

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

Information from last update in October 2014 is in lighter shading and the most up to date information is in bold.

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>The Board has continued to meet and receive reports on projects. Further details on progress and actions are included in this report and in the presentation.</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>A new Carbon Management Plan is currently being produced. This will outline our actions for the next five years towards our target of a 40% reduction by 2020. It will initially concentrate on ensuring that our Office Accommodation Programme embeds carbon savings in its work and the good practice learnt from the first five years is carried forward.</p> <p>Since the last report the Energy team has had three members of staff leave their posts for new jobs. This has impacted on current work planning. An internal restructure of the Sustainability, Energy and Climate Change team is being prepared and staff are currently covering essential roles but this has inevitably meant slower progress on projects than anticipated.</p> <p>The Government is currently making significant changes to the support network for renewables (Feed in Tariff and Renewable Heat Incentive). This is creating a very unstable environment for medium and long term planning in this field, and a number of projects have been scaled back or are at risk because of the proposals.</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. In summary, the new LED street lighting is better quality and achieves significant savings in electricity consumption, carbon emissions and maintenance.</p> <p>The street light retrofits installed to date have been generally well received by the public. The elimination of light has taken some residents a bit of time to get used to, however when the benefits are explained to them they are more comfortable</p>	<p>Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project Board.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

with the new lights. As reported previously, there has been extensive compliance testing across a wide range of sites demonstrating conclusively that the new lights comply comfortably with required standards.

With over 26,000 street lights already retrofitted affecting in excess of 100,000 homes, customer complaints received so far have been relatively modest and we've also received a small number of compliments as well as a welcome range of positive anecdotal feedback.

In addition, part of the programme involved removing redundant street lights and de-illuminating traffic signs. This started in April 2014 due to the need to undertake a thorough road safety risk assessment and consultation exercise prior to any street lights being removed.

In Year 2 308 street lights have been removed and 329 traffic signs have been de-illuminated. We're targeting 1,000 removals during Year 3 and 250 sign de-illuminations.

LED retrofit numbers to date are:

Year 1 to 31st March 2014 - total 8,138 units converted

Year 2 to 31st March 2015 – in year total 12,004 conversions so that's a grand total of 20,142 to end of Year 2

Year 3 target to 31st March 2016 is a further 12,000 conversions and we're currently on programme.

By the end of the current financial year (ie Year 3) we'll have completed 32,000 conversions out of the planned 41,000 and will be well ahead of the original programme.

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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> <p>Updates on key initiatives and projects have been circulated to Eco champions. This year there have been 8 articles in Buzz, including pieces on fuel efficient driving, the Big Switch Off, cycle to work and schools carbon emissions.</p> <p>Building energy use data is available to Eco-champions (and Members / staff) via: http://intranet/Pages/BuildingSpecificEnergyUse.aspx</p>	<p>Carbon Revenue Project Board</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

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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>New methods of working such as hot desking and tele/video conferencing are being incorporated into the Office Accommodation Programme. ICT Services can provide laptops/tablets with Juniper software to enable employees to work remotely.</p> <p>Regular updates on topics such as pool cars are included in Eco-champion literature and staff magazines.</p> <p>In spring, 72 staff took up an offer to take a free course on Safe and Fuel Efficient Driving led by the Local Motion project and the Road Safety Team :</p> <p>http://www.dothelocalmotion.co.uk/ways-to-travel/drive/safed-training/</p> <p>Participants improved their fuel efficiency by an average of 16%.</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>The Council has continued to make carbon savings. In 2014/15 we reduced our emissions by a further 9,200 tonnes.</p> <p>In total the Council has reduced emissions by 25% since 2008 saving 26,330 tonnes of carbon per year. This represents financial savings of around £3 million per year against business as usual projections.</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>There has been continued engagement with staff with a Big Switch Off event being ran in the Green Lane offices at Spennymoor. This is the biggest site so far and they achieved 5% savings in their electricity consumption and have improved on that figure since.</p> <p>In October the campaign will be at the Greencroft offices.</p>	<p>Maggie Bosanquet</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>