

Report to: **Cabinet**

Date: **19 April 2005**

By: **Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Corporate Resources**

Title of report: **Carbon Management Action Plan**

Purpose of report: **To gain approval of Cabinet to the Carbon Management Action Plan**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1. approve the Carbon Management Action Plan, and;**
 - 2. agree that the Carbon Management Group report annually to the Audit and Best Value Scrutiny Committee on progress against the plan and its review.**
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1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 The Carbon Management Action Plan has been developed using existing staff resources, with free consultancy advice being provided by The Carbon Trust. Investment shown for 2005/06 and onwards is through the provision of £100,000 each year in the capital programme for invest to save energy and water efficiency schemes as agreed by Council on 22 February 2005.

1.2 The programme of measures set out in the Action Plan will generate annual savings which will start to overtake investment by 2007/08. In 2008/09 savings are estimated to outweigh investment by £97,490, rising to an estimated £231,804 in 2009/10. The above figures are calculated on the basis of current energy costs. However, wholesale energy costs are forecast to continue to rise, which reinforces the financial case for this Action Plan.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 In June 2004 the County Council was invited by The Carbon Trust, an independent company set up by the Government to help the UK meet its climate change obligations, to take part in phase 2 of their pilot carbon management programme, aimed at local government.

2.2 The Carbon Trust in turn offered free consultancy assistance and use of a toolkit for use by the County in developing a carbon management plan. Councils participating in the pilot have given feedback on the toolkit which will be reviewed and rolled out for use by other Councils.

2.3 Since July an officer team has been working with the Carbon Trust and their consultants to develop the attached action plan. This demonstrates how the purchase of electricity generated by renewable sources and implementation of measures to reduce energy consumption can lower carbon dioxide (CO²) emissions which contribute to climate change and make significant cost savings.

2.4 It is proposed that the carbon management plan now incorporates and therefore supersedes the Corporate Property Energy Strategy adopted in March 2004, and that the current Environmental Management of Buildings officer group take on the review of the wider scope of activities covered in this plan as the Carbon Management Group.

2.5 Some of the actions proposed will need to proceed with the agreement of service outlets and schools. The plan will be used to support these proposals. In the meantime, where appropriate, some estimated projections of take-up have been included in the plan for future years.

2.6 Adoption of the action plan will support future applications for grant aid from bodies such as The Carbon Trust.

6. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation

6.1 The Carbon Management Action Plan demonstrates how CO² and cost savings can be made and it is recommended that Cabinet agree the plan for implementation.

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