

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

GREENING THE WORKPLACE (REVISIT) – ACTION PLAN

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To consider an action plan in response to the Economic Development & Corporate Issues Scrutiny Panel report on Greening the Workplace – Revisit.
- 1.2 The key points in this report are as follows.
- The Economic Development & Corporate Issues Scrutiny Panel completed a revisit of their previous review on Greening the Workplace in September 2010
 - An action plan is proposed in response to the 13 recommendations the report contains.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Economic Development & Corporate Issues Scrutiny Panel completed a revisit of their previous review on Greening the Workplace in September 2010. Full Council considered their revisit report at their meeting held on 13 October 2010. They referred the matter to Cabinet for further consideration.
- 2.2 Cabinet considered the matter on 8 December 2010. They requested the preparation of an action plan in response to the 13 recommendations contained in the Scrutiny Panel's report.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Attached to this paper is a proposed action plan to take forward the recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel. Cabinet has the option of approving the plan. Alternatively, Cabinet might want to suggest amendments to the plan.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 The action plan deals with the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee in full. Cabinet is therefore recommended to approve the plan.
- 4.2 The Scrutiny Panel report makes reference to national performance indicators (NIs 185, 186 and 194) relating to carbon/environmental

management. Subsequent to publication of the report, the government introduced changes to the reporting requirements for the national indicator set for the 2011/12 financial year and thereafter. In essence the requirement on local authorities to collect and submit performance data against many of these indicators stopped on 31 March 2011. The situation with regard to the three performance indicators in question is as follows.

- **NI 185 (CO₂ reduction from local authority operations)** – the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) will still collect data collated by local government. They consider that the data is still needed to support local carbon accountability, through a consistent and comparable data set. Data collection is supported by LGG, Friends of the Earth, Local Authorities and the Carbon Trust as a key driver for emissions reductions. However, DECC are keen to look at how the data is collected in future to ensure the burden placed on local authorities is kept as low as possible.
- **NI 186 (Per capita reduction in CO₂ emissions in the local authority area)** - The estimates are collated centrally by DECC and provided to local authorities. DECC are currently reviewing how to make the data more useful.
- **NI 194 (Air quality - % reduction in NO_x and primary PM₁₀ emissions through local authority's estate and operations)** – the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) have removed the requirement on local authorities to collect data on this indicator. There is no EU or other legal requirement to report this data. They consider that the reporting of this information is no longer a necessary burden, additional to the statutory Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) duties on local councils.

4.3 The proposed action plan (recommendation 6) reflects these changes. We will continue to use indicators 185 and 186 to measure our progress toward achieving our commitments to reducing CO₂ emissions.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 There are no likely additional cost implications envisaged for the council in the future from the actions set out in the attached associated with recommendations 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 or 13.

5.2 The council spent around £3.8m in 2009/10 on energy in buildings and street lighting. The Energy Saving Trust suggests that effective 'housekeeping' can save between 5% and 10% on expenditure. Some of the measures set out in the action plan should help maintain awareness in these areas affording some opportunity to realise potential efficiencies on energy costs.

5.3 In 2010 the council approved a Carbon Management Plan with the aim of reducing its carbon footprint by 33% over five years. There is provision in the approved capital programme for energy saving initiatives of £1.3m over four years. This is fully funded from council resources. The plan envisages

that in future years, 75% of each year's revenue savings are recycled into new energy saving schemes. Annual savings of around £650,000 are expected by the end of the period. This funding will underpin delivery of the 'Greening the Workplace' action plan.

- 5.4 The Scrutiny Panel's report highlighted that from 1 April 2010, the council has operated in a pilot period of carbon trading. This means that the council will have to work within the national Carbon Reduction Energy Efficiency Scheme, with potential future costs of up to £300,000 a year if carbon targets aren't achieved. However, should the council exceed its targets, it can trade these as 'carbon credits' on the open market, potentially generating a financial surplus. This highlights the importance of taking forward the 'Greening the Workplace' agenda.
- 5.5 Achieving and maintaining ISO 14001 accreditation across all council services will cost a maximum of £1,000 per year. As such, these costs are modest compared to the potential to realise savings from improved environmental performance. Relevant services should find these costs affordable within current budgets.
- 5.6 Improving the environmental performance of the council's vehicle fleet via better fuel efficiency will have a consequential benefit on fuel costs from reduced fuel consumption (recommendations 7,8 and 9 refer).
- 5.7 Local Further Education Colleges and other training providers may incur some costs to put in place suitable training, education and vocational opportunities in the area that meet the needs of the expanding green technology sector (see recommendation 12 in attached). We will attempt to quantify these more fully in any discussions with providers and explore ways to mitigate them that encourages the ongoing development of these training opportunities.
- 5.8 There are no direct staffing, property or IT implications arising from this report, although the 'Greening the Workplace' agenda will clearly improve the environmental performance of our buildings. The adoption of green IT technologies will also assist in meeting our carbon reduction commitments.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

- 6.1 An integrated impact assessment was completed for this report that covers all of these issues and a copy is held on file. Adopting the action plan should prove beneficial across all of these areas.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Consultation on developing the actions has taken place between officers across the council engaged in working on the Carbon Management Agenda. The action plan proposed reflects the outcomes of these discussions.

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 That Cabinet approves the action plan attached to this report.
- 8.2 That the Cabinet Member for Highways and Neighbourhoods is asked to monitor the delivery of the action plan via regular updates from officers.

DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

- Council Report on Scrutiny Review of Greening the Workforce Oct 2010

SCRUTINY REPORT ACTION PLAN – GREENING THE WORKPLACE (REVISIT)

RECOMMENDATION	ACTION(S) TO BE TAKEN	LEAD RESPONSIBILITY	TARGET DATE
<p>Recommendation 1:</p> <p>The appropriate officers produce an annual energy and water usage report for consideration by Council, including within the 2010/11 municipal year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of an Energy and Carbon report. 	<p>Environment Team Manager – Infrastructure Services</p>	<p>31 August 2011</p> <p>An Energy Report for 2009/10 was presented to the Climate Change Steering Group (CCSG) in January 2011</p>
<p>Recommendation 2:</p> <p>The panel recommends that volunteer wardens are re-introduced as a matter of some urgency, with communication and co-ordination led by the council-wide Carbon Management Group. The panel believes that the Chair and all members of this group take all appropriate action to ensure the long-term viability of the volunteer warden scheme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wardens now introduced and training of first tranche completed. Energy walk about for main council buildings undertaken with wardens and key Directors. • Carbon Management Board and Climate Change Steering Group to receive an update on warden progress and success every 6 months. 	<p>Energy Manager – Infrastructure Services</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<p>Recommendation 3:</p> <p>The panel recommends that every service area strive to achieve ISO 14001 accreditation over the next three years. The panel further recommends that this be co-ordinated by the Climate Change Steering Group, in consultation with the Carbon Management Group. The panel expects that the Chief Executive and the council's Leadership Team would take ownership and drive progress on this issue, taking any action as appropriate. As such, members recommend that the Chief Executive provide a full progress report back to the scrutiny panel twelve months after this report is considered by Council.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a report on the current situation in relation to ISO 14001 accreditation to the next Communities Board. The report to include a proposed timetable toward achieving full accreditation across the council by 2013/14. 	<p>Environment Team Manager – Infrastructure Services</p>	<p>31 August 2011</p>
<p>Recommendation 4:</p> <p>The panel recommends that consideration be given to amalgamating the work of the Climate Change Steering Group and the Carbon Management Group in order to prevent duplication.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make recommendations to the relevant Cabinet Member on streamlined governance arrangements for climate change and carbon management within the council. 	<p>Director of Infrastructure Services</p>	<p>31 August 2011</p>
<p>Recommendation 5:</p> <p>The panel recommends that the Carbon Management Group consider whether introducing targets for individual service areas, based on current energy emissions are an appropriate method for reducing usage and increasing accountability at service level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report to the Carbon Management Group addressing the issue raised. 	<p>Environment Team Manager – Infrastructure Services</p>	<p>31 August 2011</p>

<p>Recommendation 6:</p> <p>The panel recommends that during the 2010/11 municipal year the council, with support from relevant partners and specialists, conduct a Performance Improvement Panel on the combined elements of NI 185, NI 186 and NI 194. Members would expect the usual follow-up processes and action planning to occur following the Performance Improvement Panel's work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Environment Team manager liaise with the council's Performance Manager to establish a Performance Improvement Panel to explore means by which to improve performance in reducing the council's own CO₂ emissions and those within the wider North Lincolnshire community at the earliest practicable opportunity. 	<p>Environment Team Manager – Infrastructure Services</p>	<p>31 August 2011</p>
<p>Recommendation 7:</p> <p>The panel recommends that the council's Fleet Manager, with appropriate support, conduct a green fleet review, making short, medium and long-term recommendations to improve green transportation to the council's Cabinet, Leadership Team and appropriate Heads of Service, as deemed appropriate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Fleet Provision to explore progressing a green fleet review 	<p>Head of Fleet Provision – Neighbourhood & Environmental Services</p>	<p>31 October 2011</p>
<p>Recommendation 8:</p> <p>The panel recommends that the Fleet Manager plays a key, strategic role towards improving the council's environmental performance on transportation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide feedback to the Head of Fleet Provision on savings generated by all driver awareness training events. • That the Head of Fleet Provision continue to be invited to attend all meetings of the Climate Change Steering Group and Carbon Management Team in order to provide assistance and advice to services and generally support the council in relation to the role transport can play in environmental efficiency. 	<p>Head of Fleet Provision – Neighbourhood & Environmental Services</p>	<p>31 March 2011</p> <p>Action already taken to allow the Fleet Manager to have a wider role in the procurement of sustainable vehicles</p>

<p>Recommendation 9:</p> <p>The panel recommends that the council's Cabinet and appropriate Service Directors consider implementing a corporate policy where all service requests for fleet provision or transportation include a consideration of environmental impact and sustainability, as guided by the Fleet Manager. Consideration should also be given to extending powers to the Fleet Manager to veto requests for specific vehicles where a cheaper, more energy efficient or sustainable alternative with a comparable specification exists.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action completed – no further action proposed/ 	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Recommendation 10:</p> <p>The panel recommends that the council continue to forge links with all schools in North Lincolnshire, in order to improve energy efficiency, and to reduce costs and emissions. The panel feels that a two-part approach should be utilised. Firstly, informal discussions should continue, and the council's Energy Manager be invited to address future meetings of Primary Heads, Secondary Headteachers and Principals and school business managers in order to explain the potential benefits, funding and other options. Secondly, where Display Energy Certificate ratings are poor, or there are concerns around data quality, the council may wish to consider including energy considerations within negotiations of each school's Service Level Agreement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant staff continue to attend Primary and Secondary head teacher meetings to raise the profile of energy management and low carbon technology. Review current property support SLA for schools with a view to ensuring the inclusion of energy management related support services 	<p>Environment Team Manager – Infrastructure Services</p> <p>Environment Team Manager and Head of Construction – Infrastructure Services</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>31 August 2011</p>

<p>Recommendation 11:</p> <p>The panel recommends that a prominent feature promoting the local Travellincs scheme be prepared by officers and included in Direct Magazine within the 2010/11 municipal year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article planned for April 2011 edition of Direct Magazine. 	<p>Assistant Director Resources & Business Services – Infrastructure Services</p>	<p>April 2011</p> <p>An article was published in the April edition of Direct to promote the Travellincs service. Acton complete</p>
<p>Recommendation 12:</p> <p>The panel recommends that the council’s Cabinet seek evidence-based assurances from officers across the council and other partners, that all necessary action is taking place to ensure suitable training, education and vocational opportunities are available within North Lincolnshire to match the future needs of the expanding green technology sector.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report to Cabinet following consultation with local further education colleges and relevant training providers to establish current provision available and opportunities for future development. 	<p>Environment Team Manager – Infrastructure Services with support from relevant officers in Strategic Regeneration, Housing and Development</p>	<p>31 March 2012</p>
<p>Recommendation 13:</p> <p>The panel recommends that a regular agenda item on environmental considerations be placed on the agenda of each Culture Improvement Team across the council, supported by the regular provision of energy usage, emissions etc., wherever possible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Management Team to ensure that all Culture Improvement Team agendas include ‘Environment and Climate Change Issues’ 	<p>Directors</p>	<p>30 June 2011</p> <p>A letter has been sent to all Chairs of Service Culture Improvement Teams to inform them of this responsibility</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Energy Manager to regularly provide energy consumption etc data to Culture Improvement Teams.	Energy Manager – Infrastructure Services	Ongoing
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