

REPORT OF: LOCALITIES & POLICY MANAGER

TO: EXECUTIVE

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PENDLE COUNCIL'S CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Executive of progress to date on the Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2014-2016.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive note progress to date.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

To lead by example on environmental management and to reduce our 'in house' carbon footprint.

Background

1. The council adopted a Climate Change Action Plan in June 2009 as part of its commitment to reducing green-house gases and adapting to climate change.
2. 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 bi-annually to the Executive and Scrutiny Management Team following their climate change review back in 2010.

Summary of progress

3. 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

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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

8. 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 utilized 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.
9. Discussions are ongoing between HR and Finance to consider the implications of a staff salary sacrifice scheme to enable staff to lease 'green' cars.
10. We are on course to meet our annual paper reduction target of 10% with all service areas showing continuous quarterly reductions.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. We are making little progress with reducing our carbon footprint generated through 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

14. 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.
15. 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).
16. 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, and consider carbon reduction measures and potential switch saving opportunities. To date 5 surgeries have been delivered in Pendle.
17. 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).
18. 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

19. 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, vulnerabilities and opportunities for the area.

Summary

20. Overall, we are on course for meeting the majority of the milestones and we are optimistic about achieving the annual carbon reduction targets for our building stock and fleet. The challenging economic climate has hindered some action but wherever possible, existing resources has supported implementation of actions.
21. The Climate Change Action Plan should now position us well to achieve further reductions in our carbon emissions over the next 12 months. Details of annual energy performance will be submitted to Management Team prior to the publication of our Annual Emissions Report in July 2015.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: The Climate Change Action Plan will help deliver against national, regional and local carbon reduction targets.

Financial: None arising from this report.

Legal: None arising from this report.

Risk Management: It is well documented that a lack of action now on tackling the causes and effects of climate change could have a detrimental impact on future generations.

Health and Safety: None arising from this report.

Sustainability: This action plan is fundamental to ensure we continue to effectively monitor and reduce our carbon footprint.

Community Safety: None arising from this report.

Equality and Diversity: An impact assessment will be undertaken on the Climate Change Action Plan to ensure all actions are inclusive.