

DELIVERY OF THE CARBON MANAGEMENT PLAN

Submitted by: Mike O'Connor

Portfolio: Environment and Recycling

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To enable members to review progress of the delivery the Carbon Management Plan.

Recommendations

To note progress of the delivery of the projects in the Carbon Management Plan for 2012/13 and to seek members views on the proposed projects for 2013/14.

Reasons

The Council's Carbon Management Plan which was adopted in 2011 outlines the approach to reducing carbon emissions and sets out in an action plan what projects will be undertaken. In February 2012 Cabinet approved the use of Low Carbon Funding to take forward a range of projects and officers were authorised to update the Carbon Management Plan Delivery Plan to reflect these projects. This report outlines progress in delivering the Low Carbon funded projects in 2012/13 and seeks members views on the proposed projects for 2013/14.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council has a Carbon Management Programme to deliver a reduction in carbon emissions from operations and estate by 30% from a baseline established in 2009/10. The Carbon Management Plan includes a Delivery Plan which outlines what projects should be completed subject to securing funding.
- 1.2 A Carbon Board was formed to provide strategic direction and provide a link between the programme, the Executive Management Team and Cabinet. A key role of the Board is to report overall progress and seek executive approval for continuing delivery of the plan. Whilst the Board leads on delivery of the plan, previous Cleaner Greener and Safer Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committees have requested updates on progress as part of the Scrutiny process.

2. Issues

- 2.1 The Council was successful in bidding to the Improvement and Efficiency West Midlands for Low Carbon funding with £35,000 awarded in 2012. This funding was awarded on submission of satisfactory returns, evidence of financial expenditure and confirmation of compliance of funding conditions. The fundamental condition of this grant funding was that 10% of the subsequently generated annual revenue savings had to be paid to IEWM for 3 years following the first year of implementation. The updated Carbon Management Plan attached outlines the completion of the 2012/13 projects which were funded though the IEWM funding.
- 2.2 As highlighted above the delivery of the Carbon Management Plan is monitored through the Carbon Board. A corporate Carbon Management Officers Team is responsible for implementing the plan seeking new projects as well as monitoring the progress of projects.

The draft updated CMP includes projects that have been considered by these groups as appropriate.

- 2.3 Within the Finance and Resource Implications section below there are some examples of potential opportunities that Scrutiny members may wish to give a view on. Officers will outline at the Scrutiny meeting the type of funding which may be considered for the proposed projects.

3. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

- 3.1 The delivery of these projects clearly contributes to the priority of Promoting a cleaner, safer and sustainable borough.

4. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 4.1 As part of the 2012 decision to utilise IEWM funding the Council has committed to paying 10% of the annual financial savings for 3 years to them. If officers are able to secure funding for projects in 2013/14 the funding requirements and pay back periods will need to be considered in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Recycling prior to making any legal commitments.

5. **Equality Impact Assessment**

- 5.1 The benefits of investing in energy efficiency measures will benefit all members of the community and will not impact on particular equality strands.

6. **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 6.1 The proposed projects for 2013/14 outlined in the appendix have estimated costs and longer term financial savings. This report seeks Scrutiny members views on the proposed projects and subject to members views officers will then seek opportunities for external funding as there is no Council capital or revenue allocated to the projects.

- 6.2 Pure grant funding for energy efficiency schemes is very unlikely to be available in the forthcoming years, there may however be further opportunities for grant funding with repayment conditions like that of the 2012 IEWM funding.

7. **Major Risks**

There are no major risks.

8. **Key Decision Information**

- 8.1 The funding will deliver improvements to Council buildings that are used by a range of the residents potentially from wards across the Borough.

9. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

- 9.1 Cabinet in February 2012 noted the decision of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Recycling that the £35,000 funding is claimed from the Improvement and Efficiency West Midlands to deliver energy efficiency improvements in the premises referred to in the report.

10. **List of Appendices**

- 10.1 Appendix A - Updated Carbon Management Plan Delivery Plan.