

**To: City Executive Board**

**Date: 9 February 2017**

**Report of: Scrutiny Committee**

**Title of Report: Refresh of Carbon Management Plan: 2017/18 to 2021/22**

## **Summary and Recommendations**

**Purpose of report:** To present the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee on the Carbon Management Plan decision.

**Scrutiny Lead Member:** Councillor Andrew Gant, Chair of Scrutiny

**Executive lead member:** Councillor John Tanner, Board Member for A Clean Green Oxford

**Recommendation** of the Scrutiny Committee to the City Executive Board:

**That the City Executive Board states whether it agrees or disagrees with the two recommendations set out in the body of this report.**

## **Background**

1. The Scrutiny Committee scrutinised the Carbon Management Plan decision at a meeting on 30 January 2017. The Committee would like to thank Paul Robinson (Energy and Natural Resources Team Manager) for attending the meeting to present the report and answer questions.

## **Findings and recommendations**

2. The Energy and Natural Resources Team Manager introduced the report and said that it set out in detail how the council would aim to continue to meet its ambition to reduce carbon emissions by 5% per year. The Committee welcomed the report and commended officers for doing an excellent job.
3. The Committee questioned the level of Salix funding available to the council and whether this was a limiting factor. The Committee heard that the council has achieved a Salix revolving loan fund of £605k, 50% of which was provided by the Government - who take a cautious approach to allocating Salix funding. This

translates to c.£100k-£150k per year to spend on carbon reduction measures in buildings with a payback of 5 years or less. The council had been able to reach this level of funding by building good business cases and demonstrating that additional funding allocated to the council would be spent. The Committee suggest that the council could release revenue from the transformation budget to fund invest to save carbon reduction schemes. The council could also consider prudential borrowing where schemes would generate a good return.

***Recommendation 1 – That consideration is given to releasing revenue from the transformation budget and prudential borrowing in order to fund carbon reduction schemes, subject to robust business cases.***

4. The Committee noted the wider options for carbon reduction (listed on page 19 of the Plan) and suggested that there was an opportunity to influence the development of the Local Plan review and to factor carbon reductions into future planning policies, for example in relation to the designing of new homes and infrastructure, spatial planning and tree planting. The Energy and Natural Resources Team Manager said that he would be contributing guidance and best practice to the Local Plan review and the Committee wanted to support this with a recommendation.

***Recommendation 2 – That guidance and best practice in relation to carbon reduction measures are taken into account during the Local Plan review and influence future planning conditions on new developments.***

5. The Committee also had a wide ranging discussion covering opportunities to use bio fuels in fleet vehicles, emissions at leisure centres, 'load shifting' to reduce energy costs and the possibility of switching void council owned properties to alternative energy suppliers such as Robin Hood Energy, which is wholly owned by Nottingham City Council.

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**List of background papers: None**  
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