

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP REPORT – REDUCING THE COUNCIL’S CARBON EMISSIONS
REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED BY CABINET ON: 16TH JANUARY, 2013

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>1) That Cabinet notes the importance of a corporate and co-ordinated approach in relation to reducing carbon emissions. This approach is facilitated through the Council's Carbon Management Programme Board and in order to continue to fulfil this function, Service groupings should proactively engage with the Board to ensure a joined up and planned approach.</p>	<p>The corporate Carbon Management Programme Board Continues to lead the Council's work on carbon reduction and energy savings. All service groupings are represented and quarterly reports are received by the Board on all relevant capital and revenue projects.</p>	<p>Carbon Management Programme Board</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

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<p>2) That in view of the recent increases in energy prices, the Council/Cabinet continues to explore opportunities to 'invest to save' that will result in significant reductions in energy consumption and carbon emissions and ultimately lead to savings and efficiencies. Consideration also needs to be given to whether schemes should be undertaken that provide the opportunity for large scale carbon reduction, but do not meet the usual financial pay back criteria.</p>	<p>Further projects have been initiated. These include boiler optimisation, new lighting in five leisure and office buildings and surveys have been carried out on three main depots with recommendations for new invest to save projects. These will be approached using an innovative "whole buildings" methodology which, if successful, will be rolled out across the full site of retained non-school buildings once the building review is complete. Further projects are also being looked at and are in feasibility stages.</p>	<p>Carbon Management Programme Board</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

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<p>3) That the Council's Elected members be provided with detailed information on any trials/schemes in relation to street lighting in their area, prior to residents being notified.</p>	<p>We have retrofitted over 14,000 street lights to date countywide with new energy efficient LED street lights as part of the Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project. We estimate that this has impacted over 70,000 households and has generally been very well received.</p> <p>The new LED street lighting meets and exceeds current British Standards whilst much of the old street lighting it replaces does not meet current or past British Standards.</p> <p>It is important to note that street lighting is only supposed to light the road and footway and the new LED street lights achieve this objective very well due to the enhanced control provided by LED technology.</p> <p>The Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project involves a £21million capital investment in highways that will produce gross revenue savings of £2million per annum which will help meet the unprecedented reductions in central government funding. The Project will also reduce the Council's carbon emissions by over 7,500 tonnes per annum.</p> <p>In summary, the new LED street lighting is better quality and achieves significant savings in electricity consumption, carbon emissions and maintenance.</p>	<p>Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project Board.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

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<p>4) That the drive to recruit more Eco Champions to promote simple energy saving changes continues, and that consideration be given to the possibility of providing Elected Members with information on the Council's carbon management programme, as part of the corporate induction programme and seeking volunteers from Elected Members to act as Eco Champions.</p>	<p>Surveys have shown that Durham County Council is ahead of most other councils in respect of the number of Eco Champions to staff. The programme continues to be reviewed to assess how we can increase this further and provide a support network for all the Eco Champions. Carbon Management is now part of the induction programme and is also included in staff reviews.</p> <p>To date we have not recruited elected members as Eco Champions, but we will continue to assess this option.</p>	Carbon Revenue Project Board	Ongoing

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<p>5) That in relation to the need to reduce business travel, consideration be given to making more use of innovative technology such as skype, telephone conferencing, video conferencing and promoting the availability of 'hot desks' at council offices throughout the county.</p>	<p>General awareness of the alternatives available instead of travelling has been raised through Eco Champions and the Fleet Review. This has included conference calls which have been trialled in several services for regular meetings. A new report from Myview has also been created. This is sent monthly to managers showing business mileage for all their team and a comparison to the previous year.</p>	<p>Carbon Management Board</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

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<p>6) That the committee continues to monitor the progress being made to achieve the Council's carbon reduction targets through the current quarterly performance monitoring reports and receive regular updates by members of the Council's Sustainability, Carbon and Climate Change Team and Carbon Management Programme Board.</p>	<p>Updates to this report will be provided and ongoing monitoring of electric, gas and water consumption and of the performance of capital and revenue projects to date can be provided on request.</p> <p>Durham County Council achieved 9.5% reduction in 2013/14 compared to 12/13. In total a 16.5% reduction from baseline 2008.</p>	<p>Maggie Bosanquet</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

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<p>7) That all staff and Elected Members be made aware of the Council's carbon reduction targets, the financial impact of energy use and the savings that can be made by using energy more effectively. This could be achieved through training sessions and the Council's performance appraisal scheme – focusing on staff actions/achievements that protect the County's environment and mitigate the effects of climate change.</p>	<p>Regular articles in Buzz and Member Updates have kept staff and members up to date with projects. The Big Switch Off has continued to make impressive savings in buildings where it has taken place, demonstrating to staff the importance of making a few minor changes to their behaviour.</p>	<p>Maggie Bosanquet</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>