

To: City Executive Board

Date: 1 September 2010 **Item No:** 5

Report of: Head of Environmental Development

Title of Report: Approval of Energy Saving Trust 121 Action plan

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To advise the City Executive Board of the outcome of the Energy Saving Trust audit, subsequent workshop and recommended actions to achieve an 'Excellent' rating in 2010/11 and 'Best Practice' in 2011/12

Key decision? Yes

Executive lead member: Cllr John Tanner (Cleaner, Greener City)

Report approved by

Finance: Gillian Chandler

Legal: Jeremy Thomas

Policy Framework: This specifically contributes to the corporate objective to: Tackle climate change and promote sustainable resource management

Recommendation(s):

The City Executive Board is recommended to: -

- (i) Note the outcome of the Energy Saving Trust audit and subsequent workshop.
- (ii) Approve the recommended action plan to achieve 'Excellent' in 2010/11 and 'Best Practice' in 2011/12

Update on Energy Saving Trust One-to-One Programme

1.0 Introduction

In April 2009 Oxford City Council applied for the Energy Saving Trust One-to-One Programme which offers local authorities 60 days of free support to help develop, embed and deliver a strategic approach to carbon reduction across the full range of services.

The application was sponsored by Leader of the Council, the Cleaner Greener Board Member and the, then, Director of City Regeneration.

In May 2009 Oxford City Council was chosen to participate in the programme.

A motion was passed by Full Council in April 2010 to “note the result of the February 2010 Energy Savings Trust Audit which rated the City Council between ‘good’ and ‘excellent’ on its approach to tackling climate change (below the top two categories of ‘excellent’ and ‘best practice’)”. Further Full Council asked the Executive “to set out a plan to achieve a target of an ‘excellent’ rating this calendar year and aim to deliver ‘best practice’ next year.”

The One-to-One programme is managed by the Environmental Sustainability service area, and the resulting Action Plan requires approval from the Carbon and Natural Resources Board (acquired July 2010) and CEB.

2.0 Action Plan

The Energy Saving Trust delivered the “Oxford City Council: Local area carbon emissions reduction report” in March 2010. This report was an audit of current activity.

The report rated Oxford City Council as 'good to excellent' in terms of our strategy, services and community leadership on climate change and contained recommendations on how to become 'excellent to best practice'.

In May 2010 a workshop was held for key staff from a variety of service areas to select recommendations, from Energy Saving Trust's report, for implementation.

The One-to-One Action Plan contains the recommendations selected at this workshop, taking into account current corporate priorities and resources. The plan has three phases: July - December 2010, January –June 2011 and July 2011 on.

The actions for each phase are outlined in the Action Plan Summary.

3.0 Financial Implications

The Action plan will be delivered using a combination of the following resources:

- Recruitment of 1 full time equivalent existing staff resource
- The remaining 20 days of fully funded Energy Saving Trust consultancy to develop and deliver training. This forms part of the free service provided by the Energy Saving Trust.
- Work carried out through Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs funded Low Emissions work

4.0 Equalities Impact

There are no equalities impacts as a result of this work.

5.0 Risk

There are no significant risks at a corporate or department level associated with the implementation of the action plan. The actions all relate to existing programmes and are resourced using existing establishment.

6.0 Recommendations

It is recommended that Council's Executive Board:

- (i) Note the outcome of the Energy Savings Trust audit and subsequent workshop.
- (ii) Approve the recommended action plan to achieve 'Excellent' in 2010/11 and 'Best Practice' in 2011/12

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Version number: 1.3

Appendix 1:

Oxford City Council Energy Saving Trust One to One Support Programme Action Plan Summary

Oxford City Council One to One Support Programme Action Plan (Version 1.0)

Status: For Approval

Action Plan Summary

No.	Action	
1	Introduce energy training for staff	Dec 2010
2	Include a climate change impact assessment for all major projects/decisions at committee level.	Dec 2010
3	Maintain procurement policies that ensure sustainability is maximised	Dec 2010
4	Promote the Energy Saving Trust's free green fleet review and vehicle carbon foot printing services to local businesses.	Dec 2010
5	Work with unions to revise financial incentives around grey fleet.	Dec 2010
6	Develop our Green Travel Plan	Dec 2010
7	Encourage staff to use more efficient vehicles for work and consider prohibiting high polluting vehicles (offering pool vehicles instead).	Dec 2010
8	Continue to recognise the value of energy efficiency improvements as part of regeneration.	Dec 2010
9	Continue promoting Energy Saving Trust's free domestic and travel advice to staff.	Dec 2010
10	Maintain its partnership with the Energy Saving Trust advice centre and engage with other partners	Dec 2010
11	Ensure that Building Control Officers are trained and encouraged to promote sustainable energy	Dec 2010

Action Plan Summary (cont)

Phase 2: January – June 2011

No.	Action	
1	Consider introducing fiscal measures to encourage reduced car use and cleaner car purchase such as carbon-based car parking charges.	June 2011
2	Continue encouraging Combined Heat and Power (CHP) and District Heating to provide heat and electricity to new and existing buildings.	Jun 2011
3	Establish a formal co-operative working practice for RSL tenants to access energy efficiency and fuel poverty advice and assistance.	June 2011
4	use the planning system to encourage improved standards in existing as well as new dwellings.	June 2011
5	Proactively engage with private sector landlords to increase their uptake of energy efficiency measures, and consider financial support from the Council.	June 2011
6	Continue developing partnerships with delivery organisations to provide reduced cost energy efficiency measures to all private sector households	June 2011
7	Specify a minimum level of the Code for Sustainable Homes across all new development	June 2011
8	Through Local Strategic Partnership: further develop the 'green treaty' with pathfinder organisations to promote a low carbon economy	June 2011
9	Ensure that a cross-council system is in place for gathering data relating to sustainable energy	June 2011
10	Ensure the planning committee is trained on sustainable energy issues/ low carbon energy.	June 2011

Phase 3: July 2011 – July 2012

No.	Action	
1	Develop and implement a planned maintenance programme to improve all 'hard to treat' dwellings	July 2012
2	Set minimum SAP rating targets and implement targets to raise minimum SAP ratings in social housing	July 2012
3	Maintain and possibly further develop its cross-service energy/climate change group.	July 2012
4	Consider further strengthening its commitment to becoming a carbon neutral organisation	July 2012
5	Consider carbon offsetting	July 2012
6	Maintain its relationship with the local Energy Saving Trust advice centre	July 2012
7	Make full use of available resources and tools such as those obtainable through the Green Communities programme	July 2012
8	Signpost community groups in the area to the Green Communities resources and tools	July 2012
9	Further develop business engagement building on work already undertaken through the Business Breakfasts	July 2012

