

## ENERGY POLICY

### 1. Aim

The aim of this policy is to document the Council's commitment to reduce its energy consumption through energy efficiencies and to protect finite resources and help combat climate change through investment in renewable energy from sustainable sources.

The Climate Change Levy (CCL) was introduced in April 2001 which taxed the use of fossil fuels (by all parts of the non-domestic sector (including business, agriculture, and the public sector)), encouraging the exploration of alternatives such as solar and wind technologies and the reduction of energy usage itself through better management of its resource.

### 2. The Policy Statement

#### Long-term corporate goals

The Council's long-term corporate goals are to:

- reduce energy costs
- increase energy efficiency
- reduce consumption of finite fossil fuels
- increase the proportion of renewable energy compared to fossil fuels
- increase investment in clean, energy efficient technologies
- reduce all environmental impacts arising from energy consumption as far as is practical, consistent with the operational needs of our activities

#### Medium-term Objectives

The Council's medium-term objectives, over the next five years, are to:

- reduce energy consumption by 5% by 2010
- reduce Carbon Dioxide emissions against gas consumption by 5% by 2010

### 3. Government Guidance

In April 2004 Central Government released a document called 'Energy Efficiency – The Government's Plan for Action' in which the Secretary of State for the Environment outlined how it intended to action, and indeed build on its 'Energy White Paper'. The Energy White Paper, issued a year earlier, announced a goal to reduce the UK's carbon emissions by some 60% by around 2050 putting energy efficiencies and renewable energy (non-fossil fuel) at the heart of its campaign with

an interim target of 20% of the UK's electricity being supplied from a renewable source by 2010.

#### **4. Green Energy**

##### *Energy supplied from a renewable source*

The Council, through its association with the North East Purchasing Organisation (NEPO), has subscribed to a 3-year contract of Green energy for 100% of its electricity consumption including street lighting. The premium to procure green energy is largely offset by the climate change levy, as sites using green energy are exempt.

The Council intends to continue its commitment to procuring Green Energy at the appropriate time.

#### **5. Energy Audits**

The Council shall undertake a rolling programme of Energy Audits to help identify areas where energy efficiencies can be achieved and management improved.

#### **6. Initiatives**

In addition to the energy audits, the Council will explore opportunities and initiatives to reduce the Council's energy use. The provision of Building Management Systems (BMS) for the larger properties is to be actively investigated. These systems would provide a central overview of heating systems and their controls to ensure correct temperatures are being enjoyed during occupied hours only and to identify plant failures before they have an impact.

As a major energy user, the Council is in a position to lead by example and substantially reduce energy usage. As well as protecting the environment, energy reduction can achieve financial efficiencies that could be reinvested in further energy schemes.

#### **7. Statement of Commitment**

The Council is corporately committed to meet all statutory requirements for energy efficiencies and carbon dioxide emission reductions.

In addition, the Council will seek to implement additional efficiency measures identified in energy audits.

## **8. Responsibility and Implementation**

This policy will be managed and maintained by the Development and Environment Department's Estates and Property Section, who have the Council's corporate responsibility for Energy Management. The policy will be managed in accordance with the actions identified in paragraph 9, the Action Plan. Some of these actions will link to departmental service plans where indicated.

In order to realise the Policy Statement and to implement the Action Plan, there will need to be specific support and contributions made from key offices across the authority which will include:

- Building Managers – To actively embrace efficiency initiatives.
- Project Officers – To be mindful of energy efficiency opportunities / alternatives when designing and specifying works.
- Economic Regeneration – To identify and secure potential sources of external funding.
- Sustainable Development Officer – To help publicise and promote activities and initiatives.

There is, more importantly, a responsibility for all employees of the Council to exercise good housekeeping and common sense with regards to the use of energy within and around the workplace.

This policy and related Action Plan will be regularly reviewed and updated.

## 9. Action Plan

Action	Target Date	Linked to Service Plans	Contributes to Gershon
1. Undertake rolling programme of energy audits and implement action points (on a priority basis).	2005/07		ò
2. Continue to procure green energy and seek to extend at end of current contract.	2007/08		ò
3. Seek opportunities to install BMS controls to the larger sites and set up procedures to effectively manage their energy consumption.	2005/07		ò
4. Benchmark our energy performance against similar building types to help identify excessive energy users and greatest potential for improvement.	2005/06		
5. Raise staff awareness of their responsibility regarding energy efficiencies (through e-mail or intranet posting). Review staff induction documentation.	2005/06	ò	
6. Ensure energy efficiency measures are incorporated into the design brief of new build and refurbishment projects and that day-to-day maintenance also reflects current best practices.	2005/06		ò
7. Actively seek funding for energy efficiency projects through external funding, internal capital applications and use of the Prudential Code for spend to save schemes.	2005/06	ò	