

SUSTAINABILITY CABINET COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 14
Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Carbon Management Programme Self-Assessment		
Date of Meeting:	8 October 2008		
Report of:	Director of Strategy & Governance		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Thurstan Crockett	Tel: 29-2503
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Key Decision	No		
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report summaries the findings of a review of the Carbon Management Programme (CMP) self assessment. It recommends a renewed commitment to carbon management across the council at all levels.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Committee re-affirms the council's commitment to carbon management and energy efficiency savings in response to the challenges of climate change and rising energy prices.
- 2.2 That the Cabinet Committee instigates a review of the CMP Strategy & Implementation Plan, based on the self-assessment findings.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 Brighton & Hove City Council completed the first phase of Carbon Trust's Local Authority Carbon Management Programme in May 2007, when it produced a comprehensive and systematic plan for reducing carbon emissions by 20% over 5 years.
- 3.2 It achieved an on target 4% reduction in emissions in the first year, as reported to Policy & Resources Committee in an annual review report on April 3, 2008. The 4% annual target has since been confirmed as a local target in the city's Local Area Agreement (LAA), matching the city-wide LAA target.
- 3.3 In addition to CO2 savings, the annual financial savings projected from projects awarded funding from the first two tranches of the council's Carbon Management loan fund amount to nearly £48,000 - made up of the following:

<i>tranche</i>	<i>project name</i>	<i>technology type</i>	<i>£ saving pa</i>
1	lanes car park	lighting upgrade	11127.13
1	power perfectors barts	voltage reduction	2631.02
1	power perfectors priory	voltage reduction	4830.98
1	server virtualisation	server virtualisation	2705.38
2	hove town hall lighting upgrade	lighting upgrade	1330.50
2	hove town hall new ahu controls	boilers	2699.97
2	hove town hall new boiler panel controls	boilers	18000.00
2	hove town hall variable speed drives	boilers	1133.02
2	kings house lighting upgrade	discrete tamperproof lighting controls	3485.00
Total annual savings			47943.00

- 3.4 A self-assessment exercise on the whole programme was carried out in May 2008 by a cross-departmental CMP officer team and facilitated by an independent consultant (at no cost to the authority) showing that good initial progress has been made; the council is achieving good practice, especially regarding transport; that its problems with older buildings regarding boilers, insulation and heating are widely shared by local authorities; and that it faces challenges and opportunities ahead.

Detailed Findings

3.5 Successes

- Excellent Strategy and Implementation Plan at start
- Achieved maximum funds from Salix and cross-party consensus
- Behaviour change and communication to staff good
- Unusual inclusion of transport in detail: business travel, commuting & fleet
- Transport Opportunities Fund mainstreamed
- Staff travel initiatives well ahead of other authorities
- Good initial progress: on target with reduction of 4% in year one, 2006/7
- Implementation going well – quick wins identified, fund management good

3.6 Challenges

- Policy alignment across the whole authority – being addressed through Corporate Plan and business planning
- Rising costs for schools – being addressed through appointment of new Schools Carbon Management Officer to advise on energy audits, efficiency, renewables and grants
- Reputational risks arising from the introduction of new display energy certificates on most buildings, showing their energy performance and potential performance. As many buildings are old, the initial rating will reflect this – a certification contract has been let, work is underway and council communications will explain ratings; the energy team is being expanded; worst performing buildings will be prioritised and work is already underway on some (e.g. Hove Town Hall)

- Boilers, insulation and lighting – much work to be done still (like most authorities) – Carbon Management Programme is investing in fastest payback schemes first
- Housing – relatively good energy efficiency in the stock but room for further improvement. Investment in energy will be looked at in the context of wider stock investment requirements linked to the Decent Homes Standard.

3.7 Future challenges anticipated

- Pushing carbon management up the supply chain – need for clear advice from government and support for contractors
- The “Carbon Reduction Commitment” requires the council’s participation in carbon trading from 2013 with an option to join from 2010. The authority is participating in a dummy carbon trading scheme called “Carbon Trading Councils” to learn about trading with 30 other authorities.

3.8 Benchmarking Brighton & Hove City Council’s CMP

- Our self assessment rating is similar to many other councils that have been through the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme
- We have done well in terms of embedding behaviour change and communications with staff generally
- Our technical deficiencies (boilers, insulation, lighting etc.) are shared by many other councils
- We are doing well on transport – many more initiatives than most other councils and higher emissions reduction in first year

4. **CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 Officers across finance & property, sustainable transport, housing management, ICT, performance, and sustainability were consulted as part of the self-assessment exercise.
- 4.2 External partners and agencies on the 2020 Community Partnership have been consulted during the development of the 4% annual CO2 reduction local target for council operations, during the development of the LAA.

5. **FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 A Carbon Management Fund has been established by the council with a £200,000 contribution from the Carbon Trust and £200,000 match funding from the council. This fund finances energy efficient projects with repayments from savings paid back into the fund effectively making it self financing and able to support numerous projects.

- 5.2 There are no direct revenue implications regarding the undertaking of the CMP self assessment.

Finance Officer Consulted: Rob Allen

Date: 10/09/08

Legal Implications:

- 5.3 The report does not contain any adverse legal implications. The public sector is expected to lead the way in energy efficiency. The Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act contains specific provisions for local authorities to have regard to information on energy measures in exercising functions.

Lawyer Consulted: Oliver Dixon

Date: 10/09/08

Equalities Implications:

- 5.4 Tackling Fuel Poverty in the Housing Stock has a direct impact on improving health/income inequalities.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.5 The programme is having a positive impact through carbon reduction measures to reduce the council's climate change impact.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.6 None.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.7 A risk and opportunity identification exercise was carried out by officers as part of the assessment and this will be incorporated into the review with a matrix to identify key issues

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.8 The CMP is an important example of the city council leading by example in reducing CO2 emissions, as part of the wider city target work.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 Not applicable.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Not applicable.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. None

Documents In Members' Rooms

1. None

Background Documents

1. April 3 P&R Report on Carbon Management Programme annual review:
[http://peace.brighton-hove.gov.uk/Intranet/CommitteeMgt.NSF/0/B2CB1B0C0F5352DD80257418005CA4FA/\\$File/Item+195.+CMP+P&R+report+draft+4+17.03.08.doc](http://peace.brighton-hove.gov.uk/Intranet/CommitteeMgt.NSF/0/B2CB1B0C0F5352DD80257418005CA4FA/$File/Item+195.+CMP+P&R+report+draft+4+17.03.08.doc)
2. Carbon Management Programme – Strategy & Implementation Plan:
[http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/downloads/bhcc/BHCC_SIP_final_29-4-07\[1\].pdf](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/downloads/bhcc/BHCC_SIP_final_29-4-07[1].pdf)

