

**WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE,**  
**THURSDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2015**  
**LOW CARBON & ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN – ANNUAL UPDATE**  
**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT & COMMERCIAL SERVICES**  
**(Contact: Monica Stephens Tel: (01993) 861301)**

(The report is for information)

**1. PURPOSE**

To provide an update on the delivery of WODC's Low Carbon and Environmental Plan.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That, the report is noted.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1. WODC Low Carbon and Environmental Plan is a public facing document detailing actions the Council will undertake to reduce carbon emissions and protect the environment.
- 3.2. The Plan was approved by the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 30 January 2014 and by Cabinet on 12 February 2014. It was published on WODC's website in February 2014.
- 3.3. An internal Low Carbon Action Plan was developed for 2014/15 to take forward the aims of the Plan.
- 3.4. Completed internal actions include a review of recommendations from corporate building energy audits and implementing low cost energy efficiency measures. Researching the installation of solar PV on WODC's corporate and commercial buildings. Also a swap shop event was organised by Green Officers during Climate Week 2014 which was attended by staff and members of the public to promote recycling and re-use of household items.
- 3.5. External actions have focused on promoting energy efficiency to local residents. This includes supporting Green Homes Together (GHT) which launched in 2014 and promoting their energy efficiency offers. So far, 15 West Oxfordshire residents have been referred to GHT for loft and cavity wall insulation since the offer was advertised in November 2014. Also WODC's thermal imaging camera continues to be loaned to local community groups to conduct thermal imaging surveys of residents' homes. These actions also support the delivery of WODC's HECA (Home Energy Conservation Act) strategy.
- 3.6. The Plan will be reviewed in February 2015 and where necessary updated, for example to reflect new Oxfordshire Climate Local commitments for 2015/16. A new internal action plan will be developed to take forward outstanding and new actions in the forthcoming year.

#### **4. ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS**

None

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Some of the actions within the WODC Low Carbon and Environment Plan will have financial implications and therefore individual business cases will be produced in the future, where necessary, to seek appropriate funding.

#### **6. RISKS**

None associated with this report.

#### **7. REASONS**

- 7.1. Corporate aim to 'protect and enhance the environment of West Oxfordshire and maintain the district as a clean, beautiful place with low levels of crime and nuisance'.
- 7.2. Reducing the Council's own impact on climate change and supporting local residents, businesses and groups in reducing their impact and adapting to climate change.

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Background Papers:  
WODC Low Carbon Action Plan 2014/15

## WODC Low Carbon Action Plan – 2014/15

Theme	Action	Sub- action	Deadline	Outcomes
Corporate Buildings	Prepare programme of energy reduction works in Council Buildings for approval by CCB and Council	Reduce spare capacity in office accommodation	Ongoing	Office relocation ongoing
		Ensure that when lighting is upgraded or replaced in corporate/leisure buildings that LEDs considered	Ongoing	LED lighting used in replacement lighting as well as the introduction of PIR lights at Woodgreen
		Take forward recommendations from WODC energy audits	Ongoing	Solar PV desktop research conducted on WODC corporate and commercial buildings
	Promote video conferencing calls for meetings		Ongoing	Video conferencing with FoD and CBC now available
	Promote internal energy and resource saving via Green Officers group	Take part in and promote to staff national environmental campaigns	Ongoing	Swap Shop held during Climate Week 2014
Household, businesses and communities	Investigate opportunities for the Council under Green Deal	Green Homes Together promotional activity	Ongoing	GHT loft and cavity wall insulation offer promoted via WODC website and social media.
	Reduce domestic energy use, promote renewable energy use and reduce fuel poverty through participation with Affordable Warmth Network, Green Deal and BRE Stock modelling	Review of current SLA with NEF for the delivery of affordable warmth	March 2014	Completed – new SLA agreed with NEF to deliver Affordable Warmth Network and DECC Green Deal Communities project
		Thermal imaging surveys and thermal imaging camera loan scheme	Ongoing	Ongoing – community groups continue to take thermal image surveys of residents’ homes.
		Ongoing support and promotion of the Ox Affordable Warmth Network	March 2014	Continue funding Ox Affordable Warmth helpline and promoting support to residents in 2014/15.
		Source a speaker to talk about sustainable energy/ energy efficiency at annual landlords forum	October 2014	Completed - GHT to speak at next landlords forum
		Support the local authority consortium bid to DECC’s Green Deal Communities funding for Solid Wall Insulation	August 2014	Completed – funding awarded and project to be delivered in 2015.
	Draft new Local Plan with aims to increase energy efficiency and use of decentralised, renewable or low carbon energy in new housing developments.	New builds and refurbishment e.g. BREEAM excellent	TBC	Ongoing
Transport	Pool car	Investigate and produce business case for the introduction of a pool car.	March 2015	Ongoing – lease car company contacted. Business case to be developed