

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 15 MARCH 2011

REPORT BY ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE TASK AND FINISH GROUP

6. EAST HERTS CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN ANNUAL REVIEW OF PROGRESS

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

Purpose/Summary of Report:

- To update the Committee on the outcome of the meeting of the Climate Change Task and Finish Group review held on 17 February 2011, which met to monitor progress achieved in the first year of implementation of the East Herts Climate Change Action Plan.

<u>RECOMMENDATION FOR ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:</u> that	
(A)	The satisfaction of the Climate Change Task and Finish Group on progress achieved to date in relation to the implementation of the East Herts Climate Change Action Plan be noted; and
(B)	The comments and suggested amendments, as identified by the Task and Finish Group for inclusion in the Climate Change Action Plan, be approved.

1.0 Background

1.1 Members will recall that the Council adopted the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan in December 2009. It was agreed at the time by the Environment Scrutiny Committee that the Climate Change Task and Finish Group be asked to reconvene one year on to review progress made in implementing proposed actions within the Climate Change Action Plan and then to report to a subsequent meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee.

1.2 It should be noted that all agreed initiatives within the Action Plan were/are subject to a business case analysis before implementation to ensure value for money.

1.3 The document appended as **Essential Reference Paper B** to this report summarises the work achieved to date (December 2009-January 2011) in implementing actions within the Action Plan.

1.4 The Task and Finish Group reviewed progress made for each action within the Climate Change Action Plan over the past year and is pleased with the progress achieved to date. Having considered each action in depth the Group made a range of comments, which are detailed below, together with suggestions for additional actions where the Group felt it appropriate.

2.0 Report

2.1 In summary the Climate Change Task and Finish Group believe that very considerable progress has been made over the past year. The Group noted that a number of achievements have been particularly aided by the C3W programme which has provided a useful mechanism to enable the implementation of several actions.

2.2 The Group recognised that a main area for future activity is likely to be staff education and awareness raising. It was agreed that this was best focussed once refurbishment and the office moves had been completed. A detailed awareness raising programme is being prepared by officers with a view to launching this in October 2011 during National Energy Efficiency Week, details of which will be promoted in the October edition of *Update*.

2.3 The Group made detailed comments in relation to activities undertaken as part of the Action Plan, the main points of which are summarised below:

- *Action Plan 1.21:* Working at home would potentially save energy usage at Wallfields but members were concerned that this would displace consumption to the homes of individual staff. Officers confirmed that the major and larger saving would come from reduced commuting and congestion – which in totality would outweigh heat/light used in the home.
- *Action Plan 1.24:* The Group suggest that the use of electrical timers be investigated to switch off vending machines in all council buildings, including leisure and office facilities, when the buildings are unoccupied.
- *Action Plan 1.26:* The Group suggest that a new action be

added relating to reducing the flushing of urinals when the offices are unoccupied. This could be achieved by fitting a timer or sensor to the system to reduce water usage.

- *Action Plan 1.27:* The Group considered the issues relating to rainwater harvesting which centre on the very long payback period. Members noted that although this action was not to be progressed at Buntingford depot, the new in-coming waste and recycling contractor had expressed ideas for reducing utilities usage on that site which will be explored in the future.
- *Action Plan 1.33:* The Group expressed their concern that bottled water is still supplied in Room 27, Wallfields, when there is a kitchen across the corridor.
- *Action Plan 2.4:* The Group identified that members on Development Control Committee tended to travel out to view sites individually in their own cars. The Group recognised that although there could be problems co-ordinating a minibus and an additional expense to the Council, it was felt that all members should at least be encouraged to car share to undertake these visits.
- *Action Plan 2.5:* The Group noted that the cycle racks from out side Hertford Theatre had gone following the rebuild, although it was recognised that there were racks close by, adjacent to the public toilets. The Group suggested that green travel options including noting the availability of cycle racks in Hertford be publicised on Hertford Theatre publicity where appropriate.
- *Action Plan 3.6:* The Group was concerned to note that not all laser printers and copiers had been set up to automatically default to double-sided printing. This Group felt that this needs to be addressed as soon as possible.
- *Action Plan 3.16:* Members of the Group were pleased to hear that the new in-coming waste and recycling contractor will be using a modern fleet of energy efficient vehicles which also have on board technology to monitor the style of driving, thereby enabling training to be provided as appropriate in fuel efficient safe driving. It was further noted that a reduction in carbon emissions during the life of the contact is a requirement and the new contractor has undertaken to make increasing use of fuel with a higher than standard percentage

of biofuel. The contractor will be providing a fuel tank at the depot for this purpose.

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.

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ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

<p>Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives:</p>	<p>Pride in East Herts <i>Improve standards of the neighbourhood and environmental management in our towns and villages.</i></p> <p>Caring about what's built and where <i>Care for and improve our natural and built environment.</i></p> <p>Shaping now, shaping the future <i>Safeguard and enhance our unique mix of rural and urban communities, ensuring sustainable, economic and social opportunities including the continuation of effective development control and other measures.</i></p> <p>Leading the way, working together <i>Deliver responsible community leadership that engages with our partners and the public.</i></p>
<p>Consultation:</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>Legal:</p>	<p>There are believed to be no legal implications arising from this report</p>
<p>Financial:</p>	<p>There are believed to be no financial implication arising from this report, as all actions will be subject to a full business case analysis before implementation.</p>
<p>Human Resource:</p>	<p>There are no human resources implications arising from this report</p>
<p>Risk Management:</p>	<p>There are no risk management implications arising from this report</p>