monitoring CO₂ emissions for the whole of the Borough
- Promoting awareness of CO₂ reduction targets set out in the Local Area Agreement

Actions;

1. Review the detailed actions proposed in the Carbon Footprint report and implement those which will have the greatest impact in terms of reducing energy usage and value for money.
2. Work in partnership with the community and other bodies towards shared energy reduction goals.
3. Work with officers and elected members to raise awareness of environmental issues and their corporate responsibilities towards these.
4. Report regularly to Cabinet on energy matters and review the policy in light of this.

5. Establish an Energy Policy officer steering group, to review energy usage in all Council premises and to help implement and develop the policy.