

**CARBON MANAGEMENT UPDATE
(Report by Head of Environmental Management)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2009, the Council adopted a Carbon Management Plan (CMP), identifying projects and targets with the aspiration of delivering a 30% reduction in carbon emissions across its estate over a five year period and saving the council an estimated £800,000 in reduced energy costs in the process. In November 2009 the Council additionally signed up to the 10:10 Campaign committing to a 10% reduction in its carbon emissions in 2010.
- 1.2 This report provides an update of progress against both of these targets, outlining the positive work undertaken to date whilst highlighting the need for a Council wide approach to ensure that all buildings and assets are designed in future with optimal environmental performance in mind balanced against the often conflicting objective of delivering ever improving but often energy and water intensive services.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 2008, Huntingdonshire District Council was accepted onto the Carbon Trust's Local Authority Carbon Management Programme. This required the Council to develop a Carbon Management Plan for the authority. Following the approval of the Carbon Management Plan in June 2009, steps were taken by the Council's Carbon Management Group to begin implementing the projects identified within the Plan.
- 2.2 As leisure centres were identified to be the Council's biggest energy users, activities focused largely on improvement works at these sites to increase their energy efficiency. Projects implemented to date have included a combined heat and power unit at the Huntingdon One Leisure site, lighting improvements at a number of centres and variable speed drives improving the energy efficiency of pool pumps (See Annexe 1: VSD Case Study).
- 2.3 During this review process, it became evident that the approach taken by the Council to date had been somewhat fragmented with projects often implemented in isolation without an overall assessment of site energy use. Having recognised the shortcomings in this approach, and to ensure that the technologies the Council planned to invest in would combine to realise maximum savings, a decision was made to develop a clearly defined energy strategy for each site. This approach will ensure that each of the leisure facilities are designed for optimum efficiency, factoring in planned changes to sites in the future.
- 2.4 Carbon reduction projects involving leisure facilities are now being reviewed. The contract for this work has now been awarded and it is expected that the study will be complete by autumn 2010. This has not

precluded the implementation of an insulation programme at a number of One Leisure sites including St Ives, Sawtry, and Ramsey.

- 2.5 To ensure that appropriate technologies are installed across the Council's estate and not just at One Leisure sites, a review of all other main sites is required. It is anticipated that this can be undertaken from existing budgets and this will allow the Council to make informed choices on where to allocate its resources to maximise efficiency savings:
- Site surveys at the Council's other main sites, namely Pathfinder House and Eastfield House are necessary to determine future energy management improvements and the possible installation of renewable technology such as solar Photovoltaic panels for generating electricity (A separate paper on the performance of the new Pathfinder House is being produced by the New Accommodation Team which will provide a platform for what areas need to be considered.)
- 2.6 A range of projects have and continue to be identified and are being programmed in to take place in the coming years. These will help the Council to deliver significant energy and cost savings. However, it must be noted that if we continue to extend energy and water intensive services and construct and extend buildings that use more energy than those that they replace, our energy and water use, along with the Council's carbon footprint, will begin to increase. It is therefore more crucial than ever that we re-investigate our options for delivering resource efficiency savings, including simple behavioural change measures and such options as reducing the opening hours of Pathfinder house, closing the building altogether on Saturdays.

3. FINANCIAL/ RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 With the data for 2009/10 now complete, it is clear that good progress is being made towards our 30% reduction target from reduced energy use in some areas of HDC's estate.
- 3.2 An overall reduction in energy use of 1% in 2009/10 was achieved and although this appears modest, it equates to a saving of 328 tonnes of CO₂ which when combined with the savings made from fleet and staff transport (an additional 405 tonnes) is a reduction in CO₂ emissions in 2009/10 of 11% and a saving to the Council in reduced energy and fuel costs of £67,531 (9% of total financial savings predicted within the Council's Carbon Management Plan).
- 3.3 If the Council continues to implement and identify further carbon saving opportunities on a 'spend to save basis', it is highly likely that it will continue to meet its carbon reduction targets. To ensure that this is the case a cross functional Environmental Resource Efficiency Group, including members of the original Carbon Management Team has been set up to oversee the council's future work on energy and carbon management. The group is charged with identifying future energy saving measures and efficiency savings for the Council.
- 3.4 In addition, to embed resource efficiency throughout the Council and give it the priority it deserves, targets to reduce resource consumption have been placed in Growing Success and, where appropriate, into departmental scorecards of the most energy intensive services.

4. CONCLUSIONS


- 4.1 To date, the Council is making good progress towards meeting the 30% carbon reduction target committed to in the Carbon Management Plan with an 11% carbon saving achieved in 2009/10. If this progress is maintained it is highly likely that the council will also achieve a 10% carbon reduction in 2010 in line with it's commitment to the national 10:10 campaign.
- 4.2 The positive work of the Carbon Management Plan may be jeopardised by energy and water intensive extensions to services within HDC's estate. However, site energy surveys and the development of a full programme of future planned building works will inform future carbon management activity.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny (Environmental Wellbeing) Panel:
- (a) note the contents of this report and the progress being made to achieve the targets set out in the council's carbon management plan and its 10:10 commitment
 - (b) endorse the ongoing focus on carbon management and the implementation of 'spend to save' projects in this area (subject to full cost/benefit analysis) to enable further significant reductions in carbon emissions and cost savings to the Council

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

HDC Carbon Management Plan
Annexe 1: One Leisure Case Study

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