

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 9 SEPTEMBER, 2014

REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY
AND THE ENVIRONMENT

EAST HERTS CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN REVIEW OF
PROGRESS

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report

- To update the Committee on progress achieved during the first four years of implementation of the East Herts Climate Change Action Plan.

RECOMMENDATION FOR: Environment Scrutiny

That:

(A)	the progress achieved in implementing the East Herts Climate Change Action Plan, since its initial adoption by the Council in late December 2009 be scrutinised.
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1.0 Background

Members may recall that the Council adopted the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan in December 2009. The Environment Scrutiny Committee asked at the time that progress with the Action Plan would be reported to the committee on an annual basis. This report provides an update with progress to date.

- 1.1 It should be noted that all agreed initiatives within the Action Plan that have cost implications were/are subject to a business case analysis before implementation to ensure value for money.
- 1.2 The document appended as **Essential Reference Paper “B”** to this report summarises the work achieved to date (December 2009-May 2014) in implementing the Action Plan.

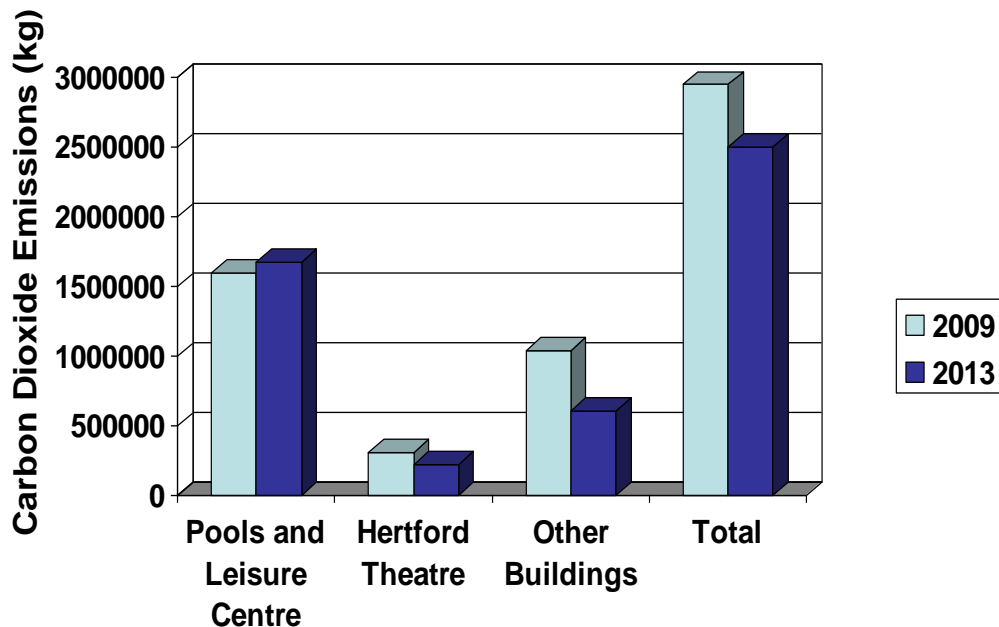
2.0 Report

- 2.1. Officers are pleased to report that substantial progress has been made with implementation of the majority of actions within the Action Plan and that in general work is progressing to schedule, subject to thorough business case justification where appropriate.
- 2.2 A comprehensive analysis is undertaken each year of energy use of all the Council's buildings. Including the main offices and leisure facilities plus smaller sites the total CO₂ emissions arising for the 2013/14 year was 2,498 tonnes. This compares with the baseline of 2,946 tonnes for the baseline year of 2008/09. This represents an overall total reduction of over 15%.
- 2.2 Of particular note is the continuing range of energy efficiency projects completed with further planned within the District's pools and leisure centres. Whilst overall CO₂ emissions for the leisure facilities have risen by 4% last year, but there has been a corresponding increase in usage of an additional 11,668 customer visits. Since the baseline year of 2009 average CO₂ emissions per visit to the Council's leisure facilities have fallen by almost 50% per visit in 2013. This represents major efficiencies in carbon dioxide emissions, since the leisure centres and pools in particular utilise a large proportion of the energy consumed by East Herts Council in its service provision. Measures that have been undertaken include:
- new heat pumps, valve wraps, heat exchanger, extraction fans, pool cover (Grange Paddocks);
 - new energy efficient changing room space heaters, pool cover (Ward Freman Pool);
 - New circulation pump, pool cover (Hartham);
 - Pool cover (Fanshawe Pool)
- 2.3 The past refurbishment of Castle Hall into Hertford Theatre which included the installation of a range of energy efficiency measures has resulted in considerable ongoing carbon reductions year-on-year down 90,472 kg CO₂ to 220,369kg CO₂ in 2013 from 310,841kg CO₂ in 2009. This represents a fall of 29% in CO₂ emissions.
- 2.4 The waste contract has delivered considerable ongoing CO₂ savings since the 2008/09 baseline, mainly as a result of improved scheduling of rounds and the use of newer more energy efficient vehicles. The total reduction in carbon emissions achieved since 2008/09 to date is some 27%, which is in excess of the Council's

agreed carbon reduction target of 25% by 2020. This year in particular there has been a further fall of 97,193 kg CO₂ with a very significant 33% reduction in emissions from the fuel use of the refuse freighters alone between 2012/13 and 2013/14. This is because in November 2013 the number of recycling vehicles changed from 8 kerbsider vehicles to 6 twin packs together with a move to zonal working on rounds making collections more efficient. This reduction was anticipated in the report to Environmental Scrutiny last year, but it is pleasing to note that the reduction has materialised and is in excess of that predicted despite the use of new vehicles fitted with compactor mechanisms, which tend to be energy intensive.

- 2.5 The graph below indicates the savings over time from the EHC main static sources (as discussed above) between the baseline year of 2008/09 and 2013/14.

Comparison of Carbon Dioxide Emissions over time for main sources



- 2.6 The total CO₂ savings shown above, since the baseline of 2009, indicate the Council is making good progress in achieving its own internal Climate Change reduction target of reducing its carbon emissions by 25% from baseline levels by 2020. Since 2009 there has been a reduction of 15% in total CO₂ emissions, from major

sources, achieved so far (a further 2% improvement from 2012/13) If all sources are included CO₂ emissions from East Herts Council service delivery has fallen by almost 17% since the baseline year.

3.0 Community Energy

3.1 In January 2014 the Government launched its “Community Energy Strategy”. Whilst this report focuses on the carbon savings achieved through the implementation of the Council’s Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, Members may wish to consider some of the issues raised in the Community Energy Strategy. This is because of the potential issues it raises for enabling community involvement in the provision of renewables within the community and indicates how the Council could have a role in facilitating such measures through the use of its own buildings or through encouraging local action. As well as renewable energy generation community energy is also very much about community action on energy efficiency and fuel poverty. **Essential Reference Paper “C”** provides a summary of the issues raised within the Government’s Community Energy Strategy offers some suggestions on the Council’s possible role.

3.2 The Hertfordshire Sustainability Forum, which East Herts currently chairs, will be discussing community energy in more depth to examine the potential opportunity for Hertfordshire at its meeting on 9th October 2014. In addition the Forum, in conjunction with the University of Hertfordshire is looking at hosting a high level conference on the topic in March 2015.

4.0 Implications/Consultations

4.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper ‘A’**.

Background Papers

East Herts Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan – December 2009
Minutes of the meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee –
March 2012 and June 2013

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