

EXETER CITY COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE COMMUNITY 2 SEPTEMBER 2008

CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS: RESULTS AND PROGRESS

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report presents information on the Council's corporate environmental performance indicators for the period 2007/08. The specific indicators under consideration are:

- the reduction in the total quantity of paper resources used by the Council
- the purchase of recycled paper
- the reduction in waste produced from the Civic Centre
- the reduction in carbon dioxide emissions within the Council
- the reduction in water consumption at the Civic Centre

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The environmental performance indicators are used to monitor progress in implementing the objectives of the Council's Environmental Strategy and Carbon Management Strategy and Implementation Plan. The current indicators reflect, in particular, the level of resource use by the Council.

2.2 The indicators are kept under review and changes are made, where appropriate, to take account of the increasing knowledge and understanding about how the Council's policies and practices impact on the environment.

3 RESULTS

Paper Use

3.1 The Council's Environmental Strategy sets the following target for paper consumption by the Council:

- To reduce paper consumption (office paper, copier paper, headed paper, compliment slips) within the Council by 10% by 2007/08 from a baseline of 2005/06 levels.

3.2 The results of the paper monitoring exercise are summarised below.

Year	Total paper purchased/ consumed (reams*)	Percentage change over previous year	Percentage change from 2005/06 levels
2005/06	10,459 reams	3.9% decrease	-
2006/07	10,867 reams	3.9% increase	3.9% increase
2007/08	9,280 reams	14.6% decrease	11.3% decrease

* A ream comprises 500 sheets of standard A4 paper, or its equivalent

** Paper consumed rather than purchased

3.3 The figures are calculated from data supplied by the relevant administrative sections on the quantity of paper used during the years in question. Due to difficulties in quantifying

'ad hoc' uses of paper, such as leaflets for promotions, only paper in every day use (copier paper, headed paper, complement slips) is included and this is used as an indicator of overall performance.

3.4 A total of 4.6 million sheets of paper were used in 2007/08, which represents a 15% decrease since the previous year and an 11% decrease since the baseline year of 2005/06. This reduction is thought to be due to increased levels of duplex printing, as well as a drive towards electronic forms of data handling and storage.

3.5 Constant vigilance and commitment is required at all levels to actively reduce paper consumption further, such as maximising electronic forms of data storage, rationalising distribution lists, increasing duplex printing and identifying unnecessary paper usage.

Recycled Paper

3.6 The Council's Environmental Strategy sets the following target for recycled paper purchased by the Council:

- Purchase 98% of paper (copier paper, headed paper and compliment slips) from a recycled source by 2007/08.

3.7 In 2007/08, 93% of monitored paper (copier paper, headed paper and compliment slips) was from a recycled source, compared to 87% in 2006/07. This improvement has been achieved by reducing the amount of coloured paper (currently from a non-recycled source) used within the Council by 80%. To achieve the target it would be necessary to further reduce the consumption of coloured paper or to purchase coloured paper from a recycled source (as was done in the past). A reduction in the amount of colour photocopying would also be needed, as there are currently no recycled papers available on the market suitable for this purpose.

Waste Reduction

3.8 The Council's Environmental Strategy sets the following target for the reduction of waste produced from the Civic Centre:

- Reduce the amount (by weight) of office waste for disposal from the Civic Centre by 60% by April 2011, from a baseline of April 1998 (60 tonnes) and thereafter stabilise production at this level.

3.9 The results for waste reduction at the Civic Centre are summarised below:

Year	Waste produced (Civic Centre)	Percentage reduction from baseline (April 1998)
May 2006	27.3 tonnes	55% reduction
May 2007	28.4 tonnes	53% reduction
May 2008	24.7 tonnes	59% reduction

3.10 The results were calculated from a waste auditing exercise, which involves monitoring the total amount of waste (for landfill disposal) produced from the Civic Centre over a two-week period. From this data, the mean quantity of waste disposed of per day and thus the annual waste production is estimated.

3.11 A 59% reduction in the amount of waste (for landfill disposal) produced from the Civic Centre was observed in May 2008, compared to the baseline of April 1998. This represents a 13% reduction in waste levels since the previous year.

- 3.12 Although waste levels have reduced substantially over recent years there is significant potential for further reduction. The waste audit undertaken by the Environmental Champions in April 2008 estimated that 60% of office waste from the Civic Centre could be recycled using existing facilities. A proposal has been put forward to improve the accessibility of recycling facilities to make it easier for staff to recycle and recycling provision at other sites is currently being investigated.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions

- 3.13 The following carbon reduction target has been adopted as part of the Council's Carbon Management Strategy and Implementation Plan:
- To reduce carbon dioxide emissions from energy, water, waste and transport by 10% by 2009/10 and 20% by 2012/13 from a baseline of 2006/07.
- 3.14 The main target is broken down into individual targets for energy, transport and waste:
- To reduce carbon dioxide emissions from energy use in buildings by 25% by 2012/13
 - To reduce carbon dioxide emissions from transport by 10.5% by 2012/13
 - To reduce carbon dioxide emissions from waste by 20% by 2012/13
- 3.15 A further target has been set to ensure that a significant portion of the Council's carbon dioxide reduction target is derived from energy reduction and efficiency measures (as opposed to renewable energy):
- To reduce energy consumption in buildings by 15% by 2012/13
- 3.16 The results of the first year of monitoring are shown below. The Council's carbon footprint reduced by 4.3% in 2007/08 compared to the baseline of 2006/07. Although emissions from the transport fleet increased, this was counteracted by a reduction in emissions from buildings energy use and business mileage. A number of projects are underway or planned to reduce emissions from the transport fleet, including the use of biodiesel, monitoring of fuel consumption/mileage and eco-driver training for fleet drivers so a reduction in emissions should be seen in future years. The results of the first year are encouraging and show that the Council is on track to meet its target of a 20% reduction in emissions by 2012/13.

Source	Tonne CO ₂ 2006/07	Tonne CO ₂ 2007/08	% Reduction
Energy use in buildings	1,898	1,741	8.25%
Transport Fleet	913	952	-4.4%
Business Mileage	83	75	8.8%
Total Transport	995	1,028	-3.3%
Waste	25	23	6.6%
Water	6	7	-6.3%
Total	2,925	2,799	4.3%

- 3.17 For simplification, it has been decided to cease reporting on the Council's original energy reduction targets, the first of which was to reduce energy consumption in eight of the largest energy use sites* by 20% between 1992/3 and 1997/98. This target has largely been maintained since this time, with a 19.5% reduction achieved in 2007/08. A second target for a 20% reduction in energy use in a further three premises** between 1997/98 and 2002/03 has also been achieved (25.1% reduction observed in 2007/08). A third target

to reduce carbon dioxide emissions at the Civic Centre by 2% between 2001/02 and 2007/2008, unfortunately has not been achieved (emissions increased by 13% over this period), however, this will be tackled by a number of projects as part of the Carbon Management Strategy and Implementation Plan and will continue to be monitored as part of the Council's carbon reduction targets.

* Civic Centre, Guildhall, Corn Exchange, Toronto House, Rougemont House, Broadwalk, King William St Extension, Guildhall and Harlequin Car Parks.

** Grandisson Court, King William St and Mary Arches St Multi Storey Car Park

Water Use

3.18 The following target for reduction in water consumption was adopted by SMT in February 2003, for submission to the Government's former 'Making a Corporate Commitment Campaign' (MACC2):

- To reduce water consumption at the Civic Centre by 8% by 2003/4, from a baseline of 2001/02.

Reduction in Water Consumption at the Civic Centre

Period	Water Consumption (m ³)	Saving on 2001/02 (m ³)	% Saving on 2001/02
2004/05	4190	515	10.9
2006/07	4361	344	7.3
2007/08	4351	354	7.5

3.19 Between 2001/02 and 2007/08 there was a 7.5% decrease in water consumption at the Civic Centre, which falls just short of the 8% reduction target. Further savings are likely to be achieved through the refurbishment of the washrooms, which will include low-flush toilets and sensor taps with spray heads.

4 RECOMMENDED

- (1) that the results for paper use, purchase of recycled paper, waste production, carbon dioxide emissions and water consumption are noted;
- (2) that the targets are kept under review.
- (3) that a further report is submitted to this Committee in 12 months time.

HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)
Background papers used in compiling this report: