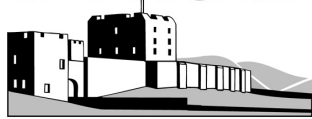


**CARLISLE
CITY COUNCIL**



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ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Committee Report

Public

Date of Meeting: 2nd December 2010

Title: ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE OF THE COUNCIL

Report of: The Assistant Director (Governance)

Report reference: GD 68/10

Summary:

This document provides the Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a progress report on the environmental performance of Carlisle City Council. The report includes updates on the environmental performance indicators, current energy use within directly controlled City Council buildings, CO₂ reduction from local authority operations and makes reference to the Local Climate Impact Profile developed by the Cumbria Climate Change Task Group. Reference is also made to the progress with regard to the Green Travel Plan, the continued success with regard to environmental awards and discusses the challenges and opportunities brought about by the Comprehensive Spending Review with particular reference to the status of the Carbon Management Programme.

Recommendations:

The Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel consider and comment on the content of the report.

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Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1.1 The City Council adopted an Environmental Policy Statement in August 2006. The policy states that the City Council will take responsibility for improving our ‘in house’ environmental performance. Since then the City Council has been proactive in improving its environmental performance as well as making a commitment to tackling the challenge of climate change. In line with the latest Council priorities the Environmental Policy Statement is currently being reviewed and updated for 2011.
- 1.2 Following the departure of the former Environmental Manager in December 2010 the Environmental function was combined with that of the Safety Managers role as part of transformational change creating the new combined post of Safety, Health and Environmental Manager.

2.0 CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY PROGRESS UPDATES

2.1 Carlisle’s Climate Change Strategy was approved by Council in January 2009. The Strategy outlines aims and objectives for the City Council to tackle climate change through its operations, service delivery and work with partners and communities it serves. The following information updates progress in line with the National Indicators to date.

NI185 data - CO₂ reduction from local authority operations

The table below includes ALL City Council owned premises including those not directly “controlled” by the Council E.g. Carlisle Leisure Ltd sites. **Units are emissions of carbon dioxide in tonnes.** Figures are subject to change in accordance with revised conversion factors from DEFRA.

Figures calculated using the Defra Conversion Factors for 2009	Baseline Year		08/09 Change compared with baseline year		09/10 Change compared with baseline year
Sector	2007/08	2008/09		2009/10	
Buildings (Electricity)	2,555	2,533	-0.9%	2,539	-0.6%
Buildings (Gas)	1,902	1,781	-6.3%	1,680	-11.6%
Buildings (Oil)	39	40	+3.1%	58	+50.4%*
Street Lighting, Floodlighting, Car-parks & CCTV	338	313	-7.4%	305	-10.0%
Fleet Transport	1,256	1,215	-3.3%	1,154	-8.2%
Business Travel	127	110	-12.8%	92	-27.8%

Total	6,217	5,992	-3.6%	5,828	-6.3%
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Please note that last year's report (Ref: CS40/09) baseline carbon dioxide tonnage reading for 2007/08 of 6,343 tonnes was incorrect. This was as a result of a significant over estimation of gas & electricity usage from Carlisle Leisure Ltd City Centre Pools Venue. The main effect of this inaccuracy led to an over reporting of reductions of carbon dioxide for 2008/09 of 5.3% in last year's report compared with the true reductions of carbon dioxide for 2008/09 of 3.6% as reported in the above table.

*Buildings (Oil) rise has been attributed to the extra heating required within the Boustead's Grassing depot garage during last years harsh winter conditions.

From the table above it can be seen that Carlisle City Council continues to make steady progress to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions in comparison to its 2007/08 baseline of 6,217 tonnes.

The cumulative reduction of carbon dioxide emissions of 614 tonnes in comparison with the 2007/08 baseline equates to an overall cumulative percentage reduction of 9.9%. Carlisle City Councils Climate Change Strategy has an aspirational target of a carbon dioxide emissions reduction of 25% by the end of 2013 in comparison with the 2007/08 baseline year.

NI186 data – Per capita reduction in CO₂ for the local authority area

NI 186 has been adopted as a key indicator in both the Cumbria Local Area Agreement and Carlisle Community Plan produced by the Carlisle Partnership. The indicator relies on statistics produced by DEFRA to measure end user CO₂ emissions in the local area from the business and public sector, domestic housing and road transport. The latest revised figures have been obtained from the Department Of Energy and Climate Change.

Local Authority Region Name: Carlisle

Year	Per Capita Industry & Commercial	Per Capita Domestic	Per Capita Road Transport	Carlisle's Population (1000`s)	Per capita CO ₂ emissions (tonnes)
2005	4.1	2.7	2.8	104.2	9.8
2006	4.1	2.6	2.8	105.1	10.0
2007	4.1	2.6	2.8	105.6	9.9
2008*	4.0	2.6	2.8	105.1	9.8

* 2008 in the last current information available from DEFRA

NI 188 - Planning to adapt to climate change

NI188 planning to adapt to climate change is another performance indicator used to assess local authorities progress on tackling climate change. This indicator is based on qualitative information ensuring local authorities are prepared to manage the risks associated with climate change including service delivery, the public and local communities, local infrastructure, businesses and natural environment. Local authorities have to report on their level of preparedness graded 0 – 4. In 2008/9 The City Council was at level 0. As a result of the joint work undertaken by the Cumbria Climate Change Task Group (at which Carlisle's Safety, Health and Environmental manager plays an active part) a Local Climate Impact Profile for Cumbria was developed. This process allowed the City Council to achieve a grade 1 with regard to NI 188 in 2009/10.

3.0 ENERGY USE IN DIRECTLY CONTROLLED CITY COUNCIL BUILDINGS

Gas consumption (kW/h):

Since 2007-08 (baseline year) gas use has been reduced at all four main sites. Tullie House has achieved the most success with more than a 10 per cent reduction in consumption, with the Civic Centre achieving more than 7 per cent. The sites have contributed to an overall reduction across the City Council buildings of 10.7% over the same period, noting that actual data from a number of community centres is still awaited.

Gas consumption (kW/h):

Site	Baseline Year 2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Change (2007-08 to 2009-10)
Bousteads	410,435	405,414	393,491	- 4.1%
Civic	840,404	826,238	780,776	-7.1%
Crematorium	1,038,105	1,123,939	995,045	-4.1%
Tullie House	1,684,257	1,693,065	1,512,199	-10.2%
Total	10,299,961	9,695,143	9,198,649	-10.7%

Electricity consumption (kW/h):

Since 2007-08 (baseline year) electricity use has been cut at Bousteads Grassing and Tullie House, but has risen at the Civic Centre and the Crematorium. These compare with

a small cut across the City Council buildings of 0.6% over the same period, noting that actual data from a number of community centres is still awaited.

Electricity consumption (kW/h):

Site	Baseline Year			Change (2007-08 to 2009-10)
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	
Bousteads	268,762	267,314	225,645	- 16.0%
Civic	1,053,105	1,112,637	1,123,072	+ 6.6%
Crematorium	50,463	60,693	66,976	+ 32.7%
Tullie House	1,155,269	1,098,884	1,121,054	-3.0%
Total	4,726,988	4,686,100	4,697,194	-0.6%

4.0 GREEN TRAVEL PLAN

The Green Travel Plan was approved in April 2008, and the following are highlights from the financial year 2009/10.

4.1 Reduction in Business Mileage undertaken by Staff and Members from 338,560 in 2008 /09 to 280,358 in 2009/10 (a 17.2 per cent reduction). Business travel in private vehicles totalled 385,459 miles in 2007-08, the reduction has been more than 100,000 miles (27.3 per cent since then).

4.2 Reduction in fuel used for the vehicle fleet (Diesel, Petrol and Gas oil), and an overall reduction in emissions of 5 per cent from overall fleet vehicle use, adding to a 3.3 per cent reduction from 2007-08 to 2008-09. Overall fleet vehicle use is calculated after factoring in the rounds undertaken on our behalf by Cumbria Waste Recycling, and deducting the emissions associated with Garden Waste rounds undertaken by Carlisle City Council for Eden District Council.

4.3 Supporting National Bike Week by providing a free “bike to work” breakfast on 23rd June to staff cycling to work at the Civic Centre. This was a joint initiative with Cumbria County Council held in Committee Room C at the Civic Centre.

4.4 Ongoing maintenance of a “Green Travel Plan” page on the City Council’s intranet page. This gives useful information to staff and members regarding public transport, car sharing and annual events as well as promoting the use of bicycles for short journeys from City Council properties, and hire cars for longer journeys.

Sector	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Change (2007-08 to 2009-10)
Diesel	1,105 (A)	1,066 (A)	1,055	-4.5%
Petrol	32	29	28	-14%
Gas oil	102 (A)	94 (A)	64	-37%
Vehicle hire (M)	Not recorded	3	1	Not recorded
CWR Rounds	119	125	120	0.3%
Eden Rounds	-102	-102	-115	-12.5%
Total	1,256 (B)	1,215 (B)	1,154	-8.2%

(A) Figures slightly different from those in the Committee Report of 23/07/09, due to revised conversion factors having been received from DEFRA.

(B) Totals are now more than those reported in the Committee Report of 23/07/09 mainly due to the factoring in of Cumbria Waste Recycling rounds, and rounds undertaken by the City Council for Eden District Council.

(M) "Missing" emissions from fuel purchased for hire vehicles when the fuel wasn't purchased on a fuel card. It is therefore not captured in the totals for diesel and petrol, and so has to be calculated separately.

5.0 CUMBRIA BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT NETWORK AWARDS

5.1 The City Council retained the Gold level of the Cumbria Business Environment Network Awards in March 2010.

The Environmental Performance Team continues to work with Site Managers to update annual environmental performance plans. These plans ensure compliance with environmental legislation and that actions are in place to address the issues of waste, energy, procurement etc.

5.2 The City Council retained its Green Flag Award status for the Tullie House garden, Bitts Park, Hammonds Pond, Richardson Street Cemetery and the Crematorium. The Green Flag Award key criteria include environmental sustainability and conservation.

6.0 AUDIT COMMISSIONS USE OF RESOURCES KEY LINE OF ENQUIRY (KLOE 3.1) AUDIT

6.1 In February 2010 The Audit Commission formally audited Carlisle City Councils “Use of Resources”.

The Audit Commissions Key Line of Enquiry focus was

To establish that Carlisle City Council:

- understands and can quantify its use of natural resources and can identify the main influencing factors;
- manages performance to reduce its impact on the environment; and
- manages the environmental risks it faces, working effectively with partners.

Why is this important?

By reducing its own consumption of natural resources, and by influencing others through the example it sets, the public sector can make a significant contribution to achieving sustainable development. *Securing the Future*, the UK sustainable development strategy, 2005, sets out key principles, the first being “living within environmental limits and ensuring that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations”.

In the context of this assessment by ‘natural resources’ we mean resources that occur naturally on the earth, which the organisation in the conduct of its own operations either consumes directly, or impacts upon:

- energy;
- clean water;
- clean air;
- land and soil; and
- materials including plant and animal products (such as wood and food) and minerals.

Using natural resources will have environmental impacts for example, reducing resources for future generations or by polluting land, air or water. Using fewer natural resources or using them more wisely will reduce those impacts. It is helpful to think about the impact of the goods and services used by the public sector across their whole lifecycles – what detrimental effect they could have on climate change, and what wastes they could produce.

Note: the focus of KLOE 3.1 is on the organisation’s own impact on the environment, from the resources it consumes in the delivery of its services. It is not about how it acts to

reduce the consumption of resources by others, such as businesses or the wider community. The area assessment under CAA will deal with environmental issues in the wider area.

6.2 Provision of Information

Carlisle City Councils Safety, Health and Environmental manager provided a very comprehensive account of the environmental work undertaken which demonstrated the commitment Carlisle City Council is making to ensure it is meeting its obligations to reduce its own consumption of natural resources.

This consisted of 20 separate case studies referencing over 28 appendices covering all aspects of the work undertaken in our efforts to reduce the City Councils impact on the environment from the resources it consumes in the delivery of its services.

6.3 Audit Commissions Findings

The Auditor verbally indicated that he was very satisfied with the progress being made by the Council with the probable outcome of a KLOE “level 3” achievement recommended.

Unfortunately the Audit Commission was one of the many casualties in the “government’s reorganisation” in 2010 and the results were never published.

However in its summary report to the Council special mention was made which acknowledged the Councils efforts and progress with regard to its “Use of Natural Resources”.

7.0 CARBON MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

7.1 Carlisle City Council was accepted onto the Carbon Trust’s 2008/09 Carbon Management Programme along with the County Council, South Lakeland District Council and the Lake District National Park Authority. The Carbon Trust is an independent body set up by government to work with the public and private sector to cut carbon emissions.

The purpose of the Carbon Management Programme was to:

- Provide an analysis of our carbon footprint which includes Community Centres and Carlisle Leisure Limited buildings owned by the City Council
- Calculate the value at stake - financial implications of rising energy costs

- Assess the opportunities to manage carbon emissions (CO₂) - feasibility of projects
- Develop and implement a Carbon Management Plan to realise carbon savings

In October 2008 the “Carbon Trusts Project Proposals” were provided to the Executive. The proposed Capital investment in carbon reduction projects in the 2009/2010 was agreed. A capital bid of £161,000 for carbon reduction projects as laid out in the Carbon Management Programme for 2009/10 was approved by the Executive.

In 2009/10 the projects laid out in the plan were successfully implemented by the Buildings and Facilities team which ranged from boiler replacements to heat recovery systems.

7.2 Current position with regard to the Carbon Management Programme in 2010/11

In the 2009/10 as a result of existing budgetary pressures the Carbon Management Programme budgetary bid for 2010/11 was not put forward and hence the programme was effectively put “on hold”.

8.0 CONCLUSION

8.1 The City Council is committed to getting its own house in order in terms of environmental performance.

The implementation and investment made as part of the 2009/2010 investment as laid out in the Carbon Management Programme has been a major factor in the continued reduction in carbon dioxide emissions across the Authorities operations of 6.3% (compared with the 2007/08 baseline year).

The investment has also significantly contributed in the continued reductions in gas usage and whilst the electricity usage has only marginally fallen in 2009/10 this is a positive achievement in light of the harsh winter experienced in this period. Had investment not been made in new technologies the effect of such a harsh winter could have resulted in an overall rise in electricity usage.

8.2 It is recognised that with the current requirement laid down in the Comprehensive Spending Review to continue to save money rather than spend money the Carbon Management Programme will need to remain “on hold” for the foreseeable future.

8.3 This does not however mean that environmental efforts will cease. Indeed more effort will be made to continue to raise the need to maintain and improve the practices and measures which employees can take to assist in the maintenance and reductions in energy use. The Safety, Health and Environmental manager will continue to work closely

with the facilities team to support investment in energy saving systems funded by renewals budgets.

8.4 New equipment has been installed to assist in the more accurate measuring of energy usage within the Civic Centre. This will enable us to identify and target areas of high energy use and reduce them at source in 2011/12.

8.5 The continued development and maintenance of the Environmental Management System will also ensure legal environmental compliance as well as seeking to reduce the potential environmental impacts of the City Councils operations.