

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**HIGHWAYS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS
CABINET MEMBER**

GREENING THE WORKPLACE ACTION PLAN

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Cabinet Member on the progress in taking forward the action plan arising from the Economic Development and Corporate Issues Scrutiny Report on Greening the Workplace.
- 1.2 Cabinet agreed at its meeting on 12 July 2011 that the Cabinet Member for Highways and Neighbourhoods would be responsible for monitoring the delivery of the action plan from the Scrutiny Panel.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Panel reported on the Greening the Workplace initiative in November 2006. It then did a further review in September 2010.
- 2.2 An action plan was considered by Cabinet on 12 July 2011. The Cabinet Member for Highways and Neighbourhoods was asked to monitor the delivery of the plan.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 There are no options open to the Cabinet Member as the report provides an update on the current position.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Appendix 1 shows the current action plan with updates.

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

- 5.1 There are no financial, staffing property or IT implications to consider.

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

6.1 There are no other implications to consider.

7. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

7.1 None

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 That the Cabinet Member notes the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the Scrutiny Report.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

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Date: 1 May 2012

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: Previous committee reports and the Scrutiny report/revists

SCRUTINY REPORT ACTION PLAN – GREENING THE WORKPLACE (REVISIT)

| RECOMMENDATION | ACTION(S) TO BE TAKEN | LEAD RESPONSIBILITY | TARGET DATE |
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| <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> | <p>Annual Reports are now undertaken each year. The report for 2011/12 shows a decrease in energy consumption of 5% and a decrease in our carbon emissions by 17% against our 2008 baseline figure. .</p> | <p>Environment Team Manager</p> | <p>August 2012 for the 2011/12 report</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"> • Volunteer energy wardens have been appointed in most areas of the council. The role of the Energy wardens has now been expanded to include recycling initiatives. All volunteers have undergone some additional training to enable them to undertake their new role. | <p>Energy Manager</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> |

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| <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 coordinated 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"> All service areas are on track to achieve ISO 14001 accreditation. The deadline of 2013 has slipped to 2014. This is mainly due to restructuring of the council. In addition we have taken steps to expand our ISO accreditation with the addition of a new Energy and Carbon Management Standard. | <p>Environment Team Manager</p> | <p>December 2013</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"> A report has been progressed to rationalize the number of meetings. All issues are now reported to the Cabinet Member. | <p>Director of Infrastructure Services</p> | <p>Completed</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"> It is our intention to begin developing targets for individual service areas. However, the restructuring of the council has led to many changes. This has made it difficult to implement because service areas cost centres have changed on a regular basis. As restructuring initiatives settle down it will be possible to deliver service based targets. | <p>Environment Team Manager – Infrastructure Services</p> | <p>January 2013</p> |

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| <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"> • The development of a Performance Improvement Panel was not thought to be necessary as our performance with respect to NI 186 has improved significantly with carbon emissions reduced by 19%. This effectively puts us in the top 15% high performing areas. At the same time we are able to show that we have reduced our own carbon emissions by 17% since 2008. Our target of a 33% reduction by 2014 remains on track. | <p>Environment Team Manager</p> | <p>ongoing</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"> • A full green fleet review has not been completed. | <p>Head of Fleet Provision</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"> • 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 and Environmental Services</p> | <p>Action already taken to allow the Fleet Manager to have a wider role in the procurement of sustainable vehicles.</p> |

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| <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 utilized. 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"> Environment Team staff are actively engaged in energy awareness reduction in schools. During 2011/12 the Energy Bus/Roadshow attended 10 schools and attracted a great deal of attention. A further 10 schools will be visited during 2012/13. Energy audits have been undertaken in numerous schools. A presentation to the schools forum meeting in May 2012 to discuss energy efficiency and the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme (CRCEES) has generated considerable interest in energy audits. Display Energy certificates in schools during 2011/12 showed a significant improvement placing us in the top 25 authorities in the UK. This is also reported to the cabinet member on an annual basis. | <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> |

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| | <p>The newly developing Service Level Agreement now makes provisions for the Energy Team to undertake energy audits within schools and support them in putting measures in place. Baysgarth School has submitted a SALIX bid with our support and has been successful</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. • Travellincs used now on a regular basis. | | <p>Action completed</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"> • The council is working actively to ensure the appropriate skills are developed by our schools and colleges to meet the expanding role of the green/renewable economy. This includes supporting the development of the governments Green Deal Agenda. | <p>Environment Team manager with support from relevant officers in Strategic Regeneration, Housing and Development.</p> | <p>Initial action completed but now ongoing to ensure that momentum is not lost</p> |

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| <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 regular provision of energy usage, emissions etc wherever possible.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only a few of the council's Culture Improvement Teams (CIT) are actively engaged in energy matters. We need to take steps to improve this situation. | <p>Directors</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> |
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