

REPORT TO: Corporate Policy and Performance Board
DATE: 25th May 2010
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Environment and Economy
SUBJECT: Energy Management in Buildings
WARDS: Not applicable

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The Board had previously agreed that the Use of Natural Resources topic should form part of their work programme for 2009/10. Given the broad nature of the topic area the Board agreed that they should initially focus on a small number of key areas that offered the greatest scope for reducing the use of resources. Based on the findings of a baseline report the Board decided to focus their attention initially on the Council's approach to energy management in buildings. This report presents the interim findings of the Working Group set up to look at the issues and to seek endorsement from the PPB to the interim recommendations to forward them on to the Executive Board for consideration.

2. RECOMMENDATION: That

The recommendations contained in the report in respect of energy management in Council buildings be endorsed and forwarded to the Executive Board for consideration.

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Following identification of the topic area, the Board set up a Member Working Group supported by officers to consider the Council's current approach to energy management in respect of buildings (including schools) and develop a model of a best practice that would give the Council the most sustainable and affordable way forward for managing energy use in buildings.

The Group received evidence from a number of internal and external sources.

As a result of the investigations to date, the Group have identified a number of interim recommendations in respect of:

- Monitoring and reporting
- Energy management
- Training

- Devolved energy management
- Procurement policies
- Finance
- Renewable energy

The findings of the review and recommendations are set out in the attached Appendix.

There is a growing demand on organisations to manage its resources more effectively and reduce the impact of its operations on the environment. The Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) is a new mandatory carbon emissions trading scheme that began in April 2010 and will have financial consequences for the Council. Improving the Council's approach to energy management in buildings will improve the Council's position in the CRC scheme and reduce any potential financial burden. How the Council manages its Use of Natural Resources is a Key Line of Enquiry in the CAA. In addition, reducing energy consumption saves the organisation money that can be used for frontline services. The Council's involvement in the Local Authority Management Programme has led to the implementation of a range of successful initiatives that have reduced carbon emissions and costs. The Group's recommendations build on the work undertaken to date and outline proposals to provide a more structured approach to energy management in buildings and identify opportunities for further energy savings, many of which are in the control of staff who are key factors in driving the energy saving concepts.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Use of Resources links into the Council's Corporate Plan and aims to reduce the use of nature resources that the Council consumes in delivering its services. This is consistent with the cross cutting sustainability principles which the Council has adopted. Addressing the use of natural resources is also a key line of enquiry in the Comprehensive Area Assessment.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The Review Group have found that good house-keeping by managers and staff can save consumption by between 5 – 10 % but if further progress is to be made and sustained this needs to be supported by a range of technical improvements to buildings. The report suggests that consideration be given to setting aside funding to assist with the implementation of energy efficient measures subject to schemes demonstrating that they are more favourable than buying carbon credits.

6. IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL PRIORITIES

The Council's priorities including adopting sustainable principles and

addressing climate change as part of the Corporate Plan and the urban renewal priority. Addressing the use of resources is consistent with the work on this priority.

7. RISK ANALYSIS

None

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

None

9. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

There are no relevant papers under the meaning of the Act.