

CARBON MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

CABINET

24TH MARCH, 2005

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To advise Members as to the Council's involvement with the Carbon Management Trust and details of the Carbon Management Plan compiled as a result of this work.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision

Recommendations

- THAT (a) the Carbon Management Action Plan be adopted; and**
- (b) the signing of the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change be approved.**

Reasons

In February 2004, Herefordshire Council made an application for funding under the Carbon Trust Local Authorities Energy Financing Scheme. Although initially unsuccessful, in July 2004, the Council was chosen to join a group of 24 Councils to take part in the Carbon development of a Carbon Management Action Plan (CMAP) that defines the steps that the Council will take to secure emissions reduction of at least 1.25% per year from 2005 to 2012.

The Carbon Management Action plan forms an important stage in addressing issues of climate change introduced under the revised "key lines of enquiry" within the CPA Corporate Assessment from 2005/06. The CMAP also provides an important contribution to the emerging Herefordshire Partnership Climate Change Strategy and generates bankable financial savings contributing to the Council's obligations to generate efficiency savings.

Considerations

1. In line with the environmental aspiration of the Herefordshire Plan Herefordshire Council has been considering methods of reducing carbon emission produced from its direct activities or areas where it has influence.
2. Following the success of the Council's application to participate in the Carbon Management Programme in July 2004, a project team was set up consisting of staff from the services that have an involvement in carbon producing activities i.e. Property, Highways, Waste and Housing.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Richard Wood, LA 21 Officer on 260132

3. A base-line level of carbon emission was established for the year 2002 and a Carbon Management Action Plan detailing the key strategic actions to achieve the reductions in emission, was compiled.
4. The Council target is to achieve a 12.5% reduction on the base-line by 2012 and a total 20% reduction by 2020.
5. These reductions will be achieved by the following methods:
 - A continuation of the Property rationalisation process resulting in energy consumption reductions
 - The development of a landfill gas power generation from Stretton Sugwas closed landfill site during 2006/07
 - The adoption of low cost energy measures in corporate buildings and schools
 - The establishment of an Energy Saving organisation operated through West Mercia Supplies (WMS) and financially ring-fenced for Herefordshire
 - The development of an invest-to-save budget by offering financial resources to Schools and other corporate buildings to achieve energy saving measures
 - In the longer term consideration will be given to other areas of potential savings including Transportation and Street Lighting.
 - An action plan and milestones for meeting these requirements is contained in the Appendix.
 - The adoption of the Carbon Management Action Plan will allow the Council to sign the Nottingham Declaration, thereby joining 74 other local authorities in England who have signed to date (details attached).

Alternative Options

There are no alternative options

Risk Management

If the Carbon Management Action Plan is not adopted:

- 1) The Corporate Assessment under CPA will not be able to demonstrate action on issues of Climate Change.
- 2) The Council's cost of energy will continue to rise at the underlying rate of +2.5% per annum.
- 3) The Council will fail to secure the identified efficiency savings including additional revenue.
- 4) The Council will fail to lead by example in the community that it serves.

Consultees

The Carbon Management Action Plan has been developed with the assistance of the Carbon Trust and consultants from Energy for Sustainable Development (ESD) and ImpactPlus, a strategic communications consultancy.

The project was organised and executed under Prince II, with a project board including the Director for Environment, Head of Policy & Resources (Education), Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards and Head of Engineering and Transport.

The Project Team was managed by the Property Services Manager and included a team comprising LA21 Officer, Home Energy Conservation Officer - Strategic Housing (Private Sector), Energy Monitoring Technician, Street Lighting Manager and the Integrated Transport Officer.

Background Papers

None identified.