

ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'D'

New ideas and proposals to tackle climate change worthy of more detailed consideration

- The merits of these ideas and proposals have been considered in some detail by the Task and Finish Group.
- The Task and Finish Group recommends to Overview and Scrutiny that these ideas and proposals are forwarded to the appropriate Lead Members and Heads of Service for consideration when drawing up revised service plans and priorities.

Activity
Carbon reduction
D1) The Group recognises the importance of and supports the Government's Clean Energy Strategy (2017) and in particular recommends that the Council adopts the target arising from that Strategy that local authorities pledge to reduce their carbon emissions from their own service activity by 30% by 2021 (based on 2009 baseline). Note: East Herts current target is 25% reduction by 2021 based on 2009 baseline. Current savings stand at 18.5% (2016/17 data)
D2) Look to procure 100% "green" energy (i.e zero carbon) in terms of corporate electricity supply contracts
Clean growth, carbon efficiency and energy generation
D3) Identify opportunities to work with partners to develop low carbon /energy efficiency schemes within East Herts to encourage roll out of new technology and benefit local economic development
D4) Seek to make use measures within development of planning SPD policy to encourage higher carbon reduction measures in new developments. Whilst recognising it is currently difficult to insist on specific levels of on-site renewable energy generation,

the Council should continue to seek to encourage higher energy efficiency standards within new buildings to aid carbon reduction.

D5) Investigate energy investment options that have potential to produce ongoing revenue return for Council along with carbon saving opportunity e.g. battery technology, renewables *et al.* Develop audit of council owned sites that may be suitable for such projects

D6) Seek to ensure that all council buildings and premises are as energy efficient as possible utilising most appropriate technology to achieve a business case and suitable pay back.

Community development and communication

D7) Consider the creation of an East Herts awards scheme to encourage local organisations to implement sustainable development activity such as low carbon, high energy efficiency buildings, novel projects, awareness raising schemes, air quality improvements etc

D8) Where appropriate ensure use is made of S106 funding to facilitate low carbon activity.

D9) Water use is a key area for reduction, given local water use per head is one of highest in UK (169 litres per day). Wherever possible use should be made of planning powers; increased public awareness and partnership working with local utility providers to reduce water use per capita.

D10) Develop an active communications campaign to promote the benefits and practical possibilities of renewable energy/energy efficiency. For example this could include a relevant footnote included in all correspondence from Planning/Development Control.

D11) Recognition of the interest in public demonstration of low carbon living/ practical energy efficiency measures/electric vehicle information. This could be delivered through open day/exhibition/roadshow type events.

D12) Work with a developer to provide a low carbon show home within the district open to public to raise awareness and options

for energy efficient living.

D13) Recognise the important role that local community energy schemes (such as *Hertford Energy Now*) can play in moving to a lower carbon future whilst at the same time generating funds for community activity/local schools and investigate possible ways by which this could be accomplished.

D14) Investigate and examine how low carbon advice in relation to conservation areas /listed buildings could be improved, with the aim of enabling better energy efficiency measures to be implemented and for further public clarity on what is possible.

D15) Much excellent work being carried out by local environment groups is run by volunteers and local “people power” so it can lack central coordination on a district or county level. It is suggested that there may be scope for minor funding/provision of occasional meeting space/ communications for these local groups and that the potential for a role for the district Council in helping coordinate this activity be explored.

D16) Establish an East Herts “Environmental Forum” to build upon and help assist local coordination of environmental activity undertaken by and between local groups and the council. It is apparent that many groups and the Council were unaware of the range of existing activities/initiatives taking place across the District. Such a forum could meet on six monthly basis, helping assist implementation of sustainability and low carbon projects.

Cleaner Transport

D17) Develop a comprehensive district wide strategy for further expansion of public EV charger network in the future

D18) Develop district wide strategy for creation of on-street EV charging hubs to encourage EV take up by residents without the ability to provide their own charger unit e.g. flats and apartments.

D19) Work with local bus companies to encourage use of lower carbon vehicle fuel and move to EV.

D20) Work with Greater Anglia to encourage enhanced opportunities for lower carbon transport e.g. EV charging/bike

docks at stations.

D21) Seek to introduce a pilot E-taxi scheme within the district to promote wider use of electric taxis and encourage move to lower carbon cleaner fuel vehicles.

D22) Seek to establish 50kW rapid charger units for EVs in key locations across district, initially aimed at promoting uptake of electric taxis

D23) Work with HCC Highways to investigate possibility of anti-idle zones around schools, which could work in a similar way to protected place orders such as alcohol-free zones in town centres/residential areas.

D24) Seek to ensure planning SPD includes strong reference to EV charging points/infrastructure in all new development, both private and commercial, including provision for future infrastructure development.

Energy Affordability and home energy efficiency

D25) Look to develop a wider offer of home energy grants to enable residents to improve the energy efficiency of their homes - including solid wall insulation and secondary glazing amongst other measures.

D26) Look to establish an appropriate target to reduce level of “% fuel poor” households in District, in line with Government objectives.

D27) Look to establish trajectory to aim for all homes in district to achieve EPC rating of Band C, in line with Government objectives.

D28) Target home energy efficiency measures to fuel poor households; off-gas areas; EPC Band D or below; and, park homes.

D29) Work with estate/lettings agents to promote energy efficiency and EPC ratings, highlighting the long term savings to residents of more energy efficient homes. Additionally work with landlords to promote recent legislative requirements related to energy efficiency.