



**COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE –  
17TH FEBRUARY 2010**

**SUBJECT: CARBON REDUCTION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES ON THE STREET  
LIGHTING INFRASTRUCTURE**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

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**1. OVER VIEW**

- 1.1 Carbon reduction is crucial in reducing global warming which itself is considered as influencing some of the recent flooding, cold episodes and other severe weather events which have occurred globally with such dramatic affects.
- 1.2 In May 2008 the Carbon Trust and Caerphilly agreed to develop a carbon reduction strategy. The Council's Sustainable Development Advisory Panel endorsed this in the spring of 2009. The agreement was to reduce carbon across a range of initiatives up to an agreed level of 45%. This level was set lower than other local authorities based on the actions already achieved before the agreement and the feasibility and practicality of reducing carbon further within Caerphilly. As with all such carbon reduction agreements the time scale is for reduction is within 10 years of the agreement date
- 1.3 Caerphilly street lighting is responsible for 27% of the carbon produced by Caerphilly in 2008 and it is recognised that Caerphilly's total decrease in carbon could not be implemented without street lighting reduction playing a part.
- 1.4 Observations have been made that the street lighting infrastructure does not use carbon. Whilst the streetlights do not themselves produce any carbon dioxide emissions, Co2 is released during the burning of fossil fuels, used in Power stations. These carbon rich fuels would be coal and oil. Gas also fuels some power station but its carbon footprint is significantly less.
- 1.5 Central government have put in place several initiatives for creating greener energy. One of these proposals for instance is the creation of wind farms but with any of these alternatives, there appears to be difficulty in progressing quickly.

**2. STREET LIGHTING PROPOSALS**

- 2.1 Following the agreements with the Carbon Trust, various proposals were investigated regarding how a proportion of these reductions could best be made in the street lighting infrastructure. It is anticipated that following completion of the current consultation exercise that these alterations will be formulated into policy for consideration by Council.
- 2.2 The proposals were optimised to four specific options in late 2009 to allow a consultative process to be undertaken, without putting in place a range of competing options that would be difficult to comprehend and subsequently analyse after the consultation process had been undertaken.

### **3. CONSULTATION AND TIMELINES**

- 3.1 It was appreciated that such proposals for reduction needed to progress through a consultative process. The councils Communications section put in place a process of public and interested group consultation. In addition an article was placed in Newsline's January edition and was delivered to every property in the Borough. Advisory leaflets were also printed and placed in various office locations and 4 libraries, where the public could also access touch screen facilities set up to complete an electronic version of the questionnaire. Arrangements are also in place for votes to be made via the Internet and the viewpoint panel.
- 3.2 In order for any street lighting alterations to be completed during the summer period, it was necessary to plan a timeframe for interpreting the consultation results, obtaining council approval and providing sufficient time to facilitate any changes in the street lighting asset, which in some of the options would be very extensive. The consideration of such periods was critical in determining the consultation period.

### **4. OPTIONS CHOICE**

- 4.1 There is no "do nothing" option within the stated options as the exercise is aimed at reducing carbon, not maintaining a status quo. If streetlight carbon consumption was not to change it is inconceivable that the overall carbon reduction strategy can be met solely by reductions in other areas.

### **5. CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND ASSEMBLY INCENTIVES**

- 5.1 There are Central government and Assembly initiatives for reducing carbon. Caerphilly has recently received a grant for the various initiatives it has put in place, which scored highly, allowing the maximum grant to be obtained. The special 'Improvement Agreement' was made between the council and WAG as part of the council's contribution to the Assembly's 'One Voice Wales' policy. Part of these initiatives is the reduction in the council's carbon footprint.
- 5.2 Where carbon reduction is not achieved local Councils will be penalized in the future.

### **6. CAERPHILLY'S CARBON REDUCTION STRATEGY**

- 6.1 The extract highlighted below is from the Carbon Reduction Strategy agreed by Council in June 2009 that is signed by the Council Leader and Chief Executive
- 6.2 The Carbon emission baseline is derived from energy data sourced for the period 1st October 2007 to 31st September 2008. Over a 10 year period the authority will aim to reduce its emissions by 45% based on this level, which equates to an average saving of 4.5% reduction per year, through until March 2019.
- 6.3 The Sustainable Development Advisory Panel has agreed that there will be regular reviews of the target. There will be an annual report, and detailed reports every 3 years. The Sustainable Development Advisory Panel agrees that the strategy needs to be dynamic so that it can adapt to the authority's needs. For this reason the 45% target may be revised depending on progress made, resources available and internal as well as external factors, which may have an impact on the strategy such as new environmental legislation.

### **7. ACTION PLAN**

- 7.1 When the results of the consultation exercise on the street lighting carbon reduction are evaluated and the council has determined what policy it wishes to take forward, the outcome

may require an action plan to be put in place to manage the modification of the affected streetlights.

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