

CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE

Executive Summary

This report provides an update to members on progress against climate change objectives as requested following the report presented on 2 March 2010. It should be considered alongside the Cabinet report of 22 June 2010 setting out the council's responsibilities relating to climate change.

Proposal

That the Committee:

1. Note progress made against climate change objectives
2. Comment on the council's revised environmental policy prior to sign off by the Cabinet member for the Environment
3. Endorse the council's approach to developing a climate change strategy
4. Receive a further report in September setting out the council's Carbon Management Plan.

Reason for Proposal

Briefings on the council's climate change programme and resourcing of the climate change team was provided to members of the Select Committee on 3 November 2009 and 2 March 2010. Members requested a progress update to be made available at their meeting of 6 July 2010.

ALISTAIR CUNNINGHAM

Service Director, Economy and Enterprise

CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE

Purpose of Report

1. That the Committee:
 - Note progress made against climate change objectives
 - Comment on the council's revised environmental policy prior to sign off by the Cabinet member for the Environment
 - Endorse the council's approach to developing a climate change strategy
 - Receive a further report in September setting out the council's Carbon Management Plan.

Background

2. Briefings on progress against the council's climate change objectives were provided to members of the Select Committee on 3 November 2009 and 2 March 2010. Members requested a progress update to be made available at their meeting of 6 July 2010.

Development of a Climate Change Strategy

3. The Committee requested an update on the development of a Climate Change Strategy at its March meeting. The Head of Climate Change will deliver a presentation setting out the proposed approach for discussion at the meeting. The intention is to have a framework Climate Change Strategy for Wiltshire in place by the end of 2010 which will set out our broad objectives and inform development of the Local Development Framework. Under the framework strategy there will be four action plans to take forward the following workstreams:
 - Carbon Management Plan for the council's emissions
 - Climate Change Adaptation Plan
 - County Carbon Reduction Plan
 - Renewable Energy Action Plan
4. The timescale for developing each of these action plans differs depending on the resource already allocated to these workstreams. As a general principle, the council is concentrating on getting its own house in order first, but is carrying out some work in parallel to meet the wider carbon reduction and climate change adaptation requirements for Wiltshire.
5. The committee will be aware that the council worked with the Carbon Trust during 2009/10 to develop a Carbon Management Plan. A draft plan was considered by the Climate Change Board in March 2010. The Board considered that accurate carbon emissions data for the first year of the council's operations needed to be included before the Plan could be signed off. It will therefore be updated with the baseline data for 2009/10 by end of August 2010. It is proposed to bring the Carbon Management Plan to the Select Committee at its next meeting on 7

September, prior to consideration by the Climate Change Board on 20 September 2010.

6. Work on the Climate Change Adaptation Plan is currently on-going (see paras 60-70 below) and the council will have a final action plan by end of March 2011.
7. The council is working with the Energy Saving Trust (EST) through the one to one programme on a Carbon Reduction Plan for the county. The EST has recently revised its approach to the One to One Programme, moving from a qualitative process to a more quantitative one. The previous work undertaken by the Act on Carbon group, a multi-disciplinary officer group from across the council, will not be lost. Whilst the first stage of the new process now involves analysis of Wiltshire's carbon footprint, the later stages will build on the review of current policy previously undertaken. However, the main challenge for now is to establish, as far as possible, an accurate baseline for carbon emissions in the county.
8. In order to achieve this, the council is working with other south west authorities on a project funded by the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership to procure an emissions modelling tool called Vantage Point. This will enable the council to quantify Wiltshire's locally distinctive carbon footprint and gain an understanding as to where the main sources of carbon emissions are within the county. Once a baseline has been established, the Vantage Point software can be used to calculate the impact that different carbon reduction measures will have on the county's carbon footprint. The carbon reduction measures in the county will be based on local evidence such as the Housing Stock Condition Survey, future growth, and renewable energy capacity. The ultimate aim will be to provide a range of scenarios which highlight the scale of action required to deliver the low carbon transition in Wiltshire.
9. This will be used to develop the Carbon Reduction action plan for the county and also be used to inform the Renewable Energy Action Plan. These assess the supply of low carbon and zero carbon sources of energy; and make policy and target recommendations for incorporating in the Local Development Framework.

Progress against Climate Change Objectives

10. The Climate Change Board, chaired by Cllr Toby Sturgis, has approved the following objectives for the climate change team:
 - Reduce the council's carbon footprint
 - Work with partners to reduce Wiltshire's carbon footprint
 - Ensure that Wiltshire is prepared for unavoidable climate change
 - Prepare the council for carbon trading
11. Good progress has been made on all four objectives since the last update to Members, as set out below.

1. Reducing the council's carbon footprint

Carbon footprint data

12. National indicator 185 requires local authorities to report on carbon emissions associated with their services, covering both static (property & street lights) and

transport sources. Emissions from both in-house and contracted services need to be included. The baseline year for this indicator was 2008/09 and the carbon footprint calculated for the Council was almost 60,000 tonnes of CO₂ (see breakdown in Appendix 1 of accompanying Cabinet report).

13. 2008/09 data was gathered at a time when local government structures within Wiltshire were undergoing significant change. After reviewing the submission, it has been identified that several sources were omitted, some incomplete data was used, emissions from some sources were estimated and some sources were incorrectly included.
14. The project to collect 2009/10 data started in April 2010 and in advance of this steps were taken to improve data quality, namely:
 - The development of closer relationships with key staff who provide information.
 - A move away from estimated data.
 - A comprehensive understanding of what sources should be included and what should be omitted.
15. By the end of June data should be received from all relevant Council departments and contractors, with the 2009/10 carbon footprint being calculated by mid July. DEFRA have not yet set a submission deadline for this information, but it is likely to be around the end of July. Initial projections estimate that the 2009/10 carbon footprint will remain close to that seen in 2008/09, with the chance of a slight increase.

Roll-out of Smart meters

16. As set out in Appendix 1 of the accompanying Cabinet report, the installation of Smart meters is critical for two reasons:
 - to enable the authority to have accurate energy consumption data and only pay for the energy used
 - to be able to target energy efficiency measures appropriately.
17. The proportion of the council's emissions that is covered by Smart meters will also be used to determine our position in the first CRC league table. A programme to roll out Smart meters across the non-school estate has begun and will initially cover 34% of emissions. 24 meters have recently been installed on top of the 63 that the council already had. A further 38 Smart meters will be installed by mid July, with another 35 to be installed later during 2010.
18. Since the Cabinet report was written, it has been agreed in principle that the Climate Change budget will fund the installation of Smart meters in schools to increase coverage to 72% of the estate. This is dependent on sufficient revenue being made available. Originally the purchase of Smart meters was intended to be funded from the capital budget but Corporate Finance has recently established that Smart meters are classed as a revenue item. The new meters will have the capability to self-read and transmit data to the supplier, eliminating estimated bills and providing high-resolution data to enable effective energy management. The installation of smart meters in schools will cost about £150,000 this financial year, with an on-going annual charge to schools of £25,000. Installation is expected to be complete by the end of this financial year, depending on the availability of installation teams from the solution provider.

Energy Efficiency Projects

19. The following projects will be funded this calendar year through a 0% loan from Salix Finance, an independent social enterprise which provides interest free loans to UK public sector bodies to finance carbon reduction projects:
- a Combined Heat & Power unit at Five Rivers leisure centre (£176,000)
 - Variable Speed Drive equipment at Five Rivers leisure centre (£35,000)
 - Cavity wall insulation at Springfield leisure centre (£13,800)
 - the replacement of less-efficient highway bollard lamps with LED technology (£186,000)
20. The projects are self-funding over five years based on a 100% Salix public sector loan arrangement. The match-funded Salix loan for the establishment of a revolving carbon reduction fund was withdrawn and this leaves only half of the envisaged fund to finance carbon-saving projects. A number of projects are planned for the near future and will be funded from the corporate carbon reduction fund. Those identified by end of August will be included in the Carbon Management Plan for consideration at the Committee's next meeting. On 22 June, Cabinet gave delegated authority to the Service Director for Economy & Enterprise to work with Finance to identify options for establishing a long term carbon reduction fund which will enable the authority to meet its carbon reduction targets, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for the Environment.

Grey Fleet Transport Review

21. Emissions from transport sources account for 18% of the Council's carbon footprint and have a proportionately larger financial cost than emissions from static sources. There is also a high administrative burden to ensure legal compliance (for example ensuring staff have the correct insurance cover and that driving licences are up to date).
22. The Energy Saving Trust (EST) provides a free consultancy service to local authorities that reviews emissions from grey fleet and provides recommendations as to how these can be reduced along with any measures that need to be taken to keep the Council legally compliant.
23. In order to commence the project, council officers are currently collating data on the composition of grey fleet and either the miles travelled or litres of fuel consumed by each vehicle. The term grey fleet can be broken down into four main categories, namely:
- Fleet vehicles under 3.5 tonnes GVW covering those used by staff to claim business mileage, fleet cars and pool cars.
 - Commercial plant including lawn mowers and small tractors.
 - Commercial vehicles under 3.5 tonnes GVW, for example vans and pick up trucks.
 - Commercial fleet over 3.5 tonnes GVW including refuse collection lorries, gritting lorries etc (NOTE – As the funding given to EST for this project only covers vehicles lower than 3.5 tonnes GVW, this component will not appear in the final report but analysis of the data will take place).
24. Once this information has been provided to EST a final report should be available within 8 weeks for consideration.

Sustainable Procurement project

25. A project team has been established comprising members of the Procurement and Climate Change teams to improve the sustainability of the authority's procurement activities. To date, the project team has prioritised all planned procurement projects in the departmental forward plans. A number of criteria were used including the frequency of opportunity, longevity of the contract, potential resource implication for the project team, the environmental impact and visibility.
26. In early July the project team will review the rankings and select those projects that they would like to "green" over the next 12 months. Details of these projects will be presented at the next scheduled Procurement Board and Climate Change Board meetings for approval.

Engaging schools & young people

27. Following on from the installation of Smart meters in schools there is a need for school carbon emissions to be reduced through the implementation of energy efficiency schemes and replacement of inefficient equipment. Projects in the school estate will be of key importance in making a significant impact on total council emissions.
28. Surveys are being undertaken with schools to gain an initial understanding of the potential to reduce energy consumption from their buildings and their usage. The schools will complete a survey of their own site using a specially produced self-survey tool with the dual benefits of very substantially reducing the cost and time required to complete the programme and raising awareness of energy consumption in the schools. The aim is for schools to complete the self-survey by early September. The surveys will allow the council to identify carbon and cost saving projects and the schools will be able to choose whether or not to pursue any of those projects as an investment. The council will then consider the business case for implementing the remaining projects at the schools as an investment. In either case the overall result will be both to reduce carbon emissions and make financial savings by reducing the amount of energy consumed and reducing the cost to the council of purchasing carbon emissions allowances.
29. The council is currently meeting with schools to engage with Head teachers and governors to establish the framework for the process and seek to remedy any issues which may arise from this programme of work. This programme represents another step towards closer partnership working with schools and the aim is for schools to complete the self-survey by early September.
30. The council is also appointing a dedicated officer - Climate Change Officer (Schools) – to work with schools on energy and carbon saving projects. As well as coordinating the identification of energy saving projects, this role will also work with schools to raise awareness for both students and staff on energy reduction. This new post is to be funded by the Department of Children and Education, but will sit within the Climate Change team.
31. The Climate Change team is in dialogue with Severn Wye Energy Agency who have submitted a funding bid to RIEP to support a project to engage with secondary schools around energy efficiency. Schools involved in the project will

be encouraged to set up Carbon Reduction Boards made up primarily of students who would be recruited to fill set roles. The students would then carry out a baselining exercise to understand their school's energy consumption and look at ways of making the school more energy efficient. The aim would be, as well as addressing the energy / environmental agenda, to give students valuable project management skills. The outcome of the funding bid is still pending.

32. The Climate Change Officer (Schools) role will also investigate opportunities to work closely with primary schools and will consider existing schemes such as Eco Schools and Sustainable Schools as a vehicle to promote energy reduction.

33. The Climate Change team has also been approached by the Environment Sub Group of the Wiltshire Assembly of Youth (WAY) who are keen to help progress this area of work. The WAY group is planning to launch an environmental assessment scheme called 'greENGAuGE'. The scheme seeks to reduce the environmental impact schools and youth centres. Young people will assess the buildings to establish a baseline and will work on a 12 month action plan to reduce environmental impact across 7 categories which include:

- energy and water
- purchasing and waste
- buildings and grounds
- travel and traffic
- wider community
- wider world
- food and drink.

34. There are clear links between the greENGAuGE process and the climate change team's work to reduce the council's carbon footprint and wider carbon reduction in Wiltshire. The Climate Change Officer (Schools) will explore with the Youth Development Worker how best to support the greENGAuGE process.

Environmental Management System

35. The Climate Change team is currently working to install an environmental management system (EMS), accredited to ISO 14001, across the authority in a phased approach. Key drivers for the installation of an EMS are a desire to reduce the environmental risk associated with services, compliance with applicable legislation and the development of effective monitoring mechanisms whilst striving for continual environmental improvement.

36. It is anticipated that phase 1 of the EMS will cover parts of the Neighbourhood, Strategic and Waste Management Service areas of the Neighbourhood and Planning Directorate. Currently baseline audits are being undertaken to evaluate current performance, where gaps might exist and the projected level of resources that service managers will need to commit.

37. Once the baseline audits are completed, discussions will be held with service managers in July to confirm participation in the EMS process. If this is achieved, it is anticipated that ISO 14001 accreditation could be in place for phase 1 of the EMS by mid 2011.

38. The foundation of any EMS is an Environmental Policy and a draft copy of this can be found in **Appendix 1**. This sets key objectives that the Council would need to implement to ensure environmental issues are given due consideration. The objectives relate to issues surrounding water, purchasing & procurement, biodiversity & natural environment, waste, energy, spatial & transport planning, communication and transport.
39. Consultation has taken place with officers whose work is covered by the proposed objectives and with the members of the Climate Change Board, where the policy was agreed on 14th May. Cllr Nigel Carter was also used as a critical friend to review the policy. After this it was submitted for consideration by the Corporate Leadership Team on 7th June where it was approved. The Select Committee are invited to comment on the policy before it is approved through the delegated decision procedure.

Green Champions

40. The Climate Change team is working to establish a network of volunteers to act as 'Green Champions'. This network will monitor environmental performance of the organisation's operations and strive to deliver improvement through staff engagement and developing and supporting the delivery of initiatives at sites in Wiltshire.
41. Through embedding volunteers within the organisation, the team will gain an additional insight into performance and behaviour and support in raising environmental awareness and continuing organisation behavioural change.
42. Furthermore, the network will serve to provide exemplar leadership to businesses, community groups and residents within Wiltshire demonstrating a commitment to recognising, and taking measures to reduce the impact of its operations on the environment. The council will include the Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service in the Green Champions scheme (see para 47 below).
43. The Green Champions network will tie in with the new Corporate Awards programme which includes a category named 'Reducing our carbon footprint, or going green'. This category is for an individual or team who has identified ways to help the council save money and reduce its impact on the environment and is designed to help individuals take responsibility for helping to reduce the council's environmental impact.

2. Reducing Wiltshire's carbon footprint

Engaging the business community

44. A key feature of the low carbon transition in Wiltshire will be engagement with the business community. The climate change team is currently developing its approach to business engagement. This will have two main themes. The first theme is supporting businesses to improve their resource efficiency, working closely with the 'Improving Your Resource Efficiency' programme for SMEs recently launched by Business Link. However, it should be noted that under the Coalition Government's plans, the future of Business Link is not clear at present. The second theme is the promotion of the low carbon economy in Wiltshire. This will start with an audit of current businesses located in Wiltshire which design,

manufacture and install green technologies. In both instances, the climate change team will work closely with the Economic Partnerships and Green Business Network.

Reducing the Environmental Impact of the Army

45. An officer has been appointed to take forward a two-year partnership project to make 43 Wessex Brigade more sustainable under the Military Civilian Integration Programme as set out in the accompanying Cabinet report. The project will concentrate on 43 Wessex operations in Wiltshire with the aim of developing a framework and a set of initiatives, which will be used to bring together all MOD departments, both centrally and regionally, in focusing on and improving the sustainability of military sites in the county.

46. The project will prioritise three key outcomes; firstly contributing to the achievement of Government targets on climate change and sustainable development; secondly maintaining the MOD's focus on supporting the soldier and engaging the community; and thirdly ensuring that the project delivers environmental benefits for the county of Wiltshire.

Fire & Rescue Service Carbon Partnership

47. The Wiltshire Fire Service has requested assistance from the Council in the execution of their carbon management plan and subsequently accepted the Council offer. The offer includes the identification of projects to further reduce carbon emissions by 6% of the baseline value to allow the Fire Service to meet their carbon reduction target. The Fire Service will also be included in the 'Green Champion' scheme which is about to begin within the Council aimed at promoting and monitoring behaviour change in relation to resource management, including energy. The Fire Service are also included in the council's energy contract which enables to procure energy at a better price.

Renewable Energy study

48. The council has commissioned a climate change and renewable energy evidence base study. This is designed to principally fulfil the requirements of the Climate Change Supplement to PPS 1. The study is collecting data on current and future energy use in the county; assessing the supply of low carbon and zero carbon sources of energy; and making policy and target recommendations for incorporating in the Local Development Framework. Following an initial officer workshop in January, a further workshop for officers and managers relating to this report is being held on the 2nd July. A workshop for developers will also be held on the 6th July. The final project report will be completed before the end of July 2010.

49. Member training on Planning and climate change took place on the afternoon of 24 March. Officer training for planners, both from Spatial Planning and Development Management, took place on the 26th March and 12th April 2010.

Wiltshire World Changers Network

50. The council has taken the responsibility for supporting the Wiltshire World Changers Network in-house. The Network has an environmental focus with particular attention on Climate Change and involves over 320 members from environmental groups across the county.

51. The network currently offers a website detailing local and national information on environmental issues and a green map where members can add their contact details and promote their local initiatives. Members also receive regular newsletters and are invited to ad-hoc networking events.
52. Taking the network forward we are adding a very practical element to the support on offer:
- working with the Charities Information Bureau to promote their service and include updates on any relevant funding opportunities
 - working with The Learning Curve's Step Up Project which can offer individual support to groups to look at their governance, aims and vision.
 - working with Voluntary Action Swindon who can support groups with the legalities of recruiting and keeping volunteers.
 - following an assessment of members' needs, we are working with Learning Curve to offer free of charge training on health and safety and liability issues that need to be considered when organising events and projects.
 - working with our Waste Management Department and Green Cone Limited to offer members the opportunity to promote reduced-price composting equipment to their wider community to reduce food waste going to landfill. The group also receive payback for every unit that is sold as a result of their efforts.
 - improving the website, to include news and updates from Wiltshire Council.
 - The members will receive monthly news bulletins, with the issued in June. Any time-sensitive information will be distributed immediately.

Pilot of new resource pack for community renewable energy

53. The Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) is producing a resource pack for community-based renewable energy. The resource pack is aimed at individuals, local community groups or interest groups who have a desire to own and operate their own renewable energy installation. The pack is designed to help communities to get projects off the ground and will contain information about planning, technology, finance and how to establish a community structure (e.g. Coop) to own the renewable installation.
54. The local transition activist, council officer or Parish Council representative will be able to use the resource pack to design and deliver events anywhere from 1-4 hours, by using different sections, and accompanying event planner and ideas for participatory exercises.
55. The climate change team has agreed with the CSE to pilot the resource with Wiltshire community groups. In the first instance 3 groups from different parts of the county will be chosen for the pilot. The CSE also have a large scale model of a town and rural hinterland which shows how different renewable energy technologies can be integrated within settlements and the landscape. The pilot will take place at the end of the summer with the final resource pack being made available in September.
56. Following the pilot, it is the intention of the climate change team to promote the use of the resource pack to community groups across Wiltshire. The objective is to gauge the appetite for community owned renewable energy within and ultimately facilitate its delivery in Wiltshire.

Energy Monitors in libraries

57. A project to loan energy display monitors from libraries was launched on 8 February 2010. Over 40 monitors are available for loan from 7 libraries across the county on a 4 month pilot basis. The project has been a great success. All of the monitors have been out on continuous loan in all of the pilot libraries and there is currently a waiting list of 31 names across 6 libraries. The feedback from the evaluation forms has been promising with 30 people saying their behaviour has changed at home as a result.
58. The success of the scheme has prompted an application to the Performance Reward Grant Panel to purchase an additional 181 monitors to be spread across all libraries including the 5 mobile libraries. The bid also includes marketing material to promote the scheme and raise awareness in general. The library service has over 220,000 members so the potential to create awareness across Wiltshire is enormous.

Community Projects

59. The Community Climate Change Officers are working on building links with existing environmental groups and supporting them with their new and existing projects, for example:
- Calne Area Partnership. We are working with the Chair of Calne's Area Partnership on an Energy Efficiency campaign in Calne and surrounding area. The campaign will use the community building to promote energy efficiency in the home to bring down energy bills over the colder months and of course reduce carbon footprint. We want to ensure that Calne's most vulnerable residents are reached and so we are arranging a meeting with the Sure Start family Centre and Age UK to see how we can work in partnership.
 - Urchfont Climate Friendly Community are working on a project using the Ecomapping technique. Ecomapping is very simple and visual tool initially designed to manage the environmental impact of business for SME's. The tool is now being adapted so it can be used with families so they can identify and manage their environmental impact. The Ecomapping tool will look at appliances, lifestyle and travel. Urchfont Climate Friendly Community are currently recruiting 10 families, small business and 4 Co-ordinators who will be trained to use the tool.
 - Salisbury City Community Area Partnership (now called Our Salisbury) held their AGM on 21 June on the theme of 'Our Climate – should we be worried?' The climate change team were invited to give a presentation on climate change and what is happening at the national and local level which was very well received. Other speakers covered the subjects of energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable transport and the work of the Salisbury Agenda 21 group. The timing of the presentation was opportune as work is due to begin commence on Salisbury's community plan.

3. Ensuring that Wiltshire is prepared for unavoidable climate change

60. As set out in Appendix 1 of the accompanying Cabinet report, the council has included a target in its Local Area Agreement (LAA) to develop a climate change

adaptation plan by 31 March 2011. Performance against National Indicator 188 adapting to unavoidable climate change (NI188) is measured against five levels.

61. The council has already achieved levels 0 (establishing a baseline) and 1 (public commitment) in March 2010. A report on level 0 and 1 which includes a summary of the initial consultation findings; a review of key council documents for how they are already addressing the risks of unavoidable climate change. This report has been published on the Council's website.
62. The LAA target is to achieve level 3 (Comprehensive adaptation plan) by March 2011. In order to achieve level 3, a comprehensive risk assessment of the council's vulnerability to climate both now and in the future needs to be undertaken. The risk assessment constitutes the main focus of level 2 and should be completed by the autumn 2010. The risk assessment will be used to identify priority areas for action and will inform the production of the adaptation action plan that is required in level 3.
63. The risk assessment process will use the council's existing definitions of vulnerability and likelihood and risk assessment methodology. This will ensure that the NI188 work fits within the council's existing risk assessment systems.

The near term risk assessment

64. The near term has been defined as being 5 years (2010-2015) so that it provides a tangible period of time for those considering risk. In the near term, the climate is unlikely to be much different from what has been experienced within the last decade. In light of this, the near term risk assessment will draw upon the findings of the Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCLIP) carried out by Wiltshire Council in partnership with the Environment Agency and Climate South West. The LCLIP, which is currently being finalised and will be published on the week beginning

The long term risk assessment

65. The long term risk assessment will be based on the 2009 UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCP09) predictions. The UKCP09 were published in June 2009 by the Met Office Hadley Centre. These projections are available for a number of different time periods, probability levels, emissions scenarios, and climate variables. Whilst the data covers the whole of the country, the UKCP09 has been interrogated to give an indication of the likely climate trends in Wiltshire.
66. The risk assessments will be undertaken via interview. In order for the risk assessment to meet the requirements of the indicator, these interviews will need to be 'comprehensive' in their coverage of the council's activities. The success of the risk assessments will rely on the support of Corporate and Service Directors within each of the 6 directorates and the 20 different service areas. Delays in the completion of the interviews, or a failure to ensure that the interviews are comprehensive, could lead to a delay in completing level 2. This in turn, would lead to a delay in completing level 3 of NI188 and therefore missing the LAA target.
67. In order to manage this risk, the methodology (which has been approved by the Resilient Council Group) was presented to the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) at their meeting on 7 June. Following endorsement by CLT, an email was sent to all Service Directors asking for them to support the initiative and ensure that

adequate time and resource is made available for the exercise. Heads of Service across the council have been asked to nominate individuals to undertake the risk assessments. The nominated individuals will be invited to one of two externally facilitated workshops to be held on 12 July and 4 August.

68. The comprehensive risk assessment process is expected to be completed by November 2010 with a further action planning phase due to be completed by March 2011.

Engagement with the Local Strategic Partnership

69. Engagement with the LSP is critical to achieving success in all levels of the NI188. There are various areas of work that will benefit from engagement with LSP partners.

70. Members of the climate change team delivered presentations on climate change adaptation to each of the Thematic Partnerships and are supporting those that wish to undertake their own work on adaptation. The main focus will be on engagement with other public sector bodies – Police, Ministry of Defence, Salisbury Hospital, Wiltshire National Health Service and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service. A update report on the Council's approach to NI 188 was taken to the last meeting of the Public Service Board on the 14 June. The purpose of the update report was to encourage each partner to undertake their own comprehensive risk assessment (using their own risk assessment protocol) of current and future weather vulnerability. It is hoped that this risk assessment work will be completed by March 2011.

4. Preparing the council for carbon trading

71. The Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) scheme was launched nationally in April 2010. For the first time, there is a real financial cost to our carbon emissions. Wiltshire Council is obliged by law to participate and must ensure it can fund the cost of annual carbon emissions.

72. Wiltshire Council's carbon emissions come from buildings, transport and street lighting, although transport emissions are not included in the CRC. Schools buildings in Wiltshire contribute roughly 40 % of the annual carbon emissions that are included in the CRC.

73. The Council will need to purchase about £600,000 of allowances each year to cover all its emissions. If we perform poorly, in 3 year's time we stand to lose up to 30% of that value in penalties. The amount at stake will increase further as the scheme matures. For the first year the Council has made the decision to take responsibility for the cost of school carbon emissions. In the future, this cost could be passed on to schools.

74. As set out paragraph 18, the Council is taking the extra step of funding the installation of advanced metering equipment at every school, to enable schools to accurately monitor energy use and avoid unnecessary energy costs.

Registration

75. The council is preparing to register in the first phase of the Carbon Reduction Commitment scheme. The Council will enter the scheme at a time when the emissions data from former district sites are still being captured and added to the corporate database. These emissions and the poor availability of historic data will prevent the Council from performing above the average in the first year of the scheme and the Council will be a net contributor to the scheme. A strategy for the purchase of allowances to minimise risk is being developed and discussions are underway with other participants to explore the possibility of consortium purchasing and other risk management strategies. The Council is expected to perform better in the second and third years of the scheme as work programmes that are already in place or due to start bear fruit under the scoring system, although it is not clear at what point in the future the Council will be in a position to benefit from the scheme.

Carbon trading simulation

76. The council took part in a Carbon Trading simulation for 2009-10 run by the Local Government Information Unit (LGIU). This exercise enabled the Climate Change team and Corporate Finance to get to grips with the complexities of carbon trading and to develop a trading strategy. The council will be taking part in a more sophisticated version of the simulation with LGIU during 2010/11.

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

77. The aim of the Climate Change team is to limit carbon emissions from the council and from the county overall, which will have a positive impact on the environment.

Equality and Diversity Impact of the Proposal

78. There are no negative impacts from the council's climate change programme.

79. Some of the positive impacts are as follows:

- The council's work to assess service delivery risks from future climate change will benefit vulnerable residents who are often the first to be affected by extreme weather events (eg flooding and heatwaves).
- The move to low carbon housing across the county will benefit all residents but particularly those at risk of fuel poverty as energy efficient homes are cheaper to run.
- Community climate change projects will be developed in an inclusive manner, to reach out to those groups that are not usually involved in local environmental work.

Financial Implications

80. The financial implications of implementing the climate change programme are set out in the accompanying Cabinet report. In particular, the report highlights the

need to establish a long-term carbon reduction fund in order to reduce the council's carbon footprint. Cabinet agreed on 22 June to delegate responsibility for identifying options to the Service Director for Economy & Enterprise working with Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for the Environment.

81. Following the budget allocation for 2010/11, the Climate Change team is now almost fully staffed, as illustrated in Appendix 2 of this report.

Legal Implications

82. The Council is legally required to take part in the Carbon Reduction Commitment trading scheme. Appendix 3 of the accompanying Cabinet reports sets out the legal and policy framework for the council's responsibilities relating to Climate Change.

Conclusion

83. Significant progress has been made since the March Committee meeting against all Climate Change objectives. This has been thanks to the budget allocation for Climate Change from 2010/11 which has enabled a team to be established in recent months. The updated team structure is set out at Appendix 2.

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Service Director, Economy and Enterprise

Ariane Crampton

Head of Climate Change

Background Papers

This report should be read in conjunction with the report to Cabinet of 22 June 2010

1. Updates to Environment Select Committee 1 September 2009, 3 November 2009 and March 2010
2. Draft Carbon Management Plan for Wiltshire Council February 2010
3. Briefing to the Wiltshire Environmental Alliance on NI186, December 2009
4. Energy Saving Trust report & recommendations for Wiltshire Council, Jan 10
5. CRC user guide:
http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/lc_uk/crc/user_guidance/
6. Wiltshire Climate Change Adaptation Plan – Level 1 report, May 2010
7. LGA/Defra/UKCIP booklet for Members on climate change adaptation Jan 10:
<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/publications/publication-display.do?id=7759710>

Appendices

1. Revised environmental policy
2. Updated Climate Change Team structure

Appendix 1: ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Wiltshire Council is a unitary authority located in the South West of England and is responsible for many activities which have an environmental impact on the land, water, air, wildlife and residents of the County. The authority is responsible for a wide range of activities including spatial planning, waste management, highways, social care and policies on mineral extraction. In addition, Wiltshire Council is a landowner and a major purchaser of local goods and services.

The Council seeks to mitigate the environmental impacts associated with its services, ensuring that, as a minimum, it conforms to all applicable laws, regulations, codes of practice and corporate standards.

The authority is also committed to reducing its carbon footprint, preparing residents for the unavoidable consequences of climate change, pollution prevention and demonstrating continuous improvement. To achieve this, it will focus on the key environmental objectives outlined below.

- 1. **Waste** –Promote and implement sustainable management practices for waste generated by residents and by the Council.
- 2. **Transport** –Reduce the impact of fleet and staff travel on the environment by developing and promoting a range of sustainable transport options and flexible working practices.
- 3. **Water** – Ensure that effective monitoring regimes and sustainable practices are put in place to manage water usage across all council sites whilst simultaneously striving to reduce consumption.
- 4. **Purchasing and procurement** - Ensure that the principles of sustainable development are integrated into the purchasing and procurement of goods and services.
- 5. **Biodiversity and natural environment** – Work with key stakeholders on countryside, ecological and environmental issues to support biodiversity and the natural environment.
- 6. **Energy** – Work to reduce the energy consumption and carbon emissions associated with Council services and to expand renewable energy capacity in Wiltshire.
- 7. **Spatial & transport planning** – Ensure that the planning system helps deliver a reduction in average carbon emissions per resident, whilst establishing communities that are resilient to the future impacts of climate change.
- 8. **Communicating environmental issues** – Raise awareness of environmental issues amongst staff, elected members and the public through the provision of information and training.

Performance against these will be monitored through internal audit, Corporate & Service Delivery Plans, National Indicator datasets and the Use of Resources assessment.

In order to achieve these environmental objectives, the Council will operate an externally audited environmental management system that will:

- Set targets and objectives in order to minimise potentially negative environmental effects, whilst increasing the positive effects of the Council’s activities.
- Produce a statement of the Council’s environmental performance at regular intervals, but at least annually.

Signed Chief Executive

Date Review Date: June 2013

Appendix 2: Climate Change Team Structure

