

SCRUTINY STUDY OF CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRESS

To – Scrutiny Management Team

Date of meeting – 17 March 2015

Notes of - Principal Localities, Communities & Policy Officer

BRIEFING NOTE RE **CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE**

Background

The council adopted a Climate Change Action Plan in June 2009 as part of its commitment to reducing greenhouse gases and adapting to climate change.

Our Climate Change Action Plan sets out actions to quantify and reduce our carbon footprint. Developed and monitored by the now disestablished Climate Change Working Group, Management Team now receives the quarterly progress reports and the Annual Carbon Emissions report. Progress is also reported to the Executive and Scrutiny Management Team following their climate change review back in 2010 (?).

Summary of progress

The action plan spans across all service groupings and includes the following objectives:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our actions
- Encourage other partners and the public to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions
- Prepare for the change that will happen due to a changing climate

Progress is monitored regularly via our Covalent performance management system. This report summarises mid-year progress for each of the key objectives and highlights the areas for improvement which could be carried forward into any future revised plan. .

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our actions

Year on year, our building stock continues to decline as we continue to rationalise our stock and undergo the process of transferring our community assets. Our property portfolio is significantly less than when we first started tracking our carbon emissions in 2009. Thus for continuity, only the latest stock list is used when analysing and comparing energy data.

As with previous years, the mid-year data indicates continuous reductions in our energy usage for our building stock and transport fleet. To date, the figures suggest that our buildings have

used 25% less gas and 4% less electricity, an overall reduction of 29% and equating to a total saving of £3,000 on our energy bills. However, caution should be applied as we are still awaiting confirmation from Liberata on the accuracy of some of the data. Our transport fleet has used 24% less fuel, generating a mid-year saving of £10,600.

CO2 emissions per head of staff in each of our main sites is currently as follows:

	CO2 per staff head (KGs)			% change	
	2012	2013	2014	2012/13	2013/14
NTH	769	756	541	-2	-40
EH	304	316	277	4	-14
Fleet St	165	186	189	11	2

As raised previously, our pavilions continue to increase their energy usage. Gas usage of our pavilions equates to 30% of our total gas use and 15% of our electricity use. Overall energy consumption increased by over 75% but given that we now have a number of new pavilions that are well utilised a significant increase is to be expected. The need for energy management systems to address energy usage in our pavilions has been identified and work will continue to identify effective, low cost energy management systems and practices for priority sites.

Discussions are ongoing between HR and Finance to consider the implications of a staff salary sacrifice scheme to enable staff to lease 'green' cars.

We are on course to meet our annual paper reduction target of 10% with all service areas showing continuous quarterly reductions.

We have seen a move to integrate the EARS fleet with waste services and the usage of vehicles by both teams is now regularly monitored. However, uptake of the park vehicles by waste services still has potential with waste service usage only accounting for 11% of the bookings to date.

We have made progress with renewable technologies with the solar photovoltaic scheme installed on 11 of our buildings (including PLT sites). We are now beginning to see the impact of these schemes with electricity consumption dropping on these sites. Although overall electricity consumption has only declined by 4% to date, Nelson Town Hall has one of the highest electricity reductions at 18% which can be attributed partly to the installation of the solar panels.

We are making little progress with reducing our carbon footprint generated through our procurement procedures with limited progress in improving our procurement procedures. Many of these actions have not been delivered due to other work priorities and a lack of current capacity.

Encourage other partners and the public to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions

Limited progress has been made on engaging the business sector on climate change. Alternative approaches have now been identified such as including information on energy efficient measures in the business grants programme.

The second pan Lancashire collective switching scheme. People Power, was held at the beginning of 2014. Although uptake remained low (as in the first scheme), it was encouraging that Pendle achieved comparatively high registration rates second time round (18% of the Lancashire total).

Rather than investing resources in a further community switching campaign, we are now pursuing community energy surgeries as an alternative to collective energy switching schemes. These surgeries aim to raise awareness of affordable warmth, better understand utility bills, consider carbon reduction measures and potential switch saving opportunities. To date 5 surgeries have been delivered in Pendle.

As part of a concerted effort to streamline the Green Deal offer across Lancashire we are part of the Lancashire wide initiative CHiL (Cosy Homes in Lancashire).

In Oct 2014 Pendle was allocated a capital grant of £52,000 from LCC to address affordable warmth. Interventions such as full central heating and boiler replacement schemes have been delivered to 23 residents to date. Although beneficiary numbers appear small, the impacts to these households are immense, leading to tangible health outcomes for the individuals and improved housing conditions.

Prepare for the change that will happen due to a changing climate

Work continues to influence providers of health and social care to consider the impact of a changing climate on Lancashire's population and services. Discussions are underway with LCC to consider how best to engage the Lancashire Health & Wellbeing Board with this agenda and how we can collectively best utilise the various on-line resources and tools that map out threats and vulnerabilities and opportunities.

Summary

Overall, we are on course to achieve the majority of the milestones in the action plan.

Objective 3 of the existing plan is about coping with the consequences of a changing climate (adaptation) and appears to be the weakest theme in our action plan. Over the years, we have developed robust systems and monitoring arrangements to reduce our emissions and to support residents in taking action. As an organisation we seem to have embraced climate change mitigation, successfully achieving our annual reduction targets. We recognise that further work is required to strengthen our commitment and approach to climate change adaptation.

It is likely that any revised Climate Change Action Plan will have a greater emphasis on adaptation to ensure that, as an organisation, we are well placed to deal with the consequences of a changing climate.

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Background Papers: None

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Date: