

# **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

## **REPORT TO: CABINET**

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**Date of Meeting:** 14 March 2011  
**Report of:** Strategic Director - Places  
**Subject/Title:** 5 Year Carbon Management Plan 2011 - 2016  
**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Rod Menlove

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### **1.0 Report Summary**

- 1.1 Supported by the Carbon Trust, Cheshire East Council has identified a programme of work that will help the Council to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and reduce energy costs. During the period from 2011 to 2016 a range of practical projects and the strands of an embedding strategy should be developed and implemented to achieve a 25% reduction in our energy consumption from the 2008/09 baseline. A key element of the programme is to recognise the need for 'cost avoidance' due to the acceleration in energy prices increases and the cost of not adapting to the impacts of climate change.
- 1.2 In 2008/09 Cheshire East Council was responsible for the emission of 51,037 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. **The energy cost** associate with these emissions was £9.9 million. Over time, our emissions will rise along with associated increases in energy costs. If we do not take action now to reduce our energy use and meet the target of a 25% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions it will cost the authority an additional £ 13.2 million over the next 5 years.
- 1.3 The final draft of the Carbon Management Plan was submitted to the Carbon Trust for their advice, comments and seal of approval on 31 January. After receipt of their initial assessment several amendments were made and a revised version of the Plan submitted. The latest version, as approved by the Carbon Trust, is attached to this report.

### **2.0 Decision Requested**

Cabinet is requested to:

- 2.1 Accept and approve the 5 year Carbon Management Plan.
- 2.2 Commit to providing funding for the range of projects that will deliver the anticipated carbon savings and enable the development of additional practical projects beyond those currently identified.
- 2.3 Endorse the Embedding Strategy, and its development, which will enable the Council to integrate into its decision making procedures the need to reduce its carbon emissions and endeavour to achieve sustainability for all service delivery.

### **3.0 Wards Affected**

3.1 All

### **4.0 Local Ward Members**

4.1 All

### **5.0 Policy Implications including - Carbon Reduction - Health**

5.1 Developing the Carbon Management Plan is in accordance with the Councils Corporate Plan (Objective 4) and is in line with the Sustainable Community Strategy. It is closely related to the development of the Councils Adaptation Strategy work on which work began last year within the framework of National Indicator 188. This Plan describes how carbon reduction will be an integral factor in decisions about how we deliver our services, and in our work with partners to secure a sustainable future for those who live, work and take leisure in the Borough.

### **6.0 Financial Implications 2010/11 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)**

6.1 The Carbon Management Plan will support the reduction in Cheshire East's carbon emission and therefore a reduction in energy bills, for each tonne of carbon saved there is a saving of between £150 - £220 in energy costs.

6.2 The Carbon Management Plan will also have an impact on the Council's liabilities under the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme. Current estimates suggest our liability will be about £520,000. Achieving a 25 per cent reduction in our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions could reduce our payments from 2013 by about £130,000 each year.

6.3 Energy efficiency is financially crucial at a time of volatile energy prices and the Carbon Management Plan documents the progress being made towards being an energy efficient Council. The continued development of this plan will ensure energy savings and therefore cost savings will be achieved.

### **7.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)**

7.1 Developing a Carbon Management Plan will help the council to deliver its obligations under the Climate Change Act 2008.

### **8.0 Risk Management**

8.1 If the Council does not implement the programme of actions in the plan there is a risk that we will not sufficiently demonstrate progress towards Corporate Objective 4 (To enhance the Cheshire East environment). It will

also hinder our position as a Community Leader in tackling Climate Change as indicated in the Climate Change Act 2008. Further, an opportunity to minimise increases in energy costs will have been lost.

## 9.0 Background and Options

- 9.1 Cheshire East Council made an early commitment to reducing its climate change impact by signing up to the Nottingham Declaration in 2008/09. As the third largest unitary authority in the North West, we have a responsibility to lead by example to secure a sustainable future for those who live and work in the borough and for those who visit it. That future depends on our reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, by putting in place measures to sustain long term reductions in energy use, and by creating the conditions for moving Cheshire East towards a low carbon future.
- 9.2 The UK Government has placed an emphasis on local authorities setting a leading example on Climate Change. Action by local authorities will be critical to the achievement of the long term goal to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 80% by 2050 stated in the *Climate Change Act 2008*.
- 9.3 By implementing the Carbon Management Plan, Cheshire East Council will achieve its target reduction by:
- delivering **cost savings** from carbon reduction activities in our office buildings, our schools, on transport and street lighting
  - **integrating and embedding** carbon management into the Council's high level policies and strategies and its business planning process
  - developing a portfolio of **carbon reduction projects** which will combine quick wins, high impact CO<sub>2</sub> savings with a blend of enabling strategies, alignment of policies and savings from rationalisation
  - **reducing the demand** for energy to increase the overall effectiveness of energy management
  - **inspiring staff and members** to help the implementation of the carbon management actions and initiatives and by contributing to the delivery of actions and initiatives across the wider community
  - developing a strategy to achieve **schools engagement** through support for efficiencies, awareness raising and enhancing aspects of the curriculum in order to achieve significant savings
  - **leading the community** on climate change by demonstrating leadership in reducing carbon dioxide emissions resulting from the Council's operations, as set out in NI186 (reducing per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the local authority area).

- 9.4 Embedding carbon management across the Council is vital to the success of the Carbon Management Plan and it also delivers one of the key objectives in the Corporate Plan 2010-13, which states:

*“We will tackle the effects of climate change through a comprehensive approach to reducing carbon emissions and promoting sustainable approaches. We will develop and deliver a Carbon Management Plan which sets targets for reducing carbon emissions. We will know we have been successful when the Council reduces its carbon emissions and is respected as a leading example across the Borough on climate change issues”.*

- 9.5 For the plan to be successful it needs to be owned across the Council, or “embedded”, and to be seen as an essential tool. We have used the Carbon Trust’s Carbon Management 5 level Embedding Matrix to determine our starting point and our assessment of our current level is set out below.
- 9.6 Each element is led by a senior officer whose role is to ensure progress and to report that progress to the Programme Board and to the Council. The Matrix demonstrates that carbon management is not just about technical projects but relates to all Council activity from strategy development, communications and training, responsibility, accountability, monitoring and review, programme management, finance and investment and policy alignment.
- 9.7 There is still considerable progress to be made on embedding carbon reduction into all of the Council’s actions and activities.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Current Level of 5</b>	<b>Target level by date</b>	<b>Level by 2014</b>
Corporate Strategy	3	4 (by March 2012)	5
Programme Management	3	4 (by December 2011)	5
Responsibility	2	4 (by March 2012)	5
Data Management	4	4 (by December 2011)	5
Communications and Training	3	4 (by December 2011)	5
Finance and investment	4	5 (by March 2012)	5
Policy alignment	2	3 (by September 2011)	5
Schools engagement	3	4 (by March 2012)	5

## **10.0 Access to Information**

Copies of the 5 Year Carbon Management Plan and all supporting data are available from the officer below.

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