

Report of: Strategy & Review Business Manager

To: Executive Board

Date: 3 April 2006

Item No:

Title of Report: Climate Change Implementation Plan



Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To update Executive Board on progress made with development of an implementation plan to support delivery of the Oxford Climate Change Action Plan (OCCAP). The first draft of the implementation plan outlines actions within existing resources and identifies future actions for which additional resources may be required.

Key decision: No

Portfolio Holder: Cllr John Tanner



Scrutiny Responsibility: Environment

Ward(s) affected: All

Report Approved by: Janet Banfield, Strategy & Review Business Manager



Michael Lawrence, Strategic Director Housing Health and Community
Cllr John Tanner, Environment Portfolio Holder



Lindsay Cane, Legal Services
Andy Collett, Finance



Policy Framework: Supports Oxford Local Plan 2006-2009 priority: "Become leader in environmental resource management". The Local Plan calls for continued efforts to reduce fuel poverty, promote alternative energy sources maximise fuel efficiency, while reducing energy use in our business premises and public buildings.

Recommendations: Executive Board is asked to:

1. Welcome the establishment of a cross-Council Climate Change Action Team to implement recommended action of the OCCAP.



Support progress made to date in developing implementation plan.

3. Request that the Climate Change Action Team continue to develop the implementation plan and provide an update to Executive Board in September 2006.



Summary

1. On February 20, 2006, Executive Board approved a series of recommendations from the OCCAP to be implemented over the next four years:
 - Reduce Council CO2 emissions by up to 25% by 2010 (from 2005 baseline)
 - Raise awareness and understanding of climate change in Oxford
 - Improve energy efficiency standards of new developments
 - Increase uptake of low carbon systems among businesses and residents
 - Transform Oxford into sustainable city (Reduce CO2 emissions by 15% by 2010 – from 2005 baseline)

Executive Board also requested that the Strategy and Review Business Manager establish a cross-Council Climate Change Action Team, and submit an implementation Plan to the April meeting of the Executive Board.

2. The attached action plan represents a first draft of an implementation plan to meet the above recommendations in the coming four years.

Issues

3. The Climate Change Action Team (CCAT) met for the first time on March 8, 2006. This cross-Council team is comprised of officers from Planning, Leisure and Cultural Services, Oxford Building Solutions, Environmental Health, Built Environment and Strategy & Review and will be chaired by Michael Lawrence, Strategic Director for Housing, Health and Community. In addition, the Green and Labour parties have nominated representatives to sit on the group. Additional team members are being sought from City Works and Asset Management for the next meeting on March 29 2006.
4. Over the next six months, the CCAT will work up a terms of reference for the group, establish guiding principles for working, discuss operational issues to supplement larger projects, expand details within the action plan, and respond to identified needs for effective implementation (see item 7). Links will also be made to other related projects, such as the Wind Turbine study.
5. Over the next twelve months, the CCAT will also examine the results of planned audits and monitoring work and identify actions/projects to respond to issues; attempts will be made to align or seek resources for implementation of these actions/projects, which will provide direction for much of the work of years 2, 3, and 4.
6. The CCAT has identified the following requirements for effective action:

Developing OCC commitment:

- Political and constitutional commitment to climate change, including specific policy related to CO₂ and a clear energy/climate change framework for OCC;
- Annual reductions in the Council's own CO₂ emissions and those of the city as a whole to become key performance targets for the Council;

Agreeing Baseline Data and Methodology:

- Replicable, consistent, independent monitoring of emissions in Oxford on year-to-year basis to ensure accurate performance management of City Council targets;
- Improved monitoring of Council CO₂ emissions, coupled with publicity of targets and progress;
- Prediction of CO₂ reductions for all planned climate change/energy work and development of proposals that promise greatest reductions for Oxford;

Aligning Resources:

- Alignment of existing City Council resources, both in personnel and revenue, to implement the recommended actions from the OCCAP;

Finding New Resources:

- Dedicated resources to monitor council energy use, as well as implement recommended changes based on existing audits and monitoring;

Developing Partnerships:

- Improved connectedness with businesses in the city, as well as with universities, to encourage change outside of City Council;
- Citywide coordination on climate change to monitor progress towards final recommendation – to reduce CO₂ emissions in Oxford by 15% by 2010.

Raising Awareness:

- Increased internal (i.e. OCC workforce) awareness raising and behavioural change related to climate change;
- Flagship projects within Oxford.

All of these issues and others will be addressed at future meetings of the CCAT.

7. Immediate actions for CCAT response include:

- a. Develop strategic energy/climate change framework for work within City Council (to encompass approach to energy and climate change issues that include current action and direction for future)
- b. Define, in absolute terms, tonnes of CO₂ to be reduced by 2010 by both City Council and across Oxford
- c. Define, in clear terms, baseline data set to be used to measure progress
- d. Predict impact (in CO₂) for each identified action
- e. Identify potential actions with major impact for CO₂ reductions in Oxford.

Resource implications

8. A preliminary estimate of the additional resources needed for implementation of the recommended actions over a four-year period were estimated at £350K in the 20 February 2006 report to EB:
- Expand energy monitoring of CO2 emissions across Council (£25K)
 - Implement energy saving and renewable energy options in Council buildings based on outcomes of energy audits and monitoring (£125K)
 - Work with diverse partners to communicate climate change and encourage energy conservation and renewable energy across Oxford (£40 over 4 years).
 - Appoint Climate Change Officer to monitor and drive forward implementation of the OCCAP and related climate change and energy initiatives (£160 over 4 years).

Approximately £130K has been identified in the recently agreed budget to meet a number of these resource needs.


9. All items listed in the attached implementation action plan represent planned expenditures and project work within the City Council; these can be resourced either within existing resources or through the resources provided in this year's budget round.
10. Items listed under "Requirements for effective action" represent an initial assessment of potential budgetary and staffing shortfalls for successfully meeting implementation goals, particularly those relating to actions stemming from audit and monitoring work.
11. Shortfalls may be met through: (1) Additional forthcoming budgets through the normal budgetary processes over the 4-year period; (2) Alignment of existing revenue budgets from the business units represented on the Climate Change Action Team to achieve OCCAP objectives; (3) Outside funding sources.

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Appendices:

- Draft OCCAP Implementation Action Plan

Background papers:

- "Oxford Climate Change Action Plan", Dr. Rajat Gupta, Oxford Brookes University
-  • "Natural Resources Impact Analysis Supplementary Planning Document", Planning Policy, Oxford City Council

