

**WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE,**  
**THURSDAY 21 JULY 2016**  
**LOW CARBON & ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN - ANNUAL UPDATE**  
**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT & COMMERCIAL SERVICES**  
**(Contact: Tess Evans Tel: (01993) 861349)**

(The report is for information)

**1. PURPOSE**

To provide an update on the delivery of the West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) Low Carbon and Environmental Plan.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

That the report be 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 to take forward the aims of the Plan.
- 3.4. Completed internal actions include developing a business case on behalf of Property Services to replace the lighting at Woodgreen with more efficient LED lights. The installation of solar PV panels on the roof of Carterton Leisure Centre was completed in March 2016. In addition the viability of installing solar PV panels on the roof of Woodgreen has been explored; an initial desktop assessment has been completed with a more detailed survey now required.
- 3.5. Technical expertise on the reduction on carbon emissions has been provided into the development of the new leisure contract to ensure energy and environmental issues are taken into consideration by the new contractors.
- 3.6. External actions have focused on promoting energy efficiency to local residents via the Oxfordshire Affordable Warmth Network (AWN). The AWN, managed by the National Energy Foundation (NEF) runs the helpline and provides energy advice to residents across the county.
- 3.7. NEF secured Government funding to provide financial assistance and grants for the installation of energy efficiency measures. The Green Deal Communities Fund initially promoted grants for Solid Wall Insulation (SWI) targeted at residents in Chipping Norton. The funding was extended to March 2016 with an additional fuel poverty element providing grants to low income households in receipt of certain benefits for a wider range of energy efficiency measures. This has resulted in 25 formal offers of grants to West Oxfordshire residents which has leveraged in £72,201 worth of funding.

NEF is also working with British Gas Energy Trust promoting their boiler replacement scheme.

- 3.8. Finally, NEF is managing the Better Housing, Better Health project which will run until December 2016. This project is working with health professionals across Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire to refer patients with medical conditions exacerbated by being in cold homes for energy advice and grants to install measures.
- 3.9. WODC's thermal imaging camera continues to be loaned out to community groups to conduct thermal imaging surveys of residents' homes. Also WODC provided winter survival packs to low income families via local food banks. The actions above also support the delivery of WODC's HECA (Home Energy Conservation Act) strategy
- 3.10. Green Homes Together (GHT), the CIC developed to deliver Green Deal to residents closed in the summer 2015. GHT was no longer a viable business when Government policy changes led to the end of Green Deal.
- 3.11. WODC is supporting the Oxfordshire Your Green Future event in the autumn. This event is promoting careers in sustainability, renewable energy and technology to school children across the county.
- 3.12. The action plan will be updated to reflect new Oxfordshire Climate Local commitments for 2016/17.

#### **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.

Claire Locke  
Head of Environment Services

(Author: Tess Evans, Tel: (01993) 861349; Email: [tess.evans@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:tess.evans@westoxon.gov.uk) )

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Background Papers:

WODC Low Carbon Action Plan 2015/16

## WODC Low Carbon Action Plan – 2015/16

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	On-going	Office relocation on-going
		Ensure that when lighting is upgraded or replaced in corporate/leisure buildings that LEDs considered	On-going	Business case produced for LED lighting replacement in Woodgreen.
		Take forward recommendations from WODC energy audits	On-going	Solar PV installation completed at Carterton Leisure Centre. Solar PV now under consideration for Woodgreen. An initial desktop assessment has been completed with a more detailed survey to follow.
	Promote internal energy and resource saving via Green Officers group	Take part in and promote to staff national environmental campaigns	On-going	Use national events and promote via staff intranet plus engagement events.
Household, businesses and communities	Investigate opportunities for the Council under Green Deal	Awaiting Government announcement on the replacement scheme of Green Deal.	Hold	GHT CIC closed.
	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 2016	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	On-going	On-going – community groups continue to take thermal image surveys of residents' homes.
		On-going support and promotion of the Ox Affordable Warmth Network	On-going	Continue promoting support to residents in 2016.
		DECC's Green Deal Communities funding for Solid Wall Insulation and fuel poverty extension	June 2016	SWI insulation completed. Fuel poverty extension is in progress. Promotion currently taken place via WODC website and social media. Targeted mail out to residents.
	Promote climate change actions to wider community	Supporting Oxfordshire Your Green Future event. Location tbc	Autumn 2016	Event to be promoted to secondary schools in West Oxfordshire. Possible attendance at event to hold a workshop.
Transport	Pool car	Investigate and produce business case for the introduction of a pool car.	March 2017	On-going – lease car company contacted. Business case to be developed