

**Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development**

**Report to Scrutiny Board (Sustainable Economy and Culture)**

**Date: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011**

**Subject: Reducing CO2 emissions in the Local Authority Estate**

|  |                              |  |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| Are specific electoral Wards affected?<br>If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-In?  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?<br>If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:<br>Appendix number: | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

**1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to facilitate discussions with officers on the reduction of CO2 emissions in the Local Authority Estate to enable the Scrutiny Board – Sustainable Economy and Culture to determine if further scrutiny is required and specific areas for further investigation.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 At the June 2011 meeting the Board discussed the reduction of CO2 emissions and what LCC could do in terms of leading by example through utilising renewable energy and goods within its own buildings.
- 2.2 Carbon and Water Management Plan 2011 -2021 is attached at appendix A. This was brought before the Councils Executive Board on 30 March 2011

The long term objectives detailed within this plan are:

- To reduce revenue expenditure on energy and water at levels proportional to CO<sub>2</sub> reductions based on summer 2010 prices. (Revenue cost savings of £6.0M per annum.)
- To reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by a minimum of 40% by April 2021.
- To reduce energy consumption from fossil fuel to support reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

- To produce renewable energy, replacing fossil fuel to support reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- To Maintain level of investment in carbon reduction projects to ensure competitive positioning in CRC league tables

2.3 The Delivery Plan for 2011/12, attached as appendix B, sets out a number of headline measures, the action taken to date and the progress made against each of the following priorities :

- 1- Retrofitting energy savings measures into the existing estate of operational buildings;
- 2 - 'Changing the Workplace', both in the city centre and across the rest of the city, to use offices more efficiently by introduction of new technology and changing workstyles;
- 3 - Continued rationalisation and disposal of surplus of property and combining with other services such as NHS and other partners where efficiency gains can be made;
- 4 & 9 - Generation of renewable electricity by both large and small-scale systems (e.g. wind turbines, photovoltaic arrays, hydro-power. Generation of renewable heat through biomass boilers, anaerobic digestion of waste, and large scale Combined Heat & Power (CHP);
- 5 - Change behaviour of building managers and staff as part of the low-cost / no cost proposals of the Million Pound Challenge;
- 6, 7 & 10 - Travel and fleet initiatives, involving journey reductions, better journey planning, vehicle modernizing, and changes of vehicle fuelling
- 8 - Reduction of street lighting energy through changes to switch-off times, changes to more efficient light fittings, and changes to spacing of lamp standards

2.4 For the purposes of considering if further scrutiny is required, the Scrutiny Board (Sustainable Economy and Culture) are advised that in May 2008, the Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods) published a statement on the Council' s Role in reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. During the inquiry the following areas were considered:

- Review of the DEFRA indicators relating to CO<sub>2</sub> reduction; the definitions, targets and current performance.
- Resourcing the climate change agenda in general and specifically with regard to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Role of external advisers/bodies in helping the Council to reduce its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Energy management and the work of the departmental champions
- Future Council estate – sustainable building
- Travel policies for staff and fleet management

The statement, containing six recommendations is attached as appendix C. Progress against the recommendations was tracked by the Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods) until December 2009 when tracking ceased. The final tracking update report is attached as appendix D.

### **3. Options for Scrutiny**

3.1 When determining if further scrutiny is required, the Scrutiny Board (Sustainable Economy and Culture) may wish to consider:

- If there are matters identified of sufficient significance and there is the potential for scrutiny to produce realistic recommendations that could be implemented and lead to tangible improvements.
- Whether the Scrutiny Board wish to monitor progress against objectives specified in the Deliver Plan.
- Whether additional information is required and a specific report is to be brought to the Scrutiny Board
- Whether an Inquiry should be undertaken
- The time which has elapsed since the Scrutiny Statement was issued in 2008.

### **4. Recommendations**

4.1 Members are asked to:

- (i) Note and discuss the information appended to this report
- (ii) Determine any areas for further scrutiny.

### **5. Background papers**

5.1 None