



Report to: Cabinet

Subject: Energy Policy Update

Date: 9th July 2009

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1. Background

In January 2008 Cabinet noted the findings of a Carbon Trust survey to establish the Councils carbon footprint, and in November 2008 approved an Energy Policy to establish the Councils approach to reducing the emissions resulting from its own activity and encouraging others to do the same.

This report will update Cabinet on progress since then and other activity which is currently taking place with regards to reducing energy consumption and emissions.

2. Progress

The Carbon Trust made a number of recommendations about measures which could be put in place around the Borough Councils buildings, what the likely cost of these would be and what the payback period (ie how long these measures would take to pay for themselves in terms of reduced energy usage) would be. The Asset management Group considered these and resolved to review the proposals and undertake those works which were found to be most cost effective.

A number of the proposals have been successfully put in place, and other recommendations from the report have also influenced procurement decisions. Amongst works taking place are the following;

Works	Estimated Costs	Estimated savings
Insulation of joints and valves to various boiler	£3 800	£735 pa

rooms		
Variable Speed Drives for leisure centre pools with large pumps	£5 750	£2 500 pa
Covers to both Carlton Forum pools	£4 100	£660 pa

Other initiatives have taken place around spreading good energy management around the Council and a number of service areas have introduced initiatives and working groups to implement these.

On further investigation however, a number of the cost estimates were found to be on the low side and as a result several of the measures were not as cost effective as they initially appeared. In particular the costs of replacing of some types of light bulbs and the installation of 'intelligent' lighting systems were significantly under-estimated. On this basis these works have not been progressed on a large scale. However, the value of these types of control is recognised and so a small scale trial to assess their potential benefit has been commenced. Other proposals which were under-estimated included the potential benefits of replacing certain types of boilers before the end of their useful lives and introducing variable speed drives in pool hall air handling plant motors, and so these have not been implemented.

Other recommendations have been overtaken by other events and emerging good practice. In particular some works to office buildings have been put on hold pending the outcome of the accommodation review. Once the results of this are known, issues such as replacing certain of lighting can be revisited to ensure that they are most appropriate to the requirements of the new uses and users of the buildings. In addition, recommendations relating to the lighting at Richard Herrod, Redhill and Carlton Forum have since been put into question by further published research by the Lighting Industry Federation into the suitability of certain types of fittings. On this basis, these recommendations have not been implemented.

3. NI 185 Carbon emissions from Local Authority activity

More guidance has been produced on this measure which is intended to establish a standard baseline for recording the carbon emissions from all Council activity, including that carried out on its behalf. This information is to be collected under two main headings;

Stationary sources (including Electricity, Gas, LPG, Wood and Coal), broken down into Car Parks, Community centres, Council buildings, Day centres, Depots, leisure centres and offices, and

Transport sources (including Petrol, Diesel, Natural gas, Electric vehicles), broken down by journeys by Vehicle engine size, Motorcycles, Bus, Rail, air travel, Cycling, HGV, Refuse trucks, Grounds maintenance and Industrial machinery.

The collection of this data, which is detailed and time-consuming, is due by the end of July this year, and will represent the baseline upon which future reductions will be judged. It is however an opportunity to fully understand the Councils emissions and upon which energy and emission saving targets can be based.

4. Next Steps

Once the NI 185 figures are submitted, these will form the basis of the Energy Policy targets. These will be reported to Cabinet in the autumn.

Investigations will continue into the recommendations made in the Carbon Trust report and where there is sufficient justification, measures will be introduced.

Officers will continue to be reminded of the potential savings from good house keeping measures.

5. Recommendation

That Cabinet note the report.