

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Strategic Planning and Environment Policy Development and Review Panel

Date **16 July 2013**

Report of: **Director of Planning and Environment**

Subject: **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY: ACTION PLAN
(ANNUAL UPDATE)**

SUMMARY

The Environmental Sustainability Action Plan has been reviewed in light of comments received from the March 2012 Strategic Planning and Environment Policy Development and Review Panel and discussions with the Chief Executive's Management Team (CXMT). The new format focuses on "priority actions" that the Council are currently working on, whilst also providing an update on "ongoing actions". There is also a new section on "actions for Welborne" to reflect the importance of the new community in relation to overall growth in the Borough. The report sets out all updates achieved in the last 12-18 months against all the Actions in the Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to comment on and support the revised ESAP format and the new Actions and targets within it, whilst noting the significant progress made against the Actions in the Plan. The revised ESAP will be taken to the Executive in autumn for approval.

Introduction

1. At its meeting on 12 November 2009, the Panel considered a draft Climate Change Strategy and recommended it to the Executive. Subsequent to that meeting the strategy was strengthened to cover wider issues in relation to the use of natural resources and reducing the Council's impact on the environment. To reflect this wider remit it was renamed the Environmental Sustainability Strategy and was approved by the Executive on 8 March 2010.
2. The Strategy contained an Action Plan called the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan (ESAP) which set out actions to reduce carbon emissions, manage natural resources more effectively and adapt to climate change. Since the start of the Action Plan a number of actions have been completed, whilst others have not been progressed due to feasibility or resource constraints. Other actions in the plan are so high level or generalised that they are almost impossible to achieve. At the presentation of the ESAP to the Strategic Planning and Environment Policy Development and Review Panel in March 2012 it was recommended that the whole Action Plan would benefit from a review.
3. Since the last update the ESAP has gone through a number of stages of review. It was presented to the Chief Executive's Management Team (CXMT) in July 2012, which set out the achievements made through the ESAP since its inception. The presentation also introduced a number of potential sustainable projects that would benefit the Council.
4. A revised ESAP was then prepared, in consultation with relevant officers responsible for actions in the Plan, and was taken to CXMT in March 2013. However, it was felt that the ESAP lacked focus, and incorporated too many individual actions. It has been subsequently revised to alter the format, reduce the overall number of actions to incorporate key actions currently being done, but also to keep track of ongoing issues and actions and provide an annual update.

Format

5. The revised ESAP has four key objectives:
 - Reduce carbon emissions across Council operations by 20% by 2020
 - Reduce the Carbon footprint of the Borough
 - Manage Natural Resources More Efficiently
 - Ensure Welborne promotes high levels of resource efficiency, particularly for energy, water and waste
6. The Action Plan to achieve these objectives is split into three distinct categories:
 - A. Priority Actions
 - B. Ongoing Actions
 - C. Welborne Actions
7. Priority Actions are short/medium term projects that will be delivered in the foreseeable future. Each of these actions will be given an indicative timescale for delivery and a lead officer tasked with taking the project forward. The annual review

to the Strategic Planning and Environment PDR Panel will provide an update on each of the actions demonstrating whether these actions have met, or are on course to meet, their predicted delivery deadlines. These actions are the focus of what the Council will be doing to help meet the key objectives in the next 12 months.

8. Ongoing Actions are projects that are ongoing and, therefore, have no "end date". An update on these projects will be provided by the assigned lead officer at the Corporate Sustainability Group meetings, and for the annual review of the ESAP which is taken to the Strategic Planning & Environment PDR Panel. These actions are no less important, but are topics and projects that the Council should be doing on a continual basis.
9. Welborne is allocated for thousands of new homes as well as new employment and retail floorspace and significant green infrastructure. It is one of the largest growth points in the sub-region and the focus for development in the Borough for the next 25 years. It provides both a significant challenge but also unique opportunities in terms of its energy needs and its impact on natural resources. The actions in this section reflect the Council's commitment to delivering a sustainable project and are mostly a reflection of the Council's position regarding The Welborne Plan. As the project moves forward it is likely that these actions will become more focussed, and may become priority or ongoing actions once the Plan is adopted.
10. The new ESAP is available to view in full in Appendix A.

Revised Actions

11. As previously stated, it was considered that the some of the actions in the previous version were far too general, whilst others have been completed. Below is a list of all actions in the previous version of the ESAP that have now been deleted.

Action	Reason for deletion
Appoint a Sustainability Co-ordinator to drive forward the Environmental Sustainability strategy and action plan.	Complete
Replace boilers in Ferneham Hall	Complete
Replace light fittings in car parks (subject to resolution of any health and safety concerns)	Complete
Reduce buildings maintenance fleet to 10 vehicles	Complete
Work in partnership with Hampshire County Council to identify opportunities to increase the amount of energy produced from waste. (Conflicts with action 15)	Conflicts with Project Integra
Undertake a comprehensive risk based assessment of Fareham's vulnerabilities to	Complete

Action	Reason for deletion
climate change.	
Evaluate the use of refuse vehicles with battery operated hydraulics	Not considered viable
Develop 5 new homes to Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4	All completed and occupied
Support completed of Phase 1 of BRT system	Complete
Ensure that the NCF meets sustainability requirements	Expanded into new section with multiple actions

12. In terms of major projects added, a new key objective is the proposed new carbon emissions reduction target of 20% by 2020. This is in response to successfully meeting the target of 10% between March 2009 and March 2011.
13. New "priority actions" include auditing the energy and water performance of the Council's housing stock, investigating the feasibility of a rainwater harvesting system at the Depot, piloting sustainable construction techniques on a number of new affordable housing units, undertake a renewable energy capacity study and become involved with neighbouring authorities in projects such as "Switch Hampshire" and the "Solent Green Deal".
14. New "ongoing actions" include producing a bi-annual report for the Home and Energy Conservation Act (HECA), co-ordinate sustainable travel initiatives and monitor waste and recycling procedures in the Civic Offices and Depot.
15. New "actions for Welborne" include investigating the feasibility of implementing an ESCO or MUSCO to deliver utility infrastructure, provide for BRT, provide for pedestrian and cycle links and to provide a Green Infrastructure Strategy.

Updates and Achievements

16. A full list of all the actions in the ESAP, including a detailed update for each action, is included in Appendix A. However, the following projects have been concluded in the last 12 months and therefore no longer appear on the Action Plan.
17. The Council has installed Solar Panels on the Council Depot, Barnfield Court and Downing Court resulting in income to the Council through the Feed-in-Tariff and reduced electricity costs. The largest array is at the Depot at 19.11kW, this was installed before the 1 March 2012 and so receives the highest possible Feed-in-Tariff figure of 32.9p per kWh generated, the two sheltered schemes generate 11.76kW between them and receive 16.8p per kWh generated. The grid usage in these buildings has fallen 30-40% since the installations have taken place (comparing usage in Jan 2012 and Jan 2013).
18. The "Insulate Hampshire" project finished in December 2012. This partnership project was set up to offer cheap loft and cavity wall insulations for residents of Hampshire.

Fareham had one of the highest uptakes of the offer in the County, and since July 2011, 1,080 loft insulations and 813 cavity wall insulations have been installed.

The Future

19. Rising energy and heating costs as well as dwindling natural resources will continue to push the "green" agenda into the limelight. New green technologies and initiatives will continue to be developed and it is important that the Council remains open to them, especially where they can reduce emissions, save natural resources or reduce costs to the Council or residents. Therefore, the ESAP will need to be flexible and changeable.
20. It is proposed that, in the future, as part of the annual update to the ESAP any appropriate new proposals that have been considered or put forward are incorporated as new actions in the Action Plan. This will allow the ESAP to assign responsibility and monitor progression.
21. A Corporate Sustainability Group has been brought back together, consisting of all officers who are responsible for any actions within the ESAP. This group will meet quarterly to ensure ongoing progress and delivery of the actions. The ESAP will also be taken to the Chief Executive's Management Team (CXMT) twice a year.
22. An update on the ESAP will be presented to the SP&E Panel annually to provide an update on all actions within the Plan and also to highlight actions which have been either completed, and therefore removed, or added as new actions.
23. Given that there have been a number of changes to the structure of the ESAP and a number of new actions and targets have been introduced, it is considered necessary for the revised ESAP to be taken to the Executive in Autumn this year for approval.

Reference Papers:

Appendix A: New Environmental Sustainability Action Plan with Updates (where applicable)

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Mark Chevis, Principal Planner (Strategy) (Ext 4551)

APPENDIX A**Environmental Sustainability Action Plan Update**

The following action plan lists out various actions which will help to meet the Council's Priority to "protect and enhance the environment", and to help meet one of the four key objectives. The Action Plan is split into three sections:

- A. Priority Actions: These are short/medium term projects that will be delivered in the foreseeable future. Each of these actions are given an indicative timescale for delivery and a lead officer tasked with taking the project forward.
- B. Ongoing Actions: These are projects that are ongoing and so have no "end date". An update on these projects will be provided by the assigned lead officer at the Corporate Sustainability Group meetings, and for the annual review of the ESAP which is taken to the SP&E Panel.
- C. Welborne Actions: These actions are specific to the Welborne development. These are all related to the Welborne Plan for the time being but will become priority or ongoing actions once the Plan is adopted.

Please note that the Sustainability Co-ordinator will play a supporting role in progressing all actions on the list.

Key Objectives

- Reduce carbon emissions across Council operations by 20% by 2020
- Reduce the Carbon footprint of the Borough
- Manage Natural Resources More Efficiently
- Ensure Welborne promotes high levels of resource efficiency, particularly for energy, water and waste

A. Priority Actions

No.	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	Update
1	Install & connect smart meters in the Civic Offices, whilst allowing for additional meters to be installed in at Ferneham Hall and the Council Depot	Head of Estates	December 2013	Some smart meters were installed as part of the refurbishment of the building. These are not connected or monitored at present. SHM Communications have been chosen to undertake the work.
2	Undertake external audit of all Council housing stock, which includes investigating methods of reducing energy consumption	Head of Building Services	Audit Report by July 2013.	The draft Housing Energy and Water Survey has been completed by Clouds Environmental Services Ltd. A programme of works has been

No.	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	Update
	and possible use of renewable source for electricity and heat		Likely to result in future actions.	identified but has not been finalised, this includes loft insulations, new showers, replacement double glazing. The report will inform an Energy/Water Strategy for the Council's housing stock and will most likely result in further actions in due course.
3	Investigate potential for rainwater harvesting for Depot	Head of Estates	December 2013	Currently investigating the potential to extend the remit of Clouds Environmental Services (see action 2) to cover the Depot. This would include looking into the feasibility of rainwater harvesting.
4	Investigate alternative cycle storage/shower and locker facilities in the Civic Offices	Head of Estates	March 2014	Report was taken to CXMT on 30 th January 2013 outlining some potential solutions including refurbishing existing showers and installing a locker room on the 9 th floor as well as showing various solutions to cycle storage issues. CXMT requested investigating a further option looking at utilising the turning circle and basement.
5	Investigate potential for water saving technology in the Civic Offices & Depot, such as waterless urinals, dual flush toilets, better shower/tap fittings	Head of Estates	March 2014	Currently investigating the potential to extend the remit of Clouds Environmental Services (see action 2) to cover the Civic Offices. This would include looking into the feasibility of water saving technology.
6	Replacing windows in Civic office	Head of Building Services	2017/18	Programmed for 2017/18.
7	Pilot the erection of new affordable housing units using a variety of different building techniques	Head of Strategic Housing	Planning application December 2013	Strategic Housing has identified two potential sites (Coldeast Close and rear of 123 Bridge Road) which currently belong to HCA. Currently in the process of finalising land acquisition.

No.	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	Update
8	Undertake Renewable Energy Capacity Study to ascertain capacity for renewable energy in the Borough	Head of Planning Strategy & Environment	Study complete by July 2013	Draft study has been received and Council staff are currently reviewing the findings. Final completed study likely to be end of July 2013.
9	Work with PUSH authorities to help the roll out of Green Deal in the Borough	Sustainability Co-ordinator	Launch June 2013	The "Solent Green Deal" has been led by Officers from Portsmouth City Council, Eastleigh Borough Council and Southampton City Council and recommends a joined up approach between Local Authorities. This involves a PUSH wide partner organisation being appointed to fund the works, but using Council trained Green Deal assessors to visit residents' homes and talk them through potential projects. At the 13 May Executive meeting it was agreed that Fareham should be an official endorser of the Solent Green Deal scheme, which means promoting the scheme and utilising trained assessors from neighbouring authorities. This gives the Council a degree of control over the direction of the scheme, ensuring residents receive high quality service, but at no immediate cost.
10	Work with HCC to promote "Switch Hampshire". The scheme is designed to get residents reduced energy tariffs through collective buying power	Sustainability Co-ordinator	First switch June 4, further switches due in Autumn and Winter	At the 7 January Executive Meeting it was agreed that FBC should become part of the "Switch Hampshire" project aimed at reducing energy bills for residents through collective buying power. Switch Hampshire was promoted locally by FBC and across the County by HCC. Over 5,000 people registered across the County, with over 700 from Fareham. On average over 65% of those who registered were offered a better deal on their energy bills.

B. Ongoing Actions

No.	Action	Lead Officer	Update
11	Promote water and energy efficiency with Staff in Civic Offices/Depot	Head of Estates/Head of Corporate Services	The installation of smart meters will help the Council fully understand who is using the energy and for what. It should also help us monitor the effectiveness of any future promotion.
12	Report on Home Energy Conservation Act. The Council is required to submit a bi-annual progress report to the government on issues relating to energy efficiency and energy conservation	Head of Strategic Housing	This was completed in March 2013.
13	Co-ordination of sustainable travel initiatives.	Sustainability Co-ordinator	National Bike Week (15 th -23 rd June) promoted internally.
14	Reduce energy consumption in the Vehicle Fleet.	Director of Street Scene	A number of refuse collection vehicles have been replaced with more efficient models which do double the mileage of the older versions. The majority of collection vehicles now have electric hoists which also reduces energy consumption. All HGV drivers now sit a module on driving efficiently as part of their initial training. Eco drive assistant has been fitted to two vehicles which limits engine RPM. Budget available to fit similar devices on two new vehicles planned for 2013. Vehicle tracking is also currently being trialled in the Building Services section.
15	Communicate with local residents and providers to reduce domestic energy and water consumption	Head of Corporate Services	As part of a continuing action to engage with residents Fareham has, in collaboration with a number of other Local Authorities in Hampshire, developed a series of simple and informative leaflets. The leaflets contain bullet points setting out helpful messages and suggesting ways of

No.	Action	Lead Officer	Update
			<p>acting more sustainably and saving money. These leaflets will be made available on our website, but will also be available for use at CAT meetings and other public events. The following topics are covered: Top tips, Electricity, Heating, Hot Water, Water, Insulation and draft proofing, Renewable Energy, Electric Heating, Transport & Travel, Waste & Recycling, Adaptation.</p>
16	<p>Apply conditions to planning applications in order to meet Code for Sustainable Homes/BREEAM levels unless it can be demonstrated to be unviable, as set out in Policy Core Strategy Policy CS15</p>	<p>Head of Development Management</p>	<p>The Development Management service is now adding conditions to permissions for residential development to ensure that all new housing meets Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4 (or above). An independent assessment of new homes prior to occupation is required in order for a certificate to be produced which, in turn, satisfies the condition. This will be continually monitored to ascertain its effectiveness, but it should be a major step forward in ensuring that new homes built in the Borough are of a high standard in sustainability terms.</p>
17	<p>Monitor waste procedures in Civic Offices and Depot and promote awareness of recycling amongst staff</p>	<p>Head of Democratic Services</p>	<p>Individual bins have been removed and replaced by communal bins. New signs have been added to all recycling bins to advise which materials can and cannot be recycled.</p>
18	<p>Continue our partnership with Project Integra and Hampshire Council and Project Integra to: a) increase waste recycling including the review of the collection of different materials b) reduce and eventually eliminate use of landfill including reviewing options for waste streams currently sent to landfill.</p>	<p>Director of Street Scene</p>	<p>Approval of Project Integra annual action plan waiting approval from Executive.</p> <p>Landfill in Project Integra authorities has reduced by 9%</p>

No.	Action	Lead Officer	Update
19	Adopt an approach to procurement which has sustainable procurement of goods, materials and services as a major component.	Director of Finance and Resources	The County Council is developing a "sustainable procurement toolkit" for use by Local Authorities. This will focus on ascertaining potential areas of concern, regarding sustainability issues, for individual projects and then highlighting ways of minimising risks.

C. Actions for Welborne

No.	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	Update
20	Investigate feasibility of implementing an ESCO or MUSCO to deliver sustainable utility infrastructure for Welborne	Director of Finance/ Head of Planning for Welborne	December 2013	Consultancy advice currently being undertaken on development of infrastructure funding strategy which will include options for energy infrastructure
21	Plan for a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) or district heating network to serve the District Centre	Head of Planning for Welborne	September 2014	Policy included in the draft Welborne Plan.
22	Provide dedicated pedestrian and cycle links within Welborne that link to connections to neighbouring settlements	Head of Planning for Welborne	September 2014	Policy included in the draft Welborne Plan.
23	Optimise energy efficiency in the new development and ensure a proportion of new dwellings are built to "passivhaus" standard	Head of Planning for Welborne	September 2014	Policy included in the draft Welborne Plan.
24	Ensure all new residential development at Welborne will be designed to achieve good practice standards of water efficiency	Head of Planning for Welborne	September 2014	Policy included in the draft Welborne Plan.

25	Make provision, as part of the Welborne development, for additional Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) capacity to meet the needs of the development.	Head of Planning for Welborne	September 2014	Issue included in the draft Welborne Plan. Potential site identified at Pinks Hill.
26	Supporting future BRT links to Welborne	Head of Planning for Welborne	September 2014	Policy included in the draft Welborne Plan.