
ENERGY POLICY

**Responsible Cabinet Member(s) – Councillor Don Bristow,
Resource Management Portfolio
Responsible Director(s) – John Buxton, Director of Development and Environment**

Purpose of Report

1. To consider and to seek approval for the **attached Energy Policy** as Council Policy.

Information and Analysis

Background

2. There is now a wealth of evidence that climate change is occurring, and that the burning of fossil fuels and the emission of greenhouse gases is largely causing this change.
3. In 2003 the Government published its Energy White Paper in which it envisaged the role of local authorities being pivotal in delivering carbon dioxide reduction targets.
4. In order to deliver carbon reductions the procurement of energy supplied from renewable sources and the reduction of energy usage through efficiency measures is paramount.
5. The reduction of energy usage will reduce the running costs of the Council's buildings and contribute towards the Gershon agenda.
6. The attached Energy Policy is intended to document the Council's commitment to:
 - (a) reducing its energy consumption through energy efficiencies;
 - (b) protecting finite resources;
 - (c) combating climate change through investment in renewable energy from sustainable sources.
7. The long and medium term goals focus our efforts on energy efficiencies and renewable energy in line with guidance issued in the Government Energy White Paper on how best to achieve a reduction in our carbon emissions. The target of 5% reduction in the medium-term objectives may appear low, but already the Council is procuring 100% of its electricity from renewable energy.
8. Energy audits are currently being undertaken in the schools and have already identified no cost/low cost opportunities for reducing consumption and energy efficiencies. As indicated in the Action Plan appended to the Policy, a programme of energy audits needs to be rolled out across the remainder of the Council's portfolio. However the full potential of our energy reduction capacity will be unclear until the proposed audits are completed and reviewed.

Outcome of Consultation

9. The format of the Energy Policy is supported by best practice recommended by the Building Research Establishment and follows consultation with several neighbouring Local Authorities who have adopted similar formats. Internal Council consultation also supports this policy.

Legal Implications

10. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

11. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Council Policy Framework

12. The issues contained within this report represent change to Council policy.

Decision Deadline

13. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.

Recommendation

14. It is recommended that Cabinet requests Council to approve the attached Energy Policy as Council policy.

Reasons

15. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons :-
 - (a) To demonstrate the Council's commitment to be energy efficient and to combating climate change by acknowledging a need to act and adopting self imposed targets to achieve measurable results.
 - (b) To give strength, direction and support to energy management within the authority through Council policy.

John Buxton
Director of Development and Environment

Background Papers

Building Research Establishment Good Practice Guide 186 - Developing Effective Energy Policy

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