



REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 16TH FEBRUARY 2016

**SUBJECT: IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVE: CARBON MANAGEMENT - REDUCE
OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT (SIX-MONTH PROGRESS)**

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Local Government Measure 2009 requires all local authorities in Wales to set and publish a set of Improvement Objectives. The Wales Audit Office (WAO) will use these Improvement Objectives to evaluate the council's likelihood of improvement and following that, the level of actual improvement that is achieved for the citizens of Caerphilly.
- 1.2 At the beginning of 2015/16, it was recommended that the Improvement Objective: **Carbon Management: Reducing our carbon footprint** due to energy usage in our non-domestic buildings and street lighting, would be reported to this committee for regular performance monitoring.
- 1.3 This report highlights key progress for the period April to September 2015.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 in Line with the Carbon reduction Strategy the Improvement Objective focuses on 4 priorities to reduce emissions:
 - Good Housekeeping (10% reduction)
 - Invest to Save (20% reduction)
 - Design and Asset Management (10% reduction)
 - Renewable technology (5% reduction)
- 2.2 The actions outlined in this covering report provide a snapshot of what progress has been made as at the end of quarter 2. All actions have progress registered against them and some are already 100% complete or ahead of schedule, such as the reissue of energy audits and awareness activities surrounding renewable schemes.
- 2.3 Through the various actions outlined we are clearly seeing a positive improvement in awareness raising activities, as a result of targeting key individuals such as head teachers, caretakers and building managers.
- 2.4 From the progress recorded to date, it is unlikely that any of the Red, Amber Green flags would remain Red if the current trend of progress remains to the end of the 12 month period.
- 2.5 CCBC can demonstrate that energy, carbon and cost savings have been achieved during the initial 6 months of the Improvement Objective from the Invest To Save Scheme alone.
- 2.6 Officers judge that this objective to be 'partly successful' at this time.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The local Government Measure 2009 requires each authority to publish priorities for improvement called Improvement Objectives.
- 3.2 Carbon Reduction Strategy 2009.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The Improvement Objective provides opportunities to:
- Drive down carbon emissions and water conservation in our non domestic buildings
 - Drive down utility service costs and carbon tax, whilst also protecting against future utility price increases
 - Improve working/teaching environments e.g. improve lighting levels or reduce overheating
 - Help maintain legislative requirements
- 4.2 Public awareness of climate change and the link to carbon footprint is high and Caerphilly Borough citizens expect the Authority to take reasonable steps to reduce the energy consumed by its buildings.
- 4.3 Caerphilly CBC along with all other organisations is under increasing pressure from UK wide legislation aimed at improving energy efficiency e.g. Provision of Display Energy Certificates, Energy Performance Certificates and compliance with the Carbon Reduction Commitment scheme, which is an outright carbon tax that costs CCBC circa £440k per annum.
- 4.4 To assist in reducing carbon emissions and costs, the authority has a 45% Carbon Reduction Strategy in place and has more recently developed this carbon management improvement objective. The theme of the Improvement Objective mirrors the strategy as outlined in the headings below.

Action Good Housekeeping

- 4.5 Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Training. We have developed a standard presentation format for delivery to school head teachers at the school cluster group meetings. The presentation includes site specific information, which includes Display Energy Certificates, their latest version of their Energy Audit, their school benchmarks and actual school CRC costs. This training is particularly relevant to schools, which are a major carbon emitter and therefore a major contributor to the annual £440k cost to the authority.
- 4.6 Re Issue Energy Audits. All existing energy audits were re issued to building managers and head teachers as a one off exercise. Many schools contacted the energy team as a result seeking further assistance and advice. This has re motivated staff across the authority.
- 4.7 Training key Staff e.g. Caretakers on Building Energy Management Systems. We have trained caretakers and staff on the correct use of their building energy management system heating controls at Penllwyn, Greenhill and Bargoed Primary schools. We have also provided training at Blackwood Miners Institute and Islwyn Indoor Bowls, which has a community facing benefit. This enables users to ensure over and under heating does not occur whilst at the same time minimising carbon emissions and reducing utility costs.
- 4.8 Workshops, Events and Training with staff and Pupils in Schools. We have developed and implemented a standardised and prescribed information and training presentation pack titled Energy Savings In Schools' and to date, we have delivered 5 specific sessions with Fleur De Lys Primary, Waunfawr Primary, Pengam Primary, Tyn Y Wern Primary and Cwrt Rawlin Primary schools, with a further 6 currently scheduled between September and November 2015. This is educating and training both pupils and staff within schools on the merits of energy conservation.

Action Invest To Save

- 4.9 Technologies being considered. We are currently evaluating Tir Y Berth depot to establish if it is suitable for the PowerPerfector Voltage Optimisation unit, which is currently installed on Pontllanfraith House. We are also evaluating the feasibility of 54 Invest To Save schemes, which include, Replacement of Computer Monitors, Building Energy Management Systems, Swimming Pool Pumps, Pool Insulating Covers, Lighting and Controls, medium size PV installations (>50kWp). We surveyed 9 Home For The Elderly properties for suitability of PV arrays.
- 4.10 Street Lighting Improvement. As at the end of quarter 2, there have been 4,000 conversions to energy efficient lighting, with the remainder of the lighting stock being converted by the end of the financial year.
- 4.11 To promote understanding and benefits of water conservation. We have issued a message on the intranet highlighting how low income families could take advantage of Welsh Water discounts on their water bills. We have also strengthened the water section on our energy audits, which will provide additional information, e.g. advice on leaks, moving forward.
- 4.12 Various Lighting Upgrades. We have identified a replacement Light Emitting Diode (LED) light fitting, suitable to replace 953 lights at Ty Penallta. This will reduce wattage per light from 88 watts to 18/22 watts depending on location. We have also identified lighting improvements at Tir Y Berth Primary and Tir Y Berth Garage depot. These would be funded through the invest to save scheme.

Action Design and Asset Management

- 4.13 There has been two properties sold (Risca Cash Office and Infoquest), one leased out (Caerphilly Library) and another disposed off (Newbridge Public Toilets).

Action Renewable Technology

- 4.14 Internal Promotion. We outlined to the Carbon Group in quarter 1 that the seven medium sized PV arrays that we claim Feed In Tariff payments on all over performed in the previous year. We continue to promote such technologies and look for further opportunities
- 4.15 Islwyn West Comprehensive School. It is too early to outline any progress on this project.
- 4.16 We have surveyed 9 Home For The Elderly Properties with a view to installing PV arrays up to a maximum of 50kWp. Further update to be provided.
- 4.17 In addition to the points summarising the improvement actions made above, Appendix 1 presents greater detail of the objective, what difference we plan to make, how we will measure success and what resources we have to deliver this objective.
- 4.18 All actions have progress registered against them and some are already 100% complete or ahead of schedule, such as the reissue of energy audits and awareness activities surrounding renewable schemes
- 4.19 Through the various actions outlined we are clearly seeing a positive improvement in awareness raising activities, as a result of targeting key individuals such as head teachers, caretakers and building managers
- 4.20 From the progress recorded to date, it is unlikely that any of the Red, Amber Green flags would remain Red if the current trend of progress remains to the end of the 12 month period. Some currently red flags would be amber if we were reporting quarter 3.
- 4.21 CCBC can demonstrate that energy, carbon and cost savings have been achieved during the initial 6 months of the Improvement Objective from the Invest To Save Scheme alone i.e. 42 carbon tonnes saved equates to £672 saved in carbon tax.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no equalities implications to this report that have not been considered or would adversely affect any individual or group who fall under one of the protected characteristics or wider issues as shown in the Council's Strategic Equality Plan.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial implications other than to note that for each unit of energy conserved, gas or electricity, there are direct financial savings recorded on the utility bills and annually on the carbon tax bill.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no personnel implications from this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 The result of all consultations has been incorporated into this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The Scrutiny Committee consider the content of the report and note the progress made in meeting the actions set out in the action plan.
- 9.2 The Committee discuss and reach agreement on the officer judgement of 'partially successful' for this objective at this time.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That the Council undertakes effective scrutiny for setting and monitoring of performance improvement.
- 10.2 To inform members of progress made in meeting the improvement objective and the impact on our organisation and staff.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Measure 2009.

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Appendices:

- Appendix 1 Carbon Management: Reduce our carbon footprint