

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 10th December 2013
Report of: Peter Bates, Chief Operating Officer
Subject/Title: Notice of Motion – Reducing Carbon Emissions
Portfolio Holder: Councillor D Topping, Environment

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 Council resolved at its meeting on 13th October 2013 that a motion concerning the reduction of the Council's carbon emissions and supporting the reduction of those of partners be referred to Cabinet. This report facilitates Council's referral.
- 1.2 Since instigating its Carbon Reduction Programme in 2010 the Council has reduced its emissions by 18%, or 5705 tonnes CO₂. This significant achievement has resulted in a cost avoidance of £1.8 million which would otherwise have been spent on energy consumption. This in turn enables the Council to better support front line services.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet
1. receive and acknowledge the motion referred by Council;
 2. acknowledge the significant work that has been undertaken by the Council to date in reducing its own carbon emissions in order to support the corporate target of reducing carbon emissions by 25% by 2016;
 3. in view of the fact that the carbon reduction target for energy management has been achieved 3 years early, agree to increase the carbon reduction target for Council buildings to 35% in support of other areas of the Authority;
 4. further promote the reduction not only of its own carbon emissions but also of those of its many partners within the sub-region, including the private and business sectors; and
 5. agree to sign up to the Climate Local Agreement, which replaces the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change to which the Council had previously been a signatory.

3.0 Reason for Recommendations

- 3.1 To enable Cabinet to consider the matter raised in the motion, and to propose further actions to build on the Council's achievements to date.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 No wards are directly affected by the referral of the motion to Council.

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 None.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 A further reduction in carbon emissions, particular from energy, would have a cost benefit to the Authority, both in terms of energy bills and carbon reduction tax. Delivery of a further 10% reduction in carbon emissions from energy is deliverable from existing maintenance/minor works programmes and funding. At this point it is not possible to quantify the potential revenue savings from lower consumption as this is likely to be offset by the continuing impact of inflationary pressure on energy prices as noted in paragraph 10.10 of the report. Cost avoidance, rather than absolute savings, is therefore a more realistic outcome. However, any reduction in consumption would have a beneficial impact on the carbon reduction tax calculation, thereby providing a real budgetary saving.

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 From 2013/14 the Council will have a legal obligation to participate in the Carbon Reduction Commitment (Energy Efficiency Scheme) which will result in the Council being liable to pay tax calculated in accordance with the level of carbon emissions. The Council's current liability under the Carbon Reduction Commitment scheme is estimated to be approximately £340,000 per annum, with effect from 2014/15, increasing annually.
- 8.2 Service providers may be required to consider carbon reduction measures as part of a compliant procurement process.
- 8.3 The Council cannot require third parties to cut their carbon emissions but can use its own example, its influence and its policies to encourage the adoption of carbon reduction measures as both best

practice and cost saving measures. Becoming a signatory to the Climate Local Agreement could assist with this role.

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 Carbon Management is an identified cross cutting risk (SR5) for the Council: “Risk that Services do not understand the importance of carbon management and the immediate and longer term effects of not acting on climate change, resulting in limited commitment to the Carbon Management Programme”.

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.1 A motion titled “Reducing Carbon Emissions” was proposed to Council at its meeting on 13th October 2013, by Councillor S Hogben and seconded by Councillor S Corcoran.

- 10.2 The content of the motion was as follows:

“That this Council build on its previous work in reducing its own carbon emissions. This Council will promote strenuous further efforts to cut not only its own carbon emissions but those of its many partners within the sub-region, including the private and business sectors”.

“The Council recognises that financial pressures face all sectors of the economy, but also recognises the vital importance for future generations of conserving resources of all kinds and cutting environmental pollution”.

“In view of the loss of Invest to Save funding, and in its role as a community leader, the Council commits to redouble its efforts to fund carbon reduction projects, and seek support in this work from all its partners”.

- 10.3 In accordance with the Council Procedure Rules within the Constitution, Council resolved that the matter stand referred to Cabinet.

- 10.4 There is now agreement across the scientific community that increasing levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere as a result of human activity is affecting our planets climate and weather patterns. Global air and sea temperatures have already increased by 1 degree and levels of CO₂ are at their highest ever recorded levels. International agreement to cut global CO₂ levels is currently being discussed at the UN Climate Change Conference in Warsaw.

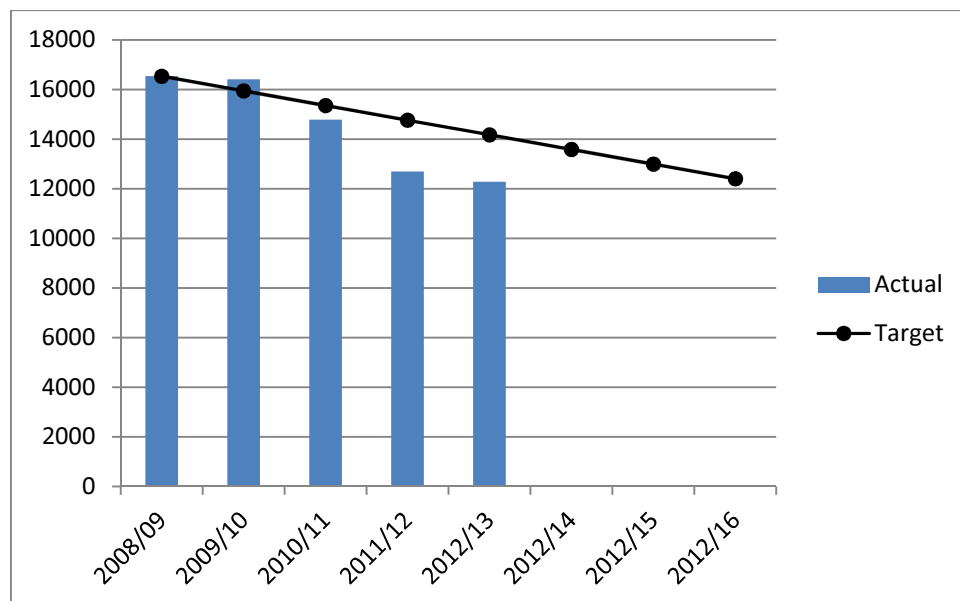
- 10.5 One outcome of altering our climate is an increased frequency of severe weather events such the storms and flooding experienced in the UK in October this year, droughts across America and Africa in

2012 and 2013, and typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines which has so far claimed over 5500 lives.

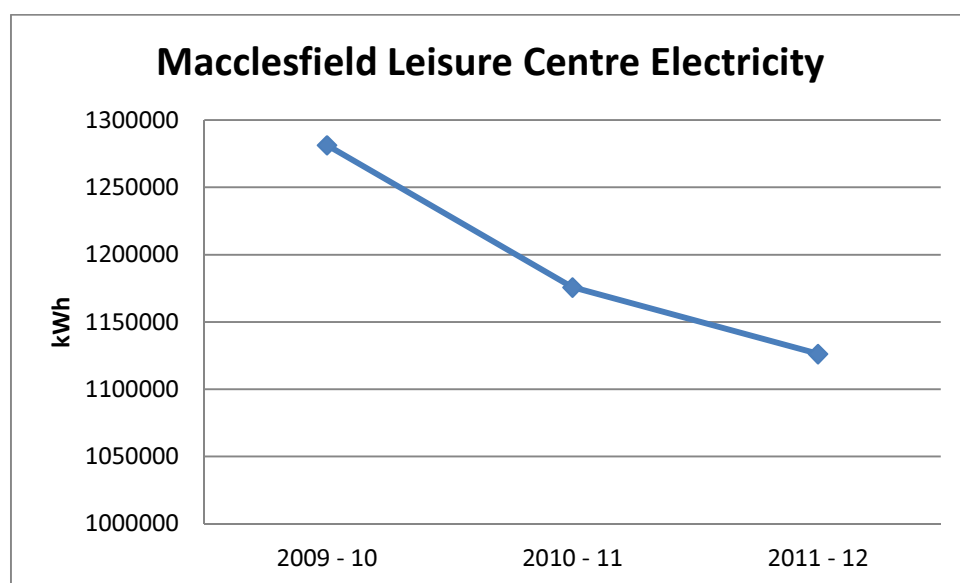
- 10.6 The Council has an important role as community leader, estate manager and service provider to reduce its own emissions of CO₂ and encourage others to reduce their emissions. The Council's Carbon Management Programme was initiated in 2010, to reduce emissions by 25% (equivalent to 8000 tonnes CO₂) by 2016. One of the original goals of the Council was to get its own house in order; so as to serve as an example to those organisations and external bodies it seeks to influence.
- 10.7 The Council is currently on track to achieve its carbon reduction target. Through investment in projects between 2009/10 and 2012/13 a 17% reduction in the Council's emissions has been achieved, equivalent to 5705 tonnes of CO₂. However, in order to ensure the Council continues to reduce its carbon emissions, further carbon reduction measures will need to be encompassed as part of project delivery, where appropriate. Energy efficiency projects continue to be delivered and funded on a business as usual basis, through maintenance, minor works or accommodation changes.
- 10.8 The table below summarises the progress of the main areas within the plan to date according to the emissions of CO₂ from these areas against their targets. This shows a reduction in all areas except street lighting where there has been an increase due to a growth in the lighting estate. It is anticipated that a reduction will begin to show from 2013/14 as a result of the investment in the street lighting carbon reduction scheme.

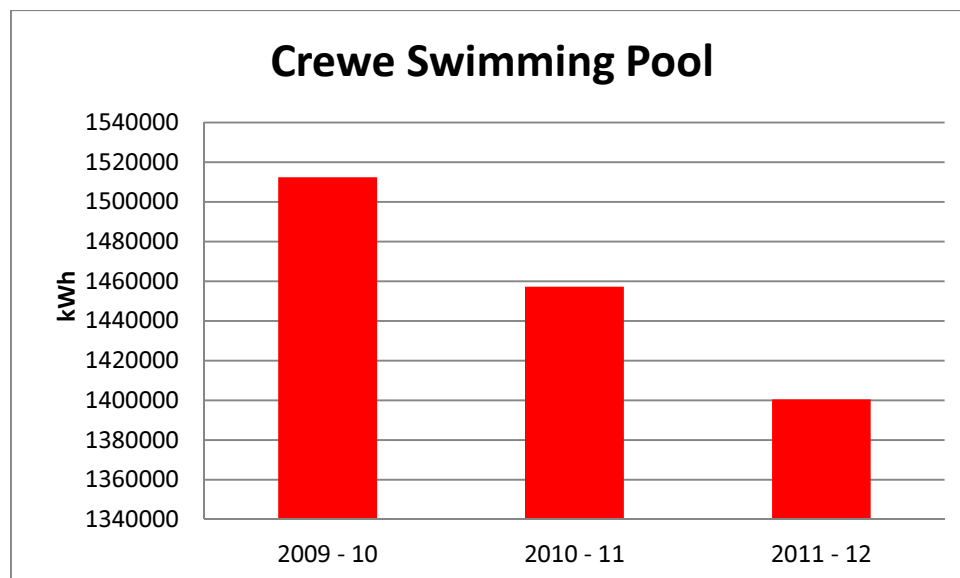
	2008/9 (baseline)	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	% change from baseline
Buildings	16,531	16,410	14,776	12,697	12,276	-25.7%
Streetlighting	8,858	8,865	9,175	9,161	9,358	+5.6%
Fleet	4,532	3,950	3,882	3,503	3,256	-28.0%
Staff Travel	1,980	1,887	1,611	1,460	1,306	-34.0%
Total	31,901	31,112	29,444	26,821	26,196	-17.8%

- 10.9 Between 2009/10 and 2012/13 £700,000 has been invested in the efficiency of the Council's estate delivered through the Asset Management Service. These projects include lighting and heating improvements, improved controls, insulation, technologies such as voltage optimisation and conversion to LED lighting. The following table identifies the actual carbon savings, against the original target:-



10.10 Energy efficiency improvements focussed on quick wins where the largest savings could be achieved with the least investment. Sites that had the highest levels of use were targeted such as leisure centres and office buildings, areas of significant saving shown in the following graphs.





- 10.11 In 2009 the annual expenditure on utilities was £6.7 million which, as a result of the above inflation price increases, has risen to circa £9 million. This has, in part, been mitigated by reducing energy use over the first four years of CEC, the cumulative effect of which equates to £1.8 million.
- 10.12 Cheshire East Council has, to date, focussed its efforts on climate change internally, with the implementation of the Carbon Management Programme. However, the Council did sign up to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change in 2009. This voluntary declaration contains a number of statements which the Council commits to supporting on climate change across the Borough.
- 10.13 In 2012, the Nottingham Declaration was succeeded by Climate Local Agreement, developed by the LGA. Cabinet is asked to consider whether it wishes the Council to become a signatory to the new initiative. Details of the Climate Local Agreement are attached.

11.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Name: Michele Burrow / Colin Farrelly
Designation: Carbon Reduction Programme Manager / Energy Manager
Tel No: 01270 868159 / 01270 868161
Email: michele.burrow@cheshireeast.gov.uk / colin.farrelly@cheshireeast.gov.uk