

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 11 JUNE, 2013

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 three years of implementation of the East Herts Climate Change Action Plan.

<u>RECOMMENDATION FOR : ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY</u>	
(A)	To scrutinise the progress achieved in implementing the East Herts Climate Change Action Plan, since its initial adoption by the Council in December 2009.

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 a regular 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.

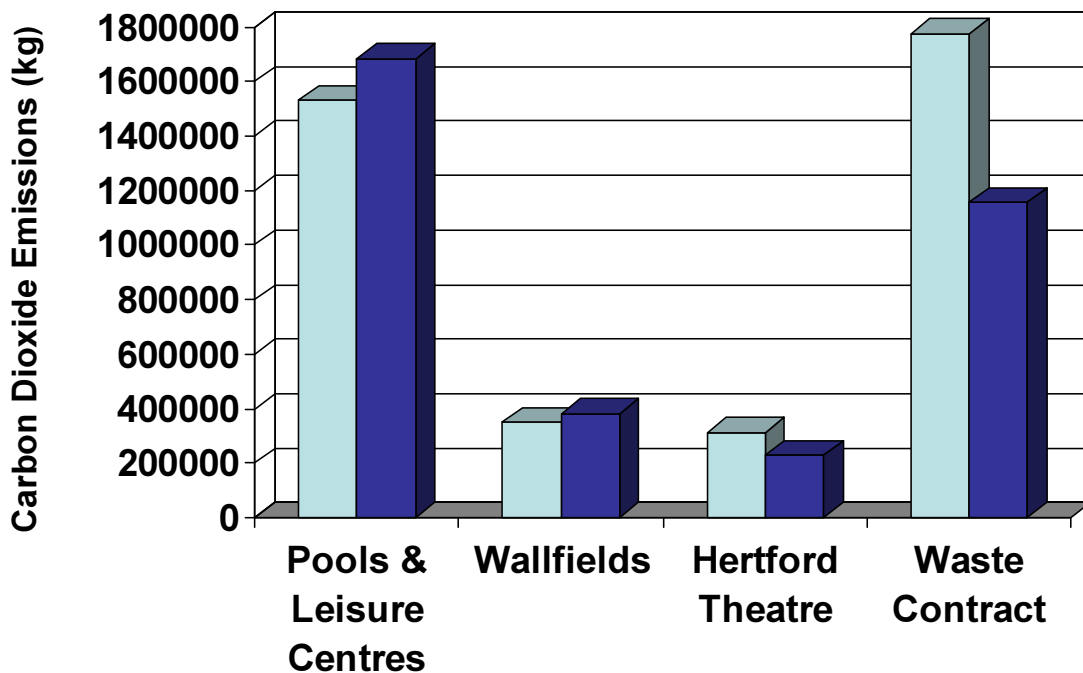
1.2 The document appended as **Essential Reference Paper B** to this report summarises the work achieved to date (December 2009-May 2013) in implementing the Action Plan.

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 Of particular note is the substantial range of energy efficiency projects completed with further planned within the District's pools and leisure centres. Whilst overall energy usage for leisure centres has in fact increased this is due to a significant expansion in the services provided and increasing visitor numbers. Significant new facilities include the construction of much larger gyms at Grange Paddocks and Hartham. Since the baseline year of 2009 average CO₂ emissions per visit to the Council's leisure facilities have fallen from 3.6kg CO₂ to 2.0kg CO₂ per visit in 2012. This represents major efficiencies in carbon dioxide emissions, since the pools in particular utilise a large proportion of the energy consumed by East Herts Council in its service provision.
- 2.3 The refurbishment of Castle Hall into Hertford Theatre following the installation of a range of energy efficiency measures has resulted in considerable carbon reductions down 81,845 kg CO₂ to 228,996kg CO₂ in 2012 from 310,841kg CO₂ in 2009.
- 2.4 The new waste contract has delivered considerable CO₂ savings over the 2009 baseline, for example in 2012 emissions were 619,657 kg CO₂ lower than in 2009. This is mainly as a result of improved scheduling of rounds and the use of newer more energy efficient vehicles. Later in 2013 co-mingled recycling will be introduced, which will result in fewer collection vehicles. However, whilst it might be expected that this will reduce emissions still further, this may not be the case as the new vehicles include compactors which are energy intensive and therefore CO₂ data will need to be reviewed in 2014 to ascertain whether additional savings have been made.
- 2.5 A graphical analysis of carbon dioxide emissions from EHC main sources is presented below. As noted above clear significant savings have been achieved through the Waste Contract and at Hertford Theatre. In addition major reductions in CO₂ emissions have been accomplished at the pools and leisure centres, although this is off set by the near doubling of customer visits, leading to an increase in energy use. Savings also have been achieved at

Wallfields, but the building has seen an increase in occupation levels with the closure of the Causeway Building at Bishop's Stortford, which again offsets those savings made. In addition as indicated in **Essential Reference Paper B** average temperatures have been significantly lower over the last year, leading to an increase in the amount of gas used and extra electric heating used during the "shoulder" months.

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 an estimated provisional reduction of 13% in CO₂ emissions, from major sources, achieved so far. Officers hope that it may be possible to present a total carbon footprint for all of East Herts Council's operations/services (i.e. including staff/member travel as well as data for some minor sites) at a future meeting, once all the information becomes available.

3.0 Implications/Consultations

3.1 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 –
11 March 2011 and 13 March 2012.

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