

EXETER CITY COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE-COMMUNITY 4 MARCH 2008

EXECUTIVE 18 MARCH 2008

CARBON MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report presents the outcomes of the Council's Carbon Management Programme and seeks Scrutiny Committee support and Executive approval for the Strategy and Implementation Plan.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Exeter City Council is one of 45 local authorities to take part in the fifth phase of the Carbon Trust's Local Authority Carbon Management Programme, which aims to provide a comprehensive programme to measure and manage the greenhouse gas emissions produced by the Council's activity. This Carbon Management Strategy and Implementation Plan is the main output from this programme and sets out a systematic approach to reducing the Council's emissions. The plan details the sources of the Council's emissions and establishes a baseline against which progress can be measured. It sets out the Council's approach towards carbon management and identifies key actions for the Council to take to meet a reduced emissions target by 2013.
- 2.2 The Carbon Management Plan will contribute to the delivery of Exeter's Climate Change Strategy 2008 - 2018 and help fulfil the commitment to tackling climate change made by signing both the Nottingham and Devon Wide Declarations on Climate Change.

3 EMISSIONS BASELINE AND CARBON REDUCTION TARGETS

- 3.1 The Council's carbon dioxide emissions baseline for 2006/07 is estimated to be 2,925 tonnes. Energy use from buildings accounts for almost two thirds of the Council's emissions and fleet transport nearly one third, whereas business mileage, waste and water have only a small effect on the overall footprint.
- 3.2 To achieve the Council's aims a set of carbon reduction targets are proposed, as follows:
 - 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.

3.3 The main target has been broken down into individual targets for energy, transport and waste as follows:

- 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

3.4 A further target has been set to ensure that a significant portion of the carbon dioxide reduction target is derived from energy reduction and efficiency measures (as opposed to renewable energy measures):

- To reduce energy consumption in buildings by 15% by 2012/13

4 CARBON REDUCTION ACTION PLAN

4.1 The plan sets out key actions for the Council to work towards meeting its reduced emissions target. Projects to be undertaken in the first two years of the programme (2008/09 and 2009/10) have been identified, as summarised below:

- Establishment of an Environmental Champions scheme within the Council to raise awareness and promote behaviour change amongst staff.
- A trial of bio-diesel (sourced locally from recycled vegetable oil) in two of the refuse collection vehicles, with a view to extending across the fleet if successful, and where practicable.
- Introduction of eco-driver training for fleet drivers to reduce fuel consumption.
- Installation of an energy saving transformer at the Civic Centre, Livestock Centre and MRF to reduce the supply voltage of electricity to the minimum required.
- More energy efficient lighting projects at the Civic Centre, Livestock Centre, Civic Centre Car Park, King William St Car Park and extension.
- Upgrade of the heating controls, insulation and ventilation system at the Guildhall.
- Installation of a wood pellet boiler at the Corn Exchange.
- Introduction of time switches on vending machines and other equipment and SAVA plugs onto fridges to reduce unnecessary energy use.
- Improvements to the office recycling scheme to increase the accessibility of recycling points and reduce waste bins in Council offices.
- Initiatives to help embed carbon management within the Council for further investigation.

4.2 Potential opportunities for the remaining years of the programme are also identified for further investigation. These opportunities will be evaluated annually two years ahead of the expected implementation date and included in each year's revised action plan.

4.3 The plan sets out the predicted financial savings to the Council as a result of implementing the programme. It is estimated that the savings from the first two years of the programme will provide an 11.6% return over the capital expenditure by 2013/14. Any acceleration of energy price rises will further increase the financial benefits of the programme to the Council.

5 MONITORING AND REVIEW OF THE STRATEGY

- 5.1 The Climate Change Steering Group will review the performance of the Carbon Management Programme annually and evaluate the measures taken since the last review. As part of this process, a plan of the scheme of work to be undertaken in the following two financial years will be prepared. The outcomes of the annual review will be reported to Scrutiny Committee – Community and to the Executive on an annual basis. The Steering Group will also undertake a half yearly review of progress of the programme, which will be reported to the Strategic Management Team. A full review of the Strategy and Implementation Plan, to assess the way forward once the five year programme is complete, will be undertaken in 2013.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 A budget of £100,000 pa to implement the Carbon Management Programme from 2008/09 to 2012/13 has been included in the Council's budget. The Strategy and Implementation Plan does not therefore have any additional financial implications for the Council.

7 RECOMMENDED

- (1) that the Scrutiny Committee Community supports and Executive approves the Carbon Management Strategy and Implementation Plan;
- (2) that general progress towards meeting the aims of the Strategy and Implementation Plan be monitored on an annual basis and reported to Scrutiny Committee- Community;
- (3) that the action plan be revised on an annual basis;
- (4) that a commitment be made to undertaking a full review of the Strategy and Implementation Plan in five years' time (2013).

HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

S:LP/Committee/308SCC14
21.2.08

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE

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