



REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 19TH MAY 2015

**SUBJECT: IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVE: CARBON MANAGEMENT - REDUCE OUR
CARBON FOOTPRINT**

REPORT BY: INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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 This report is to provide members with the details of the proposed Council Improvement Objective for 2015-2016 relevant to this particular scrutiny and for members to scrutinise the objective by either accepting or amending the objective (Appendix 1).

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Council has reviewed its existing objectives and is finalising a new set of objectives for 2015/16 (as listed in Appendix 2).

The objective that is recommended to come to this committee for regular performance monitoring is: **Carbon Management: Reducing our carbon footprint** due to energy usage in our non-domestic buildings and street lighting.

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 Cabinet has undertaken a review of the 2014/15 Improvement Objectives and has decided to recommend to Council a new Objective for 2015/16 titled **Reduce our carbon footprint**. The Objectives must be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year and although not stated in the Measure, informal expectation is no later than the end of the first quarter (June 2015).
- 4.2 Considerations when choosing an objective include the following -

- Relevance – Is this area relevant and identifies where there is an ‘unmet’ need?
- Is this an area where we need to improve upon?
- Consultation – are these areas what citizens want us to focus on?
- Funding – Does the Medium Term Financial Plan affect whether some of these activities can still be delivered?
- Is there any new legislation, demographic or any other changes that need to be taken into account?

- 4.3 The objective is relevant because our climate is undergoing dramatic changes as the direct result of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from human activity. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the most significant and prevalent GHG is emitted mostly from the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and natural gas. The UK Government has committed to take action and has introduced the Climate Change Act with a target to cut carbon emissions by at least 80% by 2050, with a minimum reduction of 26% by 2020 across the UK. CCBC is a large organisation and as such has a large carbon footprint. We have an obligation to take steps to minimise our carbon footprint and the associated negative impact on the environment.
- 4.4 The energy efficiency of our building stock has been improved substantially over recent years. The Salix invest to save fund has been used effectively and this scheme has already reduced the Authority’s carbon footprint by some 2,621 tonnes of CO₂ per annum, with associated lifetime energy cost savings circa £4.5 million. There remains significant scope to make further improvements that would bring several benefits in addition to reducing our carbon footprint, for example, our energy costs would reduce and the environment within our buildings would be improved.
- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 Whilst the medium term financial plan (MTFP) will reduce the available funds for asset management, the Salix invest to save fund is still available.
- 4.7 The Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme is a mandatory UK government carbon emissions reporting and pricing scheme that applies to all major organisations in the UK. The scheme drives energy efficiency and also levies a charge based upon actual carbon emissions.
- 4.8 Appendix 1 presents detail of the objective, what difference we plan to make, how we will measure success and what resources we have to deliver this objective.
- 4.9 This report asks members to consider if they are content to support this Improvement Objective and planned outcomes. Members will also play a key role in monitoring the delivery of the Improvement Objective via regular updates to Scrutiny Committee.

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 The Salix invest to save fund was established in Sept 2004 utilising £200k of government funding with CCBC providing £500k. The investments are loans paid back over 0 to 10 years and therefore, funds are available for re-investment in energy efficiency schemes over coming years.

- 6.2 The Salix scheme is managed by the in-house Energy Team Energy who also provide, training and advice to building managers and collate Authority wide energy usage data. It is confirmed that the Energy Team's costs are allowed for within the MTFP.
- 6.3 There are no adverse financial implications to the medium term financial plan of this objective. However, improvements in energy efficiency will lead to reduced energy costs which will benefit the MTFP.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no personal implications from this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

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

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Members support the Improvement Objective(s) detailed and monitor delivery progress.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To gain Members views and approval on the Council's Improvement Objectives for 2015/16.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Measure 2009.

Author: Ian Raymond, Performance Management Officer
Email: raymoi@caerphilly.gov.uk Tel: 01443 864238

Consultees: Mark Williams, Building Consultancy Manager
Paul Rossiter, Energy & Water Officer
Cllr David Hardacre, Cabinet member for Performance & Asset Management
Chris Burns, Interim Chief Executive
Colin Jones, Head of Performance, Property and Policy
Nicole Scammell, Acting Director of Corporate Services & S151
Dave Thomas, Senior Policy Officer, Policy
Ros Roberts, Performance Manager

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 Carbon Management: Reduce our carbon footprint
Appendix 2 List of 2015-16 Improvement objectives under consideration