

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 20 March 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Environment

SUBJECT: Local Authority Carbon Management Programme (LACMP)

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To approve the Council's strategy and implementation for the LACMP.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: that the Carbon Management Strategy and Implementation Plans be approved subject to any minor amendments to be made in consultation with the Strategic Director – Environment and the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Leisure and Sport.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 In May 2007, the Council applied and was accepted onto the Carbon Trust Local Authority Carbon Management Programme. The programme has helped the Council:

- undertake a systematic analysis of its carbon footprint
- identify the likely increase in CO² emissions and increasing costs from Council activities if business continues as normal
- identify opportunities to help manage and reduce carbon emissions and costs over the next five years.

3.2 As part of the programme the Council has developed a Carbon Management Strategy and Implementation Plan (copy attached).

3.3 The baseline year for the programme was 2006/07 and emissions from Council buildings (including schools), street lighting, fleet transport, business travel and waste were included in the baseline. In 2006/07, the Council's emissions from the activities produced 24,183 tonnage of CO². Total energy and fuel costs amounted to £4.4m. Assuming the Council took no action to reduce existing trends, based on conservative estimates for gas, electricity and fuel prices, it is estimated that these costs could rise to £5.3m by £2011/12. With emissions rising to 25,151 tonnage of CO².

3.4 The Action Plan sets out measures and seeks to reduce the Council's emissions by 20% over the next five years. If achieved this would deliver cost savings of £480,000 per annum once all measures were implemented. The plan also establishes an aspirational 33% reduction 2013/14. Cost savings in the region of £1.6m may be achieved if these targets were met.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The development of a Carbon Management Strategy fits with the Council's commitment to climate change through the Nottingham Declaration and North West Charter and its commitment to sustainable development in the Corporate Plan.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The implementation of the Action Plan should lead to long term cost savings for the Authority. The Council will be able to use the Plan as a basis for developing a wider climate change strategy to encourage partner organisations, local businesses and residents to tackle the increasing problem of climate change.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Children & Young People - Leadership shown by the Council can promote an awareness of climate change and energy efficiency issues amongst young people.

Employment Learning & Skills in Halton - Following the example of the Council business will effect savings in energy making them more competitive and potentially enabling additional resources which can be directed for business investment and training.

Healthy Halton - Reducing car journeys will have a small beneficial effect in the overall air quality by encouraging healthy lifestyles through walking, cycling and using more public transport.

Safer Halton - A reduction in the dependency in car travel can help reduce road traffic accidents.

Halton's Urban Renewal - An opportunity can be taken through the planning process to encourage greater sustainability across the built environment.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 The long term failure to actively manage carbon emissions could lead to financial penalties if the Government proceeds with its proposals for a mandatory capping scheme.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 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.