

REPORT TO: Corporate Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 5 January 2016
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director People and Economy
PORTFOLIO: Environmental Services
SUBJECT: Energy Update
WARDS: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide an update on related activities aimed at reducing CO2 emissions within the Council and related external activities.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Since the Council's participation in the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme the Council has implemented a number of short to medium/long term actions to ensure that carbon emissions and costs were reduced. Overall the Council's CO2 emissions have significantly reduced from a baseline in 2006/7 of 26,338 tonnes of CO2, to 21,124 tonnes of CO2 in 2014/15. This represents a reduction of 5,214 tonnes of CO2 over the period, approximately 20%.
- 3.2 Activities completed or ongoing in the past 12 months that have contributed to the above reduction include:
- 3.3 Proposals to switch high sodium pressure street lighting used in residential areas and the main through routes in the Borough to LEDs. This year the Council has switched 2,500 lights. The total consumption for these was approximately 950,000 kilowatt hours and the total consumption for the new LEDs is approximately 220,000 kilowatt hours, a reduction of 77% in energy usage.
- 3.4 This equates to an annual cost saving to the Council in the region of £90,000 per annum. The programme of works has previously been agreed by the Executive Board and the replacement programme will continue over the next 2 years. The total capital cost of the programme is in the region of £4.6m which over a 20 year period, after repayment of capital and interest, savings in the region of £7m to £10.5m will be achieved subject to increases in electricity prices. T

- 3.5 To date the Solar PV on Council buildings has generated approximately 450,000 kilowatts of energy which equates to 220 tonnes of CO2. The total income to date generated feeding tariff payments is £144,000 with savings in energy bills approximately £30,000.
- 3.6 The Biomass boiler at Brookvale Leisure Centre has been commissioned and in its first year of operation the boiler used approximately 1.6m kilowatts replacing the oil boilers. This equates to a CO2 reduction of 295 tonnes. In addition it has generated £65,000 of income from the Renewable Heat Incentive in the first year. When the leisure contract reverts to the Council from April 2016 the Council will be in a better position to calculate subsequent fuel savings.
- 3.7 As part of the refurbishment of Norton Priory Museum the Council has agreed to fund the installation of a Biomass boiler at the Museum. This will be installed in the early part of 2016. This will help reduce CO2 emissions at the site and also attract generate an income for the Council from the Renewable Heat Incentive.
- 3.8 The European Regional Development Fund Programme 2014 – 2021 is currently being developed. In the programme there is a Low Carbon strand which will provide ERDF funding of approximately £25m over the programme periods. Bids submitted and supported to date are from the University of Liverpool, Liverpool John Moores University, to collaborate for a low carbon eco hub which will support businesses across the City Region in developing and testing new low carbon products and ideas.
- 3.9 Further potential bids been developed relate to heat networks across the City Region including a potential scheme in East Runcorn and exploring renewable energy options on contaminated land and the retrofitting of public buildings.
- 3.10 In October 2015 the Council, working in partnership with Warm Zones CIC, established a Warm Zones area in Halton. The Warm Zones programme seeks to install various energy efficient measures in homes such as new boilers, central heating, cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, at no cost to residents. Warm Zones CIC have contributed £100,000 to the initiative and some match funding has been provided by the CCG and Public Health.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The objectives set out in the Carbon Reduction Plan and the Liverpool City Region SEAP are consistent with overall objective in the Corporate Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Investment in energy efficient measures has the potential to reduce the Council's energy costs, reduce carbon emission and generate future income streams for the Council

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Encouraging investment in energy-efficiency will benefit from lower carbon emissions, job creation, supply chain development and increased competitiveness and security of energy supply.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Households suffering from fuel poverty have an increased chance of ill health. Illnesses such as influenza, heart disease and strokes are exacerbated by the cold and living in a cold home can make it more difficult to recover from illness. Nationally, fuel poverty is a factor in thousands of excess winter deaths each year, particularly amongst pensioners and can also contribute to social exclusion, which has an adverse impact on mental health and wellbeing. There are huge potential benefits of increased joint working between health and housing professionals.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The transition to a low carbon economy can support the development of the local economy and ensure that future economic growth is decoupled from the consumption of fossil fuels and the inevitable carbon emissions.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

None

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

None

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

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act.