

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR WASTE, PROPERTY AND ENVIRONMENT – MR T R STURGIS**

### **DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES**

**OFFICER CONTACT:** Neil Ward – Head of Strategic Property Services  
neil.ward@wiltshire.gov.uk  
(01225) 713298

**REFERENCE:** WPE-001-11

---

### **ADOPTION OF A COUNCIL WIDE ENERGY POLICY**

#### **Purpose of Report**

To gain Councillor approval for the adoption of a new Council wide energy policy.

#### **Background**

Three key pressures are driving Wiltshire Council to become more energy efficient and to reduce the amount of carbon produced from both static (property) and transport sources, namely:

- As a large consumer of energy, there is a requirement to purchase allowances for every tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted from static sources from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011.
- A corporate target to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 20% by 2013/14, based on the 2008/09 footprint of the authority.
- Continued financial pressure to reduce expenditure and make services more efficient.

It was agreed in July 2010 by the Corporate Leadership Team that an energy management system should be installed throughout the whole authority. This policy forms the foundation of this system.

#### **Main Considerations for the Council**

Changes to the CRC scheme in October 2010 now mean that the Council is projected to pay £600,000 for the carbon it will produce in 2011/12. It is anticipated that the cost of allowances will increase to disincentivise the use of carbon based energy sources in a similar mechanism to landfill tax.

In order to reduce the Council's liability to this cost, an Energy Management System is being implemented that will apply a structured approach to the management of energy issues covering policy, data gathering & analysis, staff communications and awareness and energy efficiency action programmes.

The policy sets high level objectives that all Council departments should follow when running services.

#### **Environmental Impact of the Proposal**

By adopting the energy policy, the Council agrees to a set of high level objectives that will improve the management of energy issues and drive energy efficiency, reducing consumption and lowering the associated carbon emissions.

This policy sits as the foundation of the Council's energy management system.

### **Equalities Impact of the Proposal**

None

### **Risk Assessment**

None

### **Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications relating to the adoption of a new Council wide energy policy. However, by implementing the objectives contained within the policy it would be anticipated that improved energy efficiency should result, reducing expenditure for the authority on utilities and reducing liability to purchase allowances under the CRC scheme.

### **Legal Implications**

There are no direct financial implications relating to the adoption of a new Council wide energy policy. However, the adoption of this policy and successful implementation of an energy management system should provide a framework for improved compliance for the CRC scheme.

### **Options Considered**

Three main options were considered when looking at how to manage energy issues throughout the Council in the future:

- Business as usual - Identifying ad hoc efficiency projects and providing generic training to staff at key carbon emitting sites.
- Install an energy management system – Provides a structured approach to the management of energy issues, but to achieve this, an energy policy is required to set the context of the system.

### **Reason for Proposal**

Due to the geographical spread of Council sites, the range of services offered and the number of employees who could have an impact on energy consumption, the implementation of the Energy Management System is the most logical way to improve performance. The energy policy is an integral component of this and failure to adopt it would inhibit the delivery of the project.

### **Proposal**

The Council adopts a new policy that outlines objectives as to how energy issues are going to be managed throughout all Council departments.

---

### **The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this Report:**

Appendix 1: The Proposed Energy policy reviewed and finalised by the Climate Change Board on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

