

To: Executive Board – 7 November 2005

## RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Finance Scrutiny Committee – 12 October 2005

### **LEISURE BEST VALUE REVIEW SCOPING REPORT**

At the above meeting, the Committee was told that the Strategic Director (Physical Environment) had not been able to submit a scoping document to the meeting as she had not, at the time of the meeting, been able to set up a scoping group or appoint a project manager.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Strategic Director had indicated that this would not affect the timetable for the review as previously outlined to it, the Committee resolved: -

That the Executive Board be INFORMED of the Committee's extreme concern at the lack of progress with arrangements for carrying out the review of Leisure Services: an area of the Council's activities which is a cause for concern to the Committee.

Environment Scrutiny Committee – 17 October 2005

### **38. CLIMATE CHANGE**

The Strategy and Review Business Manager submitted a paper (previously circulated and now appended). Dr. Rajat Gupta gave a presentation on his work in preparing the Oxford Climate Change Action Plan. The full report will be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

Dr. Gupta's presentation covered climate change and the need for action before moving on to focus more on Oxford in relation to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and proposing specific measures for the City's future wellbeing.

Action to reduce emissions were needed on a national scale and would result in wide ranging social and environmental benefits. Various models existed in the UK to monitor emissions although Global Information System based models had been identified as the best way forward in terms of data management. Accurate data on emissions helped to identify main energy users, set reduction targets and measure the effectiveness of action taken. Dr. Gupta presented specific data on emissions for Oxford against national standards which demonstrated that, for example, Oxford residents generate almost 2.5 times more CO<sub>2</sub> per annum than the recognised sustainable level. Information was then shown on how other cities worldwide were beginning to set targets to deal with the problems.

Dr. Gupta then spoke about targets specific for Oxford showing the requirement for a 20% reduction in emissions by 2015 and a 60% reduction by 2050. Improving household energy efficiency by 15% by 2010 was a target towards which a range of actions including hot water cylinder, cavity wall and roof insulation and

double glazing would contribute to on existing properties. New build should aim to increase their inclusion of sustainability measures.

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Members were unanimous in congratulating Dr. Gupta on his presentation and said that they looked forward to receiving the final report.

Resolved to ASK the Executive Board: -

1. to arrange for a quotation for a GIS model that can be used to monitor energy emissions across the city.
2. ensure that a CO<sub>2</sub> emissions audit is undertaken on all Council owned buildings and prepare a report on which buildings would benefit from CO<sub>2</sub> reducing energy systems
3. to make budgetary provision in the next Council year to enable an education programme to be extended to all City tenants and residents on the importance of energy conservation.

*A note from the Scrutiny Officer is attached which gives some background to this recommendation. However, it should be noted that the Committee has not made any recommendation regarding the amount of budgetary provision required for an education programme (recommendation 3).*

## **Note to Executive Board – 7<sup>th</sup> November 2005**

### **Climate Change Action Plan – Environment Scrutiny Committee Recommendations**

The Environment Scrutiny Committee received a presentation from Dr Rajat Gupta at their meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> October. Dr Gupta has been commissioned by Oxford City Council to produce a climate change action plan for Oxford. The main report is still to be completed, but the main points and conclusions were outlined to members. Presentation slides are available on request.

Among the main points in Dr Gupta's presentation were:

- Department for Trade and Industry 2003 local energy statistics for Oxford show that the total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the city were 827,095 tCO<sub>2</sub>.
- Commercial and industrial consumers accounted for 47%, domestic consumers for 30% and road transport for 23% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Oxford.
- Personal transport is responsible for 70% of transport emissions in Oxford.
- Oxford residents generate almost 2.5 times more CO<sub>2</sub> per annum than the recognised sustainable level.

The Committee agreed with Dr Gupta's view that action to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is needed on a national scale and would result in wide ranging social and environmental benefits. Various models existed in the UK to monitor emissions, although Global Information System based models had been identified as the best in terms of data management. Accurate data on emissions helped to identify main energy users, set reduction targets and measure the effectiveness of action taken to reduce emissions.

In line with national goals, the overall aim contained in the Oxford Air Quality Action Plan will be that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are reduced by over 60% by 2050 compared to 2000 levels, with the following targets in between:

- 15% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2010 (2000 baseline)
- 20% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2015 (2000 baseline)
- 30% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2020 (2000 baseline)
- 40% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2030 (2000 baseline)

Although the completed action plan is not yet available, the Environment Scrutiny Committee agreed to make the following recommendations to the Executive Board in order to highlight the importance of this issue.

Resolved to ask the Executive Board:

1. to arrange for a quotation for a GIS model that can be used to monitor energy emissions across the city.
2. ensure that a CO2 emissions audit is undertaken on all Council owned buildings and prepare a report on which buildings would benefit from CO2 reducing energy systems
3. to make budgetary provision in the next Council year to enable an education programme to be extended to all City tenants and residents on the importance of energy conservation.