

Appendix 1

Scrutiny Board Environment and Neighbourhoods - Inquiry into the Council's CO2 emission Targets

Notes of the meeting of a Working Group held on 1st November 2007

Present: Councillor Anderson
Councillor A Blackburn
Martin Farrington
Tom Knowland
George Munson
Nick Towers

Background Information

In January and February 2003, the former Scrutiny Board (Development and Sustainability) conducted an Inquiry into energy matters and published its final report and recommendations in April 2003.

The Scrutiny Board concluded its investigations with the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1

That the Executive Member with accountability for energy matters champions all aspects of the Council's energy responsibilities, taking a proactive role in promoting good practice throughout the city, as well as monitoring the Council's own progress.

Recommendation 2

That the Council establishes a Working Group to draw up proposals to make progress against the 30% target and the action statements set out in the Leeds HECA Strategy and also effectively deliver the revised Fuel Poverty Strategy.

Recommendation 3

That the Working Group develops inter-agency co-operation with relevant stakeholders, including the Voluntary and Community sectors, to help deliver energy efficiency improvements.

Recommendation 4

Following the success of the Prescription for Health Improvement scheme, we recommend that the lessons learned from that initiative are rolled out across the City.

Recommendation 5

That, in implementing its fuel poverty strategy, the Council continues to maintain a watching brief on CO₂ levels.

Recommendation 6

That the Working Group reviews the role of Development Control and Building Control in setting and enforcing energy efficiency standards in the private sector. Also, that, as the development agency for the Allerton Bywater Millennium Village, English Partnerships and other partnering organisations be stimulated into promoting the scheme as an exemplar of best practice where appropriate.

Recommendation 7

That the Energy Unit provide support to the Working Group to develop costing information for progressing the Leeds HECA Strategy.

Recommendation 8

That the Council explore all the opportunities available for accessing additional funding streams to help address the Council's below average HECA performance and to start making in-roads to meeting the Government's Fuel Poverty objectives.

Recommendation 9

That consideration be given to extending the remit of the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (EEAC) to involve providing energy advice to small businesses within the City.

Recommendation 10

That serious consideration is given to provide additional staff to the Energy Advice Unit in Leeds, subject to an acceptable Business Plan.

Recommendation 11

That Local Members and ALMO Boards are briefed immediately on issues relating to energy matters and that further training and/or ongoing briefing sessions are supported at all levels of the Authority to ensure Local Members, officers and community representatives are kept fully aware of the issues and need relative to energy and fuel poverty.

Recommendation 12

That training is targeted specifically at officers, particularly front line officers, to raise awareness about energy efficiency measures relating to both work and home environments.

Recommendation 13

That costing information be produced for the Energy and Water Management Plan to enable monitoring.

Recommendation 14

That the Energy and Water Management Working Group explore options for incentivising departments to reduce their day to day energy consumption

Recommendation 15

That the Head of Asset Management and the Acting Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing draw up an action plan, to be endorsed by the Executive Member, to respond to the Board's recommendations and provide progress reports to Scrutiny.

In July 2003, the Development Services Scrutiny Board considered the formal response and action plan to these recommendations from the Development and Neighbourhoods and Housing Departments. At its January 2004 meeting, the Board also considered a progress report from the Development Department on the implementation of the action plan.

After considering the formal response from both Departments on the recommendations arising from the Inquiry, the Board requested that future progress reports relating to energy housing issues be referred to the Neighbourhoods and Housing Scrutiny Board for action/determination.

However, the Board welcomed the action plan and also welcomed the news of major progress in purchasing green energy for Council buildings.

At its January 2004 meeting, the Board received a progress report on the Development Services energy issues. The Board commended the Department on the achievements made to date and in particular on winning the Carbon Trust Innovation Award in the category 'Larger Companies and Public Sector Organisations'.

The Board requested that further updates on energy matters continue to be submitted to future Scrutiny Board meetings.

In September 2007 Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods) agreed to include on the work programme an inquiry into the Council's Climate Change agenda. Given that this is a wide ranging term, the Chair suggested that the focus of the inquiry should be on the Council's own CO₂ emissions and the associated reduction targets.

The Inquiry would look at the following areas;

- Review of the DEFRA indicators relating to CO₂ reduction; the definitions, targets and current performance.
- Resourcing the climate change agenda in general and specifically with regard to reducing CO₂ emissions
- Role of external advisers/bodies in helping the Council to reduce its CO₂ emissions
- Energy management and the work of the departmental champions

- Future Council estate – sustainable building
- Travel policies for staff and fleet management

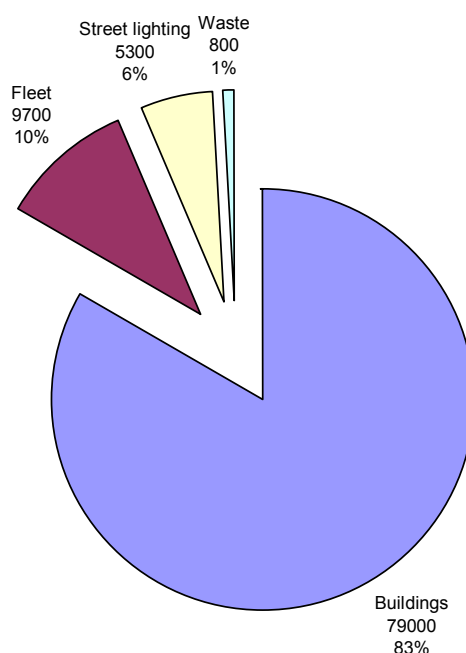
Working Group Meeting 1st November 2007

The first session of the Working Group looked at the following areas; a review of the policy drivers, targets and current performance. The papers provided to Members focused on the International and National policy background, the identification of key policies, existing targets and future target setting and the current performance baseline.

Current performance baseline

The pie chart below shows total corporate emissions for Leeds City Council for the year 2006/07 amounted to 95,000 tonnes of CO₂. It is hoped that emissions associated with staff travel for official duties and for employee commute can be included by 2008/09.

Corporate emissions (tonnes of CO₂ and percentage)



This indicates that in 2006/07 emissions from the Leeds City Council building stock is approximately 61% lower than they were in 1991/2. However, if we discount the CO₂ reductions associated with purchasing green electricity (66,000 tonnes of CO₂ in 2005/06) then this figure reduces to 28%. Figures for other elements of the baseline have not been calculated yet.

Existing targets and future target setting

Currently, local authorities do not have any specific targets relating to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

However, LCC has already committed through the Energy and Water Management Plan to achieve a 15% reduction in CO₂ emissions from our building stock between 2004-08, which we are well on target to meet.

It is possible that local authorities will be forced to adopt targets in future, potentially emerging through:

- Climate Change Bill;
- Carbon Reduction Commitment;
- Comprehensive Area Assessment

The developing Leeds Climate Change Strategy will contain an emissions target for the city. This has yet to be agreed, but is likely to be in the order of 60-90% below 1990 levels by 2050, with an interim target for 2025, to reflect current scientific developments.

Comments and initial conclusions and recommendations

The Working Group concurs with officer's views that CAA and LAAs provide a strong opportunity to access specific new resources to tackle climate change within Leeds.

Recommendation 1

That at least one of the 35 LAA priorities for Leeds focuses on climate change to provide much needed new resources.

The signing of the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change by the Council in June 2006 is a clear statement that the Council identifies climate change as a strategic issue for the City. Members acknowledge the development of a holistic climate change strategy for Leeds, which will contain specific actions both to reduce emissions from our estate, from the whole city and to adapt to climate change. This should be published by June 2008.

Members noted that the Joint Commitment drawn up by the Core Cities and to be launched in November 2007 contains a series of commitments from both Government and the cities including the commitment to;

- Achieve or exceed targets for reducing CO₂ emissions, increasing air quality standards and reducing landfill in line with the new Climate Change Bill and related legislation.
- Reduce our own energy consumption and work jointly on increasing renewable energy generation, e.g. through Energy Service Companies

Members also note that the Core Cities Group has just been advised that the Carbon Trust has selected Leeds, Manchester and Bristol as the partners of choice. This reflects the high level of commitment in each local authority and their local partners together with appropriate mechanisms to turn advice into action. LCC has much to gain from this professional advice and should use it to further strengthen the Leeds Climate Change Strategy.

Energy Performance in Building Directive (EPBD)

It is acknowledged that at this current stage the absence of government software is preventing the issue of Energy Certificates. However it is also acknowledged that a thorough data validation exercise is taking place in lieu of the arrival of the software.

However the Working Group would endorse the following recommendation

Recommendation 2

That all major sites are surveyed as soon as possible and where the certificates are poor, a clear plan of action to improve them up to the maximum feasible and viable score is drawn up

Carbon Reduction Commitment

Members of the Working Group acknowledge that Leeds City Council is likely to be part of the Carbon Reduction Commitment given our £20m utility bill.

This provides an additional fiscal incentive to increase efforts to reduce emissions from our buildings. However, if we do not prepare sufficiently for the introduction of the CRC there is potential to leave the council exposed to significant financial risks from poor pricing of auctioned credits and from poor management of trading arrangements.

This will have budgetary implications and will need to be factored into the 2009 budget calculations

Recommendation 3

That the CRC implications are factored into the 2009 budget calculations

Street Lighting

LCC is replacing all street lights with more efficient ones as part of a multi-million pound PFI contract. This will reduce emissions by approximately 15%. The Working Group would recommend that the potential for further reductions be reviewed such as the potential for altering the times that street lights are on and potentially through selective dimming late at night.

Recommendation 4

That the potential for further reductions by the use of street lights be reviewed such as the potential for altering the times that street lights are on and potentially through selective dimming late at night.

Reducing emissions from future buildings

The Working Group endorses the officer recommendation that a policy be brought in to use Whole Life Costing analysis when specifying new LCC buildings or major refurbishments, linked to a ring-fenced fund to pay additional capital where revenue costs will recoup this within a 10 year period.

Recommendation 5

That a policy be brought in to use Whole Life Costing analysis when specifying new LCC buildings or major refurbishments, linked to a ring-fenced fund to pay additional capital where revenue costs will recoup this within a 10 year period.

Fleet Management

The Working Group concurs with the view that omissions from the Council's fleet can be overlooked. It is recommended that a review of this activity be undertaken within the context of the Green Travel Plan and that this should include a review of mileage rates.

Recommendation 6

That a review of fleet managements and operation is undertaken within the context of the Green Travel Plan and that this should include a review of mileage rates.