

**CABINET RESPONSE TO : MEMBER LED REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY**

To: **Cabinet**

Date: **7th September 2010**

From: **Julia Barrett, Director of Environment and Regulation**
Pat Harding, Corporate Director Customer Service and Transformation

Electoral division(s): **All**

Forward Plan ref: **Not applicable** *Key decision:* **No**

Purpose: **To consider the member led review of the implementation of the Climate Change and Environment Strategy**

Recommendation: **To approve the proposed response to the member led review of the implementation of the Climate Change and Environment Strategy as set out in Section 2 of this report.**

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1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Member led review of the Climate Change and Environment Strategy Action Plan has produced a report which contains three recommendations for consideration by Cabinet.
- 1.2 Cabinet would like to thank Scrutiny for producing the report and seeking the views of officers and members during the study.

2 RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The proposed response to the recommendations of the Member Led Review is set out below.

2.2 RECOMMENDATION 1 - LEADERSHIP

The Chief Executive should identify a member of SMT to lead the implementation of the Climate Change and Environment Strategy across the Council. Cabinet should regularly assess the impact of this leadership on the implementation of the strategy.

WHO: Chief Executive

WHEN: September 2010 (identification of SMT member) and ongoing assessment of progress.

2.3 Proposed Response

The work of the Climate Change Programme Board in pulling together climate change projects from across the council and in challenging performance of the projects reporting to the programme is recognised. The Corporate Director of Customer Service and Transformation is both a member of the Board and a member of SMT and therefore would fulfill this role.

2.4 RECOMMENDATION 2 – MERGING PLANS

- 2.5 The Local Authority Carbon Management Plan (CMP) and the Climate Change and Environment Action Plan should be brought together to focus on reducing the Council's CO2 emissions and reduce its carbon permit trading liabilities.

WHO: CCES Member and Officer Champions

WHEN: September 2010

- 2.6 It is understood that Local Carbon Management Plan (LCMP) encompasses some of the objectives of the Climate Change and Environment Strategy. However, the focus of the two documents is different. The LCMP now concentrates solely on the emissions that relate to the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme (CRCEES): school and non school

building, street lighting and traffic signal emissions. It is necessary to maintain a separate LCMP to ensure a focussed effort on meeting the requirements of the CRCEES and minimising the revenue effect of this new tax on the Council.

- 2.7 The Climate Change and Environment Strategy Action Plan has a broader remit that looks at the wider sustainability of Council activity, including biodiversity, heritage, water, pollution in addition to all areas of carbon emissions produced by the Council. It enables effective monitoring of identified activity aimed at reducing the Council's environmental footprint across the County as well as tackling a wide range of climate change issues over and above that created by the emission set covered by the CRCEES. The Action Plan will be reviewed and updated in 2010/11. As with many Council strategies, whilst there is a lead Service and Director, all Services carry responsibility for meeting the challenge of delivery.
- 2.8 Progress of both the LCMP and the Climate Change and Environment Strategy will be reported to the Climate Change Programme Board.
- 2.9 The difference of purpose of the two plans means that they are best kept separate.

2.10 RECOMMENDATION 3 – MANAGEMENT OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY FUND

The £2m energy efficiency capital fund should be managed by the lead officer responsible for delivering the CCES.

WHO: Chief Executive / lead SMT Member responsible for CCES
WHEN: September 2010

- 2.11 The £2 million energy efficiency fund is a capital budget spread over 3 years and is not a delegated fund. It was set up with the specific intention of reducing the Council's commitment under the CRCEES to be managed by the Corporate Director of Finance, Property and Performance. The Head of Business Support & Facilities Management and the Head of Finance and Performance are responsible for assessing and putting forward projects. Strong links have been developed with the Head of Infrastructure: Education Planning, ensuring that applications from schools are submitted as part of their normal building infrastructure process. Cabinet will approve all the projects to be funded.

The reason why no schools have accessed the funding to date results from the need to align the application and loan process with that now established for schools seeking capital funding from the Children and Young People's capital programme to address condition needs such as boiler replacement. The means of securing this alignment have now been agreed.

- 2.12 On this basis, it is felt that the current arrangement remains the most appropriate one for the management of the fund. Therefore it is suggested that this recommendation is not accepted.

3 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Resources & Performance.

Finance

3.2 There are no additional costs identified as a result of the response to the recommendations.

3.3 This report does not recommend a transfer of the management of the £2m capital fund for energy efficiency improvements.

Property and Facilities Management

3.4 The management arrangements in place for the £2m energy efficiency capital fund provide for applications designed to improve the energy efficiency of the Council's buildings to be submitted in respect of both the schools and non-schools estate.

Key Risks

3.5 The Council's Strategic Risk Register identifies Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation as a key risk area. The responses to the recommendations will help mitigate risks in this area.

Statutory Duties / Requirements and Partnership Working

3.6 There are no significant implications arising from this report.

Climate Change

3.7 The work of the Climate Change Board and the projects that report to it will continue to strengthen the Council's ability to achieve its carbon reduction objectives.

Access and Inclusion

3.8 There are no significant implications arising from this report.

Engagement and Consultation

3.9 There are no significant implications arising from this report.

Source Documents	Location
Report on member led review of the Climate Change and Environment Strategy from Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee to Cabinet	Room 113