

REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT OF: Portfolio Holder Healthy Environment

REPORT NO: ENV565

DATE: 5 March 2012

TITLE:	Energy Reduction and Climate Change Action Plan 2012 - 2017	
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	To approve the attached energy reduction and climate change action plan	
PORTFOLIO HOLDER: NAME AND DESIGNATION:	Cllr John Smith Portfolio holder healthy environment	
CONTACT OFFICER:	M Rickard David Price	
INITIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT:	N/A	Full impact assessment Required: N/A
Equality and Diversity		
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT:	This report is publicly available via the Your Council and Democracy link on the Council's website: www.southkesteven.gov.uk	
BACKGROUND PAPERS	Energy Reduction and Climate Change Action Plan	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Energy Reduction and Climate Change Action Plan be approved.

2. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To set out the proposals for the Council to promote and achieve energy use reduction and associated carbon footprint reduction by use of an action plan which will generate positive change and support for the Council's activities, local business and residents.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

The Council has been successful during recent years in targeting energy and carbon reduction within council operations. This activity was in line with and supported national policies and the Climate Change Act 2008. From the period 2008 to 2011 the Council achieved a 13.4% reduction in carbon emissions, exceeding our adopted

target of 12.5%. The reduction seen in energy consumption over the two years of implementing measures has saved the Council around £78,000 in fuel costs.

The National Indicator for this measure ceased having effect on 1st April 2011. Nevertheless monitoring of performance has continued in this area and the Council is in an excellent position to be able to measure and substantiate improvements from the 2008 baseline in respect of further Council activity.

Several council documents had evolved over time in support of these aims e.g. Carbon Management Plan etc. Given the national changes in this area of work it was felt to be an appropriate time to review and update these various documents into one combined document with a 5 year time frame from 2012-2017, also taking into account the Energy Act 2011, which will shortly come into force.

Along with support from other key service areas the plan's creation process has involved the Communities Policy Development Group whose comments and contributions have been taken on board to actively shape this action plan and which will enable a cohesive approach in support of delivering a number of the Council's new priorities including the following;

- Keep SK clean, green and healthy
- Grow the economy
- Support good housing for all

The action plan (enclosed as Appendix A) links in closely and cohesively with the asset management plan that is currently being developed further. Targets for future energy use and associated carbon emissions will depend heavily what actions are adopted through the asset management plan and ultimately on which projects are progressed through to completion.

This action plan sets out a number of proposals in several areas of activity within the South Kesteven area and is aimed at reducing energy use and thereby costs and carbon foot print across the Council together with other actions which aim to help our residents and businesses help themselves.

The proposed 3 headline areas for action are:

- 1) SKDC activity
- 2) Local business
- 3) Local residents

These three key areas are broken down into eight subsections as follows

- 1a) Focus on Council's own internal energy management and carbon reduction.
- 1b) Focus on Council's approach to adaptation and the embedding of actions to combat climate change.
- 2a) Supporting business with energy/carbon reduction and the introduction of the green deal.
- 2b) Supporting the District's economic growth through the green deal.
- 3a) Driving sustainability within our housing portfolio through the use of renewable technologies.
- 3b) Supporting the District's owner occupiers with the introduction of the green deal.

- 3c) Encouraging the private rented sector to utilise the green deal to improve the stock condition.
- 3d) Supporting the fuel poor and hard to treat homes by engaging with the ECO scheme.

Any projects taken forward as a result of this action plan will be subject to the project management methodology that the Council has recently adopted together with the normal cost/benefit analysis conducted before any project is given the approval to proceed.

Progress with the delivery of the plan will be monitored and measured through a range of mechanisms including corporate project planning, service planning, annual reporting to the most appropriate member forum and continued collation of performance data on carbon emissions from local authority operations.

4. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

As the action plan sets out the responses and results anticipated and provides a focus for activity, failure to adopt an action plan is likely to result in the council not achieving the aspirations identified in its priorities.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Any actions contained within the plan will be considered and where necessary incorporated into the Council's existing budgetary process. More significant schemes that may require additional capital funding will be subjected to the Council's project planning methodology which will include the development of an outline business case incorporating the financial feasibility assessment. Subject to agreement the outcomes from this process may then be included into future capital programmes.

6. RISK AND MITIGATION

N/A

7. ISSUES ARISING FROM EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

N/A

8. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

N/A

9. COMMENTS OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

Resources required to support the delivery of the specific actions will be met from existing resources or will be identified for future delivery as part of the budget setting process.

10. COMMENTS OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

The Council is required to lead by example. The Climate Change Act 2008 sets legally binding targets to which we must contribute.

11. COMMENTS OF OTHER RELEVANT SERVICES

Any specific comments have been incorporated into the development of the action plan and report.

12. APPENDICES:

Energy Reduction and Climate Change Action Plan

Energy Reduction and Climate Change Action Plan

Section 1 – Internal Focus

Section 1a – Council’s Internal Energy Management and Carbon Reduction.

Round optimisation – The introduction of the energy from waste plant in Lincoln (2013) will mean we have to change our tipping. Our existing rounds have not been optimised for many years.	Review the existing service delivery and optimise the rounds to coincide with the changes to the tipping.	2012-13	Reduction in mileage and improvement in resource efficiency. Single change for customers.
Boiler optimisation – We have aging boilers in a number of our corporate buildings. Due to uncertainty around building life expectancy, full boiler replacement is not a sensible option.	Fit existing boilers with boiler optimisation units, these are transferable to new boilers if a decision is made in the future to upgrade the main units.	2012-13	Less gas is used as they make the boilers run more efficiently.
Lighting – there is still a wide variety of lighting solutions within the Council’s corporate buildings. Although good progress has been made there is much more that can be done.	Complete a full assessment of lighting provision (lamps, switches, detectors etc).	2012-13	Reduction in electricity usage. Reduction in replacement part costs.
Green Travel Plan – As a council we do not have a green travel plan in place, leading to staff possibly not knowing or understanding their options and possible benefits.	Based on the extensive travel survey already completed, create and adopt a green travel plan, incorporating alternatives such as video conferencing.	2012-13	Improved commuting practice for staff – understanding of options – leading by example with the community.
Energy Champions - Some ‘switch-it-off’ campaigns have already been run, but there is currently little other work being completed, either for staff themselves or for staff to help inform others.	Train up and support a number of energy champions within customer services team (inc satellites) and Environmental Health.	2012-13	Trained staff able to provide advice and information to colleagues and to the public / business during their normal day-to-day contact.
Vehicle Procurement – our current fleet of refuse vehicles is aging and due for replenishment, leading to an opportunity to address a high contributor to our carbon footprint.	Complete a feasibility study to compare the cost / benefit of procuring energy efficient vehicles, including hybrid solutions and alternative fuels.	2012-13	Reduced running costs, substantial reduction in carbon emissions, excellent opportunity to showcase Council’s commitment to sustainability and the environment.
Accommodation Review - Over the years the use of office space in Grantham, Bourne and Stamford has changed significantly, to a point where utilisation is no longer optimal.	Develop options to improve the use of space and efficient utilisation of office accommodation in key SKDC properties in Grantham, Bourne and Stamford. Incorporating a review of energy efficient equipment such as hand driers.	2012-14	To reduce the amount of floor space occupied by SKDC staff and achieves a corresponding reduction in energy consumption

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Section 1b – Climate Change Adaptation & Embedding into Policy.

<p>Planning Policy, Dev & Building Control – Buildings last a very long time, so decisions around planning made now will still have an impact in 50-80-100 years time, it is imperative we get those decisions right.</p>	<p>Provide training and resource to the planning and development teams to help them understand the need to provide information, choices and advice around adaptation.</p>	<p>2012-18</p>	<p>Planning guidance improves, helping customers understand their choices and options and the possible consequences of not fully accounting for possible future impacts, including water shortages /recycling etc.</p>
<p>SK Housing Stock – as with above, there is a need to make the right decisions now and to consider long term impacts and changes that could be associated with climate change.</p>	<p>Ensure our retro-fit programme considers housing issues that may affect the long term needs of residents.</p>	<p>2012-18</p>	<p>Delivers a more energy efficient housing stock that meets local needs and reflects future issues such as water shortages.</p>
<p>Economic Development – We must utilise the existing contact we have with business and industry to make sure they have access the right information and support on the need to adapt.</p>	<p>Provide training and support packs to the economic development team.</p>	<p>2012-13</p>	<p>Economic Development will be able to utilise their existing contact with businesses to educate and support them on adaptation measures.</p>
<p>Officers & Councillors – Seamless and efficient ICT systems help to deliver effective remote working and will contribute to the agile working process.</p>	<p>Introduce seamless remote working ICT solutions. Develop, promote and utilise existing remote communications facilities.</p>	<p>2012-15</p>	<p>Improved productivity, reduced travel, faster information dissemination. More resilient and flexible workforce.</p>
<p>Risk to Service Delivery – The un-predictability of the weather and the possibility of more extreme weather scenarios due to climate change means there is an increasing risk to efficient and effective serve delivery.</p>	<p>Further assess the opportunities and threats of predicted Climate Change scenarios utilising historical local extreme weather data and events. To assist in business continuity, resilience planning and service development.</p>	<p>2012-13</p>	<p>Un-interrupted service delivery coupled with meeting customer expectations. Improved more robust business continuity plans able to mitigate against the effects of extreme weather events.</p>

Section 2 – Business Focus

Section 2a - Supporting Business with Energy / Carbon Reduction and the Green Deal.

<p>Business Support – With the introduction of the Green Deal funding mechanisms during 2012, the current funding options will cease. There will be a need for support and signposting from local Government to help businesses find the right information and make the right choices.</p>	<p>Working with County and district colleagues contribute to the creation of a Green Deal Framework (covering both business and residential use).</p>	<p>2012-13</p>	<p>Added security and confidence from business in the service providers on to the framework. Improved understanding of options and information available to businesses.</p>
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<p>Existing Contact Network – There are no clear arrangements around how teams that already engage with business on a regular basis on this subject, utilise this opportunity to provide additional cross services support and information.</p>	<p>Provide each of the main teams that have contact with business (Eco Dev, Env Health, Dev Control and Customer Services) with information and support packs.</p>	<p>2012-13</p>	<p>Enhanced use of the contact opportunities between front line services and the business sector, helping businesses help themselves.</p>
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Section 2b - Supporting Economic Growth through The Green Deal.

<p>Business Support – The Introduction of the Green Deal will create a new market for contractors and businesses to exploit.</p>	<p>Ensure local companies are championed and supported with the introduction of the Green Deal Framework.</p>	<p>2012-13</p>	<p>Local companies will be aware of the framework and the opportunities it may deliver for them.</p>
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Section 3 – Resident Focus

Section 3a – Driving Sustainability in SK Social Housing through the use of innovative Technology.

<p>Improving the SAP rating of SKDC-owned housing stock – Council-owned housing is of variable energy efficiency with a proportion being hard to treat and having relatively low SAP ratings. These properties tend to use more energy, having a greater cost to the residents.</p>	<p>Review the energy performance of Council-owned housing and assess our options (considering innovative technologies as a possible solution) to improve our current levels of energy efficiency performance.</p>	<p>2012-18</p>	<p>This action will deliver reductions to energy consumption and greenhouse gases. Residents will benefit from more affordable warmth and the associated health benefits.</p>
<p>District Heating – programmes can be implemented easily with new build, but need to be considered and designed at the beginning of any building programme.</p>	<p>Conduct a feasibility study and cost / benefit analysis on utilising a district heating programme.</p>	<p>2013-15</p>	<p>This study would show the options for and against the use of district heating within new housing schemes.</p>

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Section 3b – Supporting Owner Occupiers with the Introduction of the Green Deal.

Resident Support – With the introduction of the Green Deal funding mechanisms during 2012, the current funding support options will cease. There will be a need for support and signposting from local Government to help residents find the right information and make the right choices.	Working with County and District colleagues, develop and effective information and signposting solution.	2012-13	Residents will have the right information at the right time and will be able to cut through the conflicting market information.
FIT Subsidy Scheme – The scheme is in a state of flux, particularly for the solar PV industry, but also affected other technologies.	Maintain our web-site advice and signposting to reflect the rapidly changing market.	2012-17	Residents will have the right information at the right time and will be able to cut through the conflicting market information.
Hearts & Minds – As with the FIT's above, there is a need to maintain the quality of the information on fuel efficiency and carbon reduction.	Maintain our web-site advice and signposting to reflect the changing market.	2012-17	Residents will have the right information at the right time and will be able to cut through the conflicting market information.

Section 3c – Encouraging the Private Rented Sector to Utilise the Green Deal.

Green Deal / ECO – There is a real possibility that landlords and tenants don't agree over the new funding mechanisms being proposed.	Train our housing and enforcement teams to be able offer advice, help and support for the take-up of the scheme.	2012-17	Private sector landlords update their properties with energy saving measures, utilising the Green Deal in a fair way as perceived by both them and the tenant.
SAP Standards – In 2018 Landlords will not be able to rent properties that are rated as E or F on the energy performance certificate (A-F scale).	Ensure that our information and guidance (and ultimately enforcement) is in place and disseminated out to all appropriate parties.	2012-18	Landlords and tenants are fully aware of the changes to the law and able to access information that allows remedial works to be completed as required.

Section 3d – Supporting Fuel Poverty & Hard To Treats by Delivering the ECO Scheme.

New ECO Scheme – During 2012 the CERT, CESP and Warm Front schemes will stop and be replaced by the new Energy Company Obligation (ECO) scheme.	Ensure our front line housing support teams within Environmental Health are positioned to make the best use of available ECO monies and administer any scheme effectively.	2012-17	Residents in fuel poverty can access accurate information to help improve their homes.
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