

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting13th March 2008

1. Title of Item/Report

Carbon Management - Strategy & Implementation Plan

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report relating to Carbon Management.

At the Cabinet meeting on 22 November 2007 Members noted that the Council had been accepted onto the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme and that there was a “case for action” with the associated reductions in carbon emissions and financial benefits. It was further resolved that officers progress to the next stage of the programme and develop a strategy and implementation plan for consideration by Members. Members of Cabinet were provided with details of the key parts of the plan and how the Council could reduce its carbon emissions by 25% over five years. It shows that through the implementation of a series of projects significant savings can be made in both emissions and in financial terms. A key part of the programme is the ability to demonstrate that all of these measures will have a payback period of five years or less, making this an “invest to save” plan.

It was advised that the programme included the Councils administration buildings, leisure facilities, libraries and other public buildings, schools, fleet and business travel as well as street lighting. The initial stages of the programme were based around short term gains or “quick wins” in order to make an early impact and to ensure the revolving loan budget was replenished quickly.

Underpinning the programme would be an awareness campaign developed in-house and which would involve all service areas and staff. It was advised that already over 40 carbon savers had been recruited across all service areas whose roles were to identify possibilities for energy savings and to help disseminate the energy saving messages.

It was also advised that being involved with this programme provided the Council with the opportunity to bid for funding from the Salix finance company, a not-for-profit organisation established by the carbon trust with £20m of government funds to invest in energy efficiency measures.

RESOLVED that:-

1. the Carbon Management Strategy and Implementation Plan be noted as being the delivery mechanism to achieve significant carbon savings for the Council.
2. Annual reports of progress against targets and the value at stake be produced and published.

3. Reasons for the Decision

1. Climate change is real. The daily effects of climate change, the availability and cost of fossil fuels, environmental regulation and new technology will change the shape of energy use and supply and make the emission of greenhouse gases one of society's key concerns.
2. As an organisation Stockton Borough Council is responsible through its activities and buildings for 2% of the total CO2 emissions in the Borough.
3. Stockton Council has a Community leadership role to use resources wisely, setting an example to other businesses, stakeholders, partner organisations and the wider community.
4. There is a need to meet climate change-driven regulation governing the public sector such as the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, the EU Emissions Trading Scheme and the proposed Carbon Reduction Commitment scheme. Participation in the carbon management programme will put the Council in a position to meet these challenges and to stay ahead of the wave of regulatory pressures.
5. To deliver the significant reduction in carbon usage and consequent financial savings requires a robust strategy and implementation plan. This has been developed with the assistance of the carbon trust and through networking with other local authorities in the programme.
6. Adequate resources will be required to implement the measures necessary to achieve the carbon savings, at present the Council attributes £100,000 a year for energy efficiency initiatives. A substantial increase may be needed in order to fully realise the range of opportunities to save energy identified to date. The Government are supporting an energy efficiency investment fund, which will operate as a revolving loan adopting the criteria set by the Salix finance organisation. This is in practice an invest to save model with a proven mechanism for calculation of pay-back periods.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Cunningham declared a personal non prejudicial interest in this item as he was employed as an energy consultant.

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not Applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

By no later than midnight on Tuesday 25th March 2008

Proper Officer
17 March 2008