

AGENDA ITEM

29th JUNE 2009

REVIEW OF CARBON MANAGEMENT

Background:

1. The local authority carbon management programme has been developed by the carbon trust and provides technical and change management support to help local authorities realise carbon savings. The programme has been running for six years with 270 organisations participating.
2. The programme has five steps:
 - Mobilise the organisation June 2007
 - Set baseline, forecast and targets August 2007
 - Identify and quantify options: November 2007
 - Finalise Strategy and Implementation plan: March 2008
 - Implement plan 2008 – 2013
3. A target of 25% carbon saving by 2013 has been adopted, based upon both the experience of other local authorities in previous phases of the programme and from the information supplied by members of the project team relating to actions that are planned or expected to happen over the next five years.
4. The scope of the project includes schools, leisure facilities, council administrative buildings, libraries, the fleet, business mileage, and street lighting. As the carbon impact of our waste management strategy is highly complex it is subject to a separate review process. However, it is expected that carbon 'expenditure' will be a major consideration in determining waste management strategies and will add to our overall target.
5. Tristar homes have not been included in the scope of this programme as there are other drivers and programmes in place to improve the energy efficiency of the social housing stock.

Benefits to Participation in the Carbon Management Programme

6. Participation in the carbon management programme sends out a clear message that the Council is committed to reducing its contribution to climate change and is utilising resources responsibly. During the course of the programme there will be opportunities to engage with local businesses to encourage their participation in achieving carbon savings through ideas sharing, networking and support from the carbon trust.
7. The carbon management programme has been running for several years and it provides a tried and tested methodology to deliver carbon reduction and financial savings. It offers technical and specialist support to enable both the cultural shift within the organisation as well as offering proven technological solutions to energy issues within the local authority environment.

8. Carbon management has links to, and will contribute towards targets and objectives within:

- The Stockton on Tees Climate Change Action
- The Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy
- Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 - 2021
- Asset Management Plan
- Building Schools for the Future
- Procurement Strategy
- The Corporate Travel Plan

Producing and Delivering the Action Plan:

9. A cross-service project team was established, including membership from Tees Active. This group has brought together the necessary information to form the baseline position in terms of our carbon emissions and our energy costs as well as the following:

- Developed a project plan with objectives, deliverables, governance and some potential opportunities for energy savings ;
- Setting the target of 25% carbon reduction by March 2013, from the 2005/06 baseline;
- An innovative awareness campaign including a draft communications strategy, considered an example of excellence by the Carbon Trust, has been devised in-house by officers within Development and Neighbourhood Services based around the carbon dioxide molecule and utilising the “CO₂” in captions and messages.

10. The plan is being delivered by the group who individually have responsibility for one or more of the 23 projects within the plan. Bi-monthly meetings of the project group take place to steer progress on these projects and to consider additional schemes or variations to the original plan.

Governance Arrangements:

11. Quarterly progress reports are considered by the corporate management team with annual reports being presented to Cabinet (see attached report presented on 11 June 2009).
12. Annual reports are submitted to the carbon trust and to the Salix finance organisation primarily to record carbon savings and spend on projects.

Additional Drivers for Action:

13. Since joining the carbon management programme there have been a number of additional drivers to take action to reduce our carbon emissions. The most significant being the impending carbon reduction commitment which is in effect a tax on carbon emissions if we do not achieve savings year on year. This is likely to be £12 per tonne starting in 2011 but likely to rise in later years of the programme.
14. The comprehensive area assessment is looking much closer at our use of natural resources and having a carbon management plan as well as a

sustainable procurement strategy with measurable impacts on carbon emissions is likely to put the council in a good position.

15. The new national indicator NI 185 which measures the carbon emissions from our operations is included within the local area agreement and as such sets very clear targets for reduction over the next few years.
16. There is also a new national indicator NI 194 which measures the air quality impact from our operations and looks at not only the carbon emissions but also the oxides of nitrogen emitted from vehicles and boiler plant.

Additional Risks and Opportunities:

17. The economic downturn presents both risks and opportunities to the carbon management programme. One of the original projects was to look at the office accommodation and rationalise what we had with perhaps the disposal of some of the portfolio which is now going to be very difficult to achieve on the scale perhaps originally envisaged. We have also had set backs on the supply of some equipment where companies have gone into receivership.
18. On a more positive note this programme does provide an opportunity to support emerging "green" businesses which may well provide part of a long term solution to the current economic situation.

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Background Papers

None.

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Not ward specific.