

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE,

THURSDAY 12 JULY 2018

ANNUAL UPDATE ON THE LOW CARBON AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN

REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER – COUNCIL ADVISORY SERVICES

(Contact: Claire Locke Tel: (01993) 861344)

The report is for information

1. PURPOSE

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

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the information provided be noted.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1. The 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 the Council'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. Internal actions include the development of a procurement framework to purchase and install electric vehicle charging points in the Council's public car parks, office and depot. The framework provides different procurement options including fully owned charge points or a profit sharing arrangement with an electric vehicle charge point manufacturer.

3.5. Scoping is underway for a Publica-wide pool car scheme. Pool cars could potentially be made available for all staff to use for business travel as an alternative to their own cars. This would reduce the amount of grey fleet mileage as well as carbon emissions if low emission or electric vehicles were available as pool cars.

3.6. WODC is currently conducting a single use plastic audit. Single use plastic is used once and then either thrown away or recycled e.g. beverage containers, straws and water bottles. The audit will identify the types of single use plastic currently used internally and by external service providers. Alternatives to single use plastic will be reviewed and recommendations made following the audit.

3.7. West Oxfordshire continues to be a member of Oxfordshire Affordable Warmth Network which is managed by the National Energy Foundation (NEF). NEF delivers the Better Housing Better Health service. BHBH provides a 'one-stop-shop' domestic energy efficiency service. This is facilitated by a free to call intervention helpline which enables residents to a host of support organisations and schemes. In 2017/18, 66 local residents contacted the helpline and 31 frontline staff working in the district were trained and gave face to face advice to 150 residents.

- 3.8. NEF also manages the process for identifying vulnerable residents who may be eligible for funding to install energy saving measures via the Energy Company Obligation (ECO).
- 3.9. An extension to the ECO scheme known as 'flexible eligibility' allows local authorities to declare that private tenure households meet the criteria of being either fuel poor or having a low income and are vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home e.g. have a chronic health condition. Under this scheme WODC has helped 19 vulnerable residents receive ECO funding from energy companies and install measures such as central heating replacements and cavity wall insulation. The Government is due to announce an extension to the local authority flexible eligibility (known as ECO3) in the autumn 2018.
- 3.10. WODC has also contributed to development of the Oxfordshire Energy Strategy which is being produced by Ox LEP. The Energy Strategy aims to set out the framework for flexible affordable energy infrastructure which offers affordable local energy and enables the strategic objective for economic growth and emissions to be met. The strategy is due to be published later in July and a delivery plan will be prepared by the autumn.
- 3.11. The Council continues to aim to reduce carbon emissions from its own buildings, business travel and services by 3% per year in line with the Oxfordshire wide target to reduce carbon emissions by 50% by 2030 from a 2008 baseline. WODC's carbon emission report will be published at the end of July 2018.

4. ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS

- 4.1. None

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. 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

- 6.1. 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: Louise Croot, Tel: (01993) 861349; EMail: louise.croot@westoxon.gov.uk)
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Background Papers: - None

WODC Low Carbon Action Plan – 2018/19

Theme	Action	Sub- action	Deadline	Outcomes
Corporate Buildings	Prepare programme of energy reduction works in Council Buildings for approval by CCB and Council	Take forward recommendations from WODC energy audits	Ongoing	Ongoing in partnership with Property Services.
		Review the current efficiency of Elmfield's solar PV tiles and consider if tiles need refurbishing or replacement	Autumn	Research the impact on Feed-in Tariffs payments if tiles are refurbished. In partnership with Property Services engage solar PV contractor to provide advice.
		Replacement of lighting with LED during ad hoc office refurbishment	Completed	Lighting replaced at Woodgreen with LEDs as part of office moves.
	Promote internal energy and resource saving via changing themed displays	Take part in and promote to staff national environmental campaigns	Ongoing	Use national events and promote via Publica portal plus engagement events.
	Single use plastic audit	Audit of WODC departments and service providers. All staff survey to raise awareness about personal use of single use plastics	Summer 2018 Summer 2018	Report on outcomes, review of alternative products and recommendations to reduce the amount of single use plastics. Raise awareness within Publica
Household, businesses and communities	Work with National Energy Foundation to deliver ECO Flexible Eligibility to fuel poor households and vulnerable, low income households.	Develop an ECO Flex delivery framework with National Energy Foundation for the forthcoming ECO3.	Autumn 2018	To build relationships with energy suppliers and promote their ECO3 funding offers to WODC residents via BHBH.
	Reduce domestic energy use, promote renewable energy use and reduce fuel poverty through participation with Affordable Warmth Network	Ongoing support and promotion of the Better Housing Better Health programme	Ongoing	Continue promoting support to residents in 2018/19.
Transport	Publica pool fleet	Staff survey to understand staff business travel; develop a pool car policy and review options for a cost effective pool car scheme.	Ongoing	Ongoing - awaiting confirmation from HR to proceed with project.
	Electric vehicle charge point procurement framework.	Develop procurement framework	Ongoing	Ongoing – awaiting confirmation from Legal to proceed with project.