

Wiltshire Council

Environment Select Committee

27 October 2015

Wiltshire Energy Resilience Plan

Purpose of Report

1. For the committee to comment on the draft Energy Resilience Plan (see **Appendix 1**) following consideration by the ECO Board on 22 October 2015.

Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

2. The work delivered under the Energy Resilience Plan will make a direct contribution to the council's core vision to create stronger and more resilient communities and provides opportunities to deliver against many of the business plan's outcomes:

Outcome 1: Wiltshire has a thriving and growing local economy.

The transition to a low carbon economy is a central theme for the plan, and is recognised as a driver within the Swindon and Wiltshire Strategic Economic Plan which will create opportunities for innovation, jobs, skills and sustainable economic growth.

Outcome 2: People in Wiltshire work together to solve problems locally and participate in decisions that affect them.

The Energy Resilience Plan has engaged with a range of stakeholders who will need to work together to achieve its objectives. It promotes knowledge sharing and collaboration to enable communities and businesses to develop their own energy resilience.

Outcome 3: Everyone in Wiltshire lives in a high quality environment.

The plan identifies opportunities to improve energy efficiency, reduce fuel poverty, promote sustainable transport and deliver low carbon solutions. These are important actions to ensure people in Wiltshire live in a high quality environment.

Background

3. The [Energy, Change and Opportunity \(ECO\) strategy 2011-2020](#) is the framework strategy for the Energy Resilience Plan (see figure 1). It is supplemented by the [Carbon Management Plan](#) for the council's emissions and the [Climate Change Adaptation Plan](#) (currently under review).

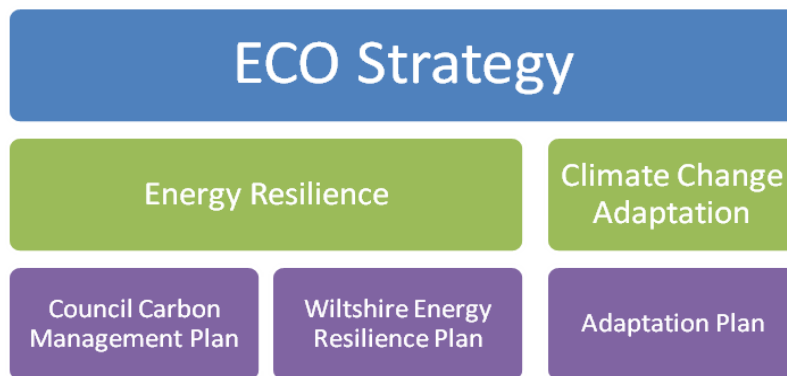


Figure 1: ECO Strategy action plan structure

4. The ECO Strategy was approved by Cabinet in January 2011. Cabinet agreed that the ECO Board should oversee the delivery of the Strategy and be responsible for approving and monitoring delivery of subsequent action plans.
5. In March 2012, the Environment Select Committee approved the ECO Board's recommendation to streamline three action plans, covering low carbon transition, renewable energy and affordable warmth, into a single energy resilience plan for Wiltshire.
6. In September 2014, Wiltshire Council became a signatory to the [Climate Local Commitment](#). The Energy Resilience Plan supports this commitment and satisfies the requirement for a Climate Local action plan to be in place which reflects local actions and priorities to reduce carbon emissions.
7. Development of the Energy Resilience Plan commenced in early 2015 with stakeholder meetings. External consultation on the draft action plan ended in September and the plan has been updated to reflect this feedback.
8. Comments are now invited from the Environment Select Committee in order to finalise the Energy Resilience Plan before publishing.

Main Considerations for the Council

9. The Department of Energy and Climate Change public attitude tracker (April 2015) indicates that the majority of respondents remain concerned about the issue of energy security and future energy price rises. There remains a high level of support (78%) for the use of renewable energy to provide the UK's electricity, fuel and heat. The Wiltshire Energy Resilience Plan is a demonstration of the council's leadership in tackling these issues.
10. The plan at **Appendix 1** aims to address the current opportunities and barriers to developing energy resilience in Wiltshire and capture the benefits of a low carbon transition for businesses and communities. These benefits include maintaining competitiveness, improving security of energy supply, providing affordable warmth and enabling energy spend to be retained locally.
11. Links are made in the plan with existing council strategies, such as the Local Transport Plan, Air Quality Action Plan and Wiltshire Core Strategy.

Development

12. This plan identifies the actions that Wiltshire Council and other stakeholders will take to address four key areas: energy efficiency, affordable warmth, sustainable transport and low carbon energy solutions.
13. As the first of its type for the county, the scope and content of the plan has been developed in discussion with stakeholders from Wiltshire businesses, the public sector and community-based organisations. These included, for example, Wavin (Chippenham), DSTL (Porton Down), Dyson (Malmesbury), Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust and Kennet Community Energy. This process was led by the council's green economy team.
14. The plan sets out the current picture for energy use in Wiltshire and establishes a vision and objectives.
15. The actions defined in the Energy Resilience Plan are short to medium term and produce a flexible plan which can be periodically reviewed and updated to reflect changing opportunities and priorities.

Consultation

16. The draft plan has been circulated internally for approval by the relevant heads of service. An external consultation has been undertaken on the draft document, principally among stakeholders who have helped to inform its development. Consultees were asked to consider whether the key issues and opportunities had been captured and make suggestions for improving the action plans.
17. Responses have been received from a cross-section of consultees. As a result of the feedback, clarification has been provided on the monitoring arrangements for the plan and a number of additional case studies and suggestions have been incorporated.
18. Consultees from the community and private sector have stated their commitment to supporting the objectives of the plan and its implementation.

Delivery, monitoring and reporting

19. The action plan captures the work of a number of the council's service areas including sustainable transport, public health, economic development, planning, fleet, housing and asset management. Partners in the public, private and community sectors are identified and will play a key role in ensuring delivery of this plan's objectives.
20. Delivery for the majority of the actions will be met from existing resources. Those actions which are funding-dependent will require external sources to be identified and/or grant applications to be made and this is highlighted in the action plan.
21. Progress with the action plans will be reported annually to the ECO Board and published on the council's website.

Safeguarding Implications

22. Any safeguarding issues will be managed through the normal safeguarding policy and procedures.

Public Health Implications

23. A number of the initiatives promoted by the Energy Resilience Plan will have cross-cutting benefits for public health. These include the Warm and Safe Wiltshire Programme to tackle fuel poverty and active travel promotions to encourage walking, cycling and use of public transport.

Corporate Procurement Implications

24. Any procurement issues will be managed through the normal corporate policy and procedures.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

25. The plan has developed a picture of energy resilience across the county. It identifies reducing carbon emissions as one of its strategic aims. The core activities to be delivered will improve energy efficiency, facilitate low carbon energy sources and promote sustainable transport, all of which will contribute to climate change mitigation.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

26. The plan identifies enabling an active role for communities as a strategic aim for delivering action across all areas of energy resilience. Community interest groups have been engaged throughout the development and consultation process to shape the scope of the plan and direct how they can contribute to its objectives and implementation.
27. The Energy Resilience Plan includes an objective to improve domestic energy efficiency for those in or at risk of fuel poverty. This programme of work, led by public health, will target support at vulnerable residents.

Risk Assessment

28. The Energy Resilience Plan brings together the activities of a range of service areas and stakeholders in order to support a coordinated approach to energy matters in Wiltshire. A number of risks have been considered and managed in taking this approach.
29. Service delivery:
The plan has been developed with input from key service areas. It reflects current activities and projects which will be delivered in the short to medium term to provide a realistic action plan that reflects current priorities and avoids duplication of effort. The action plan indicates where additional financial resources and funding applications will be required to enable delivery, as well as highlighting the role of partners to support implementation.

30. **Financial:**
Where actions are dependent on funding applications or suitable external funding options being explored, this is identified within the action plan. The Energy Resilience Plan will be a tool for communicating to potential funding bodies the council's strategic approach to energy matters in the county.
31. **Reputation:**
There has been cross-sectoral support for the development of the Energy Resilience Plan. Demonstrating progress in delivery of the action plans will be important to maintain this engagement and support for implementation.

Financial Implications

32. Delivery for the majority of the actions will be met from existing resources and do not represent additional budgetary commitments. Where additional funding is required it is anticipated that this will be met through external bids, grants and contributions. This is indicated alongside the relevant actions.

Legal Implications

33. The Government is committed to reducing the UK's carbon emissions by 34% by 2020 through the Climate Change Act (2008). The progress made through implementing the Energy Resilience Plan will contribute towards this.

Conclusions

34. The draft Energy Resilience Plan sets out the current issues and opportunities with regards to energy, as agreed by a cross-section of stakeholders. These are addressed by action plans across four key areas; energy efficiency, affordable warmth, sustainable transport and low carbon energy.
35. A range of partners and stakeholders will contribute to meeting the objectives of the Energy Resilience Plan. The plan will remain flexible to respond to changing opportunities and priorities.
36. The plan can be amended prior to publication following recommendations from ECO Board and this committee.

Proposal

37. The committee is invited to provide comments on the draft Energy Resilience Plan.

Reason for Proposal

38. The committee has previously approved the decision to produce an energy resilience plan and will now have the opportunity to comment on the draft Energy Resilience Plan before it is finalised.

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The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report:

None

Appendices

Appendix 1: Draft Wiltshire Energy Resilience Plan