

Cheshire East Council

Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 13th March 2018

Report of: Frank Jordan, Executive Director - Place

Subject/Title: Notice of Motion - UK100

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Ainsley Arnold, Housing, Planning and Regeneration

1. Report Summary

- 1.1. On the 14th December a Notice of Motion was raised at Full Council. The Notice regarded the approach of the authority towards energy reduction in the provision of our services, and our leadership role in encouraging clean growth across the Borough in line with the Government's Clean Growth Strategy.
- 1.2. Specifically the Notice of Motion (Appendix 2) proposes that the Council acknowledges the benefits of clean growth and resolves to:
 - 1.2.1. Match the ambitions of the UK100 Agreement through pledging to achieve 100% clean energy across Cheshire East Council's full range of functions by 2050 (defined as 70% from fully renewable sources [Wind, Water, Solar], with the remainder from other low CO2 forms of energy production, in line with ambitious post-2040 energy mix forecasts;
 - 1.2.2. Work in partnership with our residents and business community to deliver against the commitments made nationally and internationally at the 2015 Paris Summit;
 - 1.2.3. Turn these commitments into reality through developing a 'route map' to a sustainable future, working together with Cheshire East's business, educational and residential communities as part of an integrated approach to a shared sustainable future.
- 1.3. The UK100 Agreement is part of a wider approach backed by government, businesses and communities to deliver clean growth. It describes itself as 'a highly ambitious network of local government leaders, which seeks to devise and implement plans for the transition to clean energy that are ambitious, cost effective and take the public and business with them.' Its goal is for towns and cities to transition to 100% clean energy by 2050 in support of international agreements on climate change.

- 1.4. The authority already has in place policies and initiatives to support energy reduction, through the Cheshire East Energy Framework and our Carbon reduction programme. This means that the Notice of Motion is consistent with existing policy.
- 1.5. However, given the complex nature of clean growth, covering all aspects of our service provision and having impacts beyond the authority, it is recommended that the Council does not resolve to sign up to the UK100 at this stage, but incorporates the ambition of the Motion into the creation of a Cheshire East Energy Strategy which builds on the Cheshire East Energy Framework.
- 1.6. This strategy would cover some of the following aspects:
 - Reducing emissions and promoting the use of clean energy through the use of its fleet and that of its major contractors and ASDVs.
 - Promoting sustainable transport methods to be used by the Council's staff.
 - Reducing carbon emissions and utilising renewable energy in relation to council's use of buildings and IT equipment.
 - Building criteria in relation to renewable energy in to the specification for procurement of energy by the council.
 - Building environmental considerations in to the social value criteria for major procurement activity undertaken by the council.
 - Using our leadership and commissioning role to influence our partners to adopt a similar strategy
 - Where appropriate, to build sustainable energy in to the strategic development and regeneration schemes which are led by the council.
 - Investing and/or developing renewable energy facilities e.g. solar photo voltaic facilities, battery storage facilities, heat networks in the Borough.

2. Recommendation

2.1. Cabinet is recommended to:

- 2.1.1. Request the Executive Director of Place to present an Energy Strategy for Cabinet to consider in November 2018.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

3.1. There are likely to be wide ranging implications of achieving the aims of the UK100 agreement, in how we deliver our services. It will also have implications for the sustainable growth of the Borough and how we respond to the Government's Clean Growth agenda.

4. Other Options Considered

4.1. The recommendation does not propose a decision by the authority on membership of the UK100 at this stage, but recommends that a decision is made in light of a wider, more holistic, view of our approach to energy and carbon reduction.

4.2. The other option, to accept to become a signatory to the UK100 Agreement, could bring benefits to the Council in meetings its Energy Vision. However, the implications and impact to the Council need to be fully understood and therefore it is recommended a decision would be better made in light to the wider work the Council is pursuing on energy.

5. Background

5.1. 78 local authorities have signed up to UK100 including Cheshire West and Chester and Warrington locally, all signatories are listed in appendix 1. They pledge to;

- Devise plans to achieve 100% clean energy at city/local level by 2050 that are ambitious, cost effective and take the public and business with them.
- Work with business allies, bringing private and public sector together
- Collaborate across a peer-to-peer network, learning from each other
- Deliver climate action by promoting co-benefits of economic growth and health and well-being
- Work together to influence national policy
- Make material contribution to emissions reductions

5.2. The Agreement is focussed on supporting local leadership on clean growth, networking, and collective actions to accelerate the transition to clean energy locally and nationally. It is also aligned with campaigns on active citizenship on climate issues, green finance, and air quality.

5.3. Much of the activity to deliver the ambition of the UK100 will be delivered through national activity, in particular the decarbonisation of the power grid,

heat, and vehicle technologies. However, local authorities have an important role in applying this to their activities, and as enablers and advocates within the local area.

- 5.4. The Council has already made significant steps towards clean growth through a range of initiatives internally and with our businesses and communities, including;
 - 5.4.1. Cheshire East Council has worked hard since it was formed in 2009 to reduce its energy bills and cut carbon emissions to tackle climate change. The Council spends £2.5 million on energy bills each year, with the Carbon Reduction Commitment legislation costing the council a further £340,000 a year. We have saved over £6.6m to date, and had the Council not taken action, these costs would have also continued to rise.
 - 5.4.2. In 2011 the Council published its Carbon Management Plan, setting itself a challenging target of reducing emissions by 25%, or to a level of approximately almost 13,000 tonnes, by 2016. A number of projects were undertaken to reach this goal; for example rationalising the Council's property portfolio and making improvements to remaining buildings; efficiency measures include lighting schemes, boiler replacements, heating controls, voltage optimisation, insulation, variable speed drives, solar photo voltaic cells and Combined Heating and Power.
 - 5.4.3. The Council exceeded its target, reaching a 42% saving on carbon within that period – a saving of 7,033 tonnes CO₂ within the property portfolio alone. Street lighting LED conversions, managed by Highways, is set to reduce CO₂ emissions by 3,052 tonnes by April 2018 and a further 2,300 tonnes CO₂ in 2018-19. In order to further improve on this saving; a further target has been set – to reduce emissions by a further 20% by 2020.
 - 5.4.4. The Council also developed its wider Energy Framework in January 2015, recognising that local authorities not only have a role to ensure sustainable development locally, but also have a role in low carbon and energy-related projects - delivering savings to help reduce the cost of local government and new income streams to support local investment priorities and stimulate growth and resilience in the local economy. It set out the Vision for affordable energy, growing energy businesses, and promoting independent energy locally.
- 5.5. The Council is also leading other work on reducing emissions from housing and transport, and the holistic nature of an Energy Strategy will enable all of this activity to be brought together into a clear approach to meeting our energy ambitions.

6. Wards Affected and Local Ward Members

6.1. Wards Affected

6.1.1. All

6.2. Local Ward Members

6.2.1. All.

7. Implications of Recommendation

7.1. Policy implications

7.1.1. There are no specific policy implications arising from this paper however the energy strategy would support the delivery of the council's corporate plan in relation to Outcome 4.

7.2. Legal Implications

7.2.1. There are no immediate legal implications arising from Cabinet approving the recommendation of this report.

7.3. Financial Implications

7.3.1. The delivery of our energy objectives are subject to the Council's financial processes to ensure value for money and/or a financial benefit to the authority. This approach will continue to apply in developing an Energy Strategy.

7.4. Equality Implications

7.4.1. The recommendation does not have any direct equality implications.

7.5. Rural Community Implications

7.5.1. The recommendation does not have any unique implications for rural communities.

7.6. Human Resources Implications

7.6.1. The recommendation does not have any direct human resources implications.

7.7. Health and Wellbeing Implications

7.7.1. The achievement of the UK100 goals will have a positive impact on public health through reductions in pollution and encouragement of more sustainable modes of transport.

7.8. Implications for Children and Young People

- 7.8.1. The recommendations do not have any direct implications on service provision for children and young people.

7.9. Overview and Scrutiny Committee Implications

- 7.9.1. The recommendation does not have any direct implications.

7.10. Other Implications (Please Specify)

- 7.10.1. There are no other implications other than those identified above.

8. Risk Management

- 8.1. There are no identified risks with the recommendation.
- 8.2. Projects or programmes derived from the Cheshire East Energy Strategy will be subjected to the robust governance and management arrangements of the authority, which includes the monitoring and effective control of risks and issues.

9. Access to Information

- 9.1. The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer.

10. Contact Information

Contact details for this report are as follows:

Name: Julian Cobley

Designation: Managing Director, The Skills and Growth Company

Tel. No.: 01270 686688

Email: Julian.cobley@skillsandgrowth.co.uk