

Progress in response to recommendations made and issues requiring action raised by the Environment Scrutiny Committee.

Committee date: 14 September 2009

Environment & Carbon Management Performance	
Recommendations	Response/Action
<p>the Cabinet Member (E&SH) consider expediting improved levels of building regulations to bring greater energy efficiency in property developments including the greater use of renewable natural resources.</p>	<p>October 2010 will see the first step towards achieving zero carbon in domestic development by 2016 and non-domestic by 2019. The change will see a 25% carbon improvement compared to 2006 (current) standards. The energy/carbon standard of the Building Regulations will be equivalent to code level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes. Increased standards are planned for 2013 & 2016.</p>
<p>an update report be presented to the next meeting setting out the actions being taken in relation to building efficiencies designed into new council/school properties.</p>	<p>See the Sustainability and Property procurement item on this agenda.</p>
<p>the Committee suggests to the Executive that the Council's major contractors are asked to submit regular (e.g. quarterly) returns on their carbon emissions so that they can be monitored to ascertain that on-going improvements are being achieved. This is on the basis that contractors are, at present, responsible for 88% of the Council's transport carbon emissions.</p>	<p>For major contractors this is considered an appropriate measure and performance figures will be collected for Amey/Focsa.</p> <p>The application of this to all Council's contracts will be raised with the Director of Resources for consideration in relation to Strategic Procurement Policy.</p>
<p>a progress report be brought to the next meeting setting out the Council's intended actions to achieve the Carbon Reduction Targets.</p>	<p>See the Carbon Management Overview item on this agenda.</p>
<p>when considering future contracts, the Executive should give careful consideration to how any short term savings made to reduce the cost of the contract could impact on any long term environmental and financial benefits that may be achieved by investing for the future.</p>	<p>See the Sustainability and Property procurement item on this agenda.</p>

a report on Display Energy Certificates (DECs), including buildings down to 750sqm in size, indicating the efficiency of the building with a building profile, be reported to the March 2010 meeting.	See the Sustainability and Property procurement item on this agenda
the Committee suggest to the Executive that renewed effort be resourced via our Climate Change Management Team to support schools through their Eco-Management, in particular in relation to reducing energy use.	The Director responded that currently there was no available funds to increase staff resources in this area.
the Committee suggest to the Cabinet Member (H&T) that opportunities be sought e.g. via the SALEX Scheme to investigate nil percentage interest loans to aid the replacement of outdated street lighting.	Noted.
that the Cabinet Member (E&SH) consider introducing incentives to reward those service areas that make significant reductions in their CO2. e.g. a rebate on their budget.	This is a matter for the Director of Resources and the issue will be reviewed.

Executive Response And Action Plan Following The Scrutiny Review Of The Planning Service	
Recommendations	Response/Action
a further report on progress against the single action plan for the service be made after six months with consideration then being given to the need for any further report to be made.	See the Progress on Implementation of Scrutiny Review of Planning Service item in this agenda.

Revenue Budget Monitoring	
Recommendations	Response/Action
Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation) consider issuing to Parish Councils a highways map indicating drains and ditches to facilitate the parish council's accurate reporting of floods or blocked drains.	Work is underway to map the highways assets more accurately and this will facilitate this in the future.

the Committee suggests that the Executive consider transferring funding, from areas identified in the report as having a potential underspend, to provide further support to the roads maintenance budget.	The Director responded at the meeting that funds were not available for such a re-allocation.
the Committee expresses major concerns that no ultimate disposal system is yet in place to achieve considerable reductions in residual household waste tonnage going to landfill, ahead of year 2010 government targets.	The Councils' contractors, Severn Waste Services are currently preparing to submit a Planning Application for an Energy from Waste Plant for 200,000 tonnes of waste per annum at Hartlebury in Worcestershire. The plant would ensure that the two Councils would remain LATS compliant.

Community Protection Team	
Recommendations	Response/Action
a progress report on the work of the Community Protection Team be presented to the March 2010 meeting.	Chairman agreed that a report be scheduled for the 26 March meeting.

Committee Date: 23 November 2009

Suggestions from Members of the Public	
Additional Actions	Response/Action
the various aspects of traffic calming raised by Mrs K Johnston be considered as part of the LTP3 review and the written response be communicated to Mrs Johnston	Response forwarded to Mrs Johnston. The review of the LTP3 to be considered by the Committee.

Safer Roads Partnership And Speed Limit Review Update	
Additional Actions	Response/Action
The Director of Environment & Culture consider taking up with Government the issue of speed limiter roundels.	Response included by Highway Network Manager in relation to Traffic Signs Regulations Consultation.
The Road Safety Partnership be invited the March 2010 meeting to further update the Committee on their work.	Report by Council's member on the RSP Board to be made to the 19 April meeting.

The Assistant Director Environment & Culture is requested to further examine the speed and safety issues raised by Pixley Parish Council.	Matter to be pursued by Amey with Parish Council
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Highway Maintenance Standards	
Additional Actions	Response/Action
the report be noted and the possibility of increasing, the number of and surface condition of, unofficial lay-bys on rural lanes be considered as part of the LTP3 review	This issue will be considered as part of the LTP3 review.
the Committee urges the highways department of the Council to ensure that scheduled maintenance works causing disruption to the network, including those by the Highways Agency, should be communicated to the local community well in advance of works commencing to ensure people are able to avoid the disruption. Any interference with the intelligent traffic system within Hereford should not occur unless full communication has already been undertaken	The matter has been taken up formally with Highways Agency and mechanisms are in place to ensure this in future
Chairman and Vice-Chairman consider whether a further update report on highway maintenance standards be made to a meeting in April 2010	Listed in the work Programme for 19 April 2010 meeting.

COUNCIL VEHICLE FLEET	
Additional Actions	Response/Action
the Committee strongly recommend that a central database of Council vehicles be established as soon as possible to ensure that information about this valuable resource is properly recorded and managed; and	A project to establish overall management of the Council fleet has commenced. To be reported to committee 26 March 2010.
The Chairman and Vice-Chairman consider whether a further full report be made to an extra meeting of the committee in January 2010	As above.

Executive Response And Action Plan Following The Scrutiny Review Of On-Street Parking	
Additional Actions	Response/Action
A further report on progress against the actions be made after nine months with consideration then being given to the need for any further report being made	Listed in the work programme.

Capital Budget Monitoring	
Additional Actions	Response/Action
report on progress of the Park and Ride scheme be presented to the March 2010 meeting	See the Park and Ride (North) item in this agenda

Committee Work Programme	
Additional Actions	Response/Action
The Chairman and Vice Chairman discuss with the Head of Planning and Transportation how the issues of public transport and traffic congestion, identified by Strategic Monitoring Committee can best be addressed	Work has been ongoing in these areas since the results of the 2008 survey. These issues will also be picked up as part of the LTP3 review.