

Lewisham Council Energy Policy

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To seek Schools Forum support for the Council's Energy Policy 2014-18, a draft of which has been circulated with this report.

2. Recommendation

- 1) The Forum is invited to comment on the draft Energy Policy
- 2) Subject to any views expressed, the Forum is invited to give its support for the Council's Energy Policy.

3. Energy Policy

- 3.1 A draft Energy Policy has been produced by the Council's corporate energy forum in liaison with officers in Children and Young People Directorate. The Schools Forum is invited to comment on the approach proposed ahead of the Policy's adoption.
- 3.2 The Energy Policy consists of two elements: a public document signalling our commitment to reduce energy consumption across the corporate estate and schools and a supporting action plan.
- 3.3 The Energy Policy includes the following proposed targets:
- A 20% reduction in annual carbon emissions from energy use in buildings across the Council's operational estate by March 2018 from a baseline of 2012/13
 - A 20% reduction in carbon emissions per pupil for schools by March 2018 from a baseline of 2012/13
- 3.4 The targets will be used to direct action and investment and to help communicate progress. The main strands of activity that will deliver the targets include:
- Monitoring and targeting
 - Staff engagement and better use of efficient buildings
 - Investment in energy efficiency improvements to the corporate estate and schools
- 3.5 Total spend by schools on energy £700,000 for gas and £750,000 for electricity a year. This excludes PFI-funded schools. In addition schools were collectively liable for the cost of £200,000 carbon allowances purchased to cover the period 2012-13 under the Government's Carbon Reduction Commitment.
- 3.6 Support provided by the Council to schools in relation to energy includes:

- access to corporate energy contracts for gas and electricity
- identification of and follow up on unexplained energy consumption
- an energy theme within the Cleaner Greener Schools programme that encourages staff and pupils to work on energy efficiency including switch-off programmes

3.7 There is also a wide-range of other activity that has an impact on energy, including in particular the schools places expansion programme.

4. Target setting

4.1 A target based on pupil numbers was considered a better measure than total emissions or emissions against gross internal floor space. This reflects the pressures on schools relating to rising pupil numbers.

4.2 There is limited benchmarking information relating to energy in schools. In 2003 the Department for Education published benchmarking information¹ and the table below shows how Lewisham schools relate to these benchmarks and the impact of a 20% reduction.

kg CO2 per pupil						
Type	Lewisham figures			DfE Benchmark high	DfE Benchmark low	20% reduction
	Average	Max	Min			
Special	1703	2712	720	616	356	1362
Secondary	677	932	437	616	356	542
Primary	321	493	185	458	231	257

4.3 Achieving a 20% reduction in per pupil numbers would be expected to bring secondary schools within the 'high' average and primary schools below the 'low' average. This would be expected to significantly reduce schools' exposure to rising energy costs.

5. Conclusion

5.1 The Council's Energy Policy and the proposed targets are intended to focus attention on energy consumption and help protect the Council and schools from the rising costs of energy. The Schools Forum is invited to support the Policy.

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¹<http://assets/sites/EcoDev/Sustainability/Energy%20Management/CAS%20Energy%20Forum%20ad min%20and%20policy/Energy%20Policy/DfE%20energy%20management%20guide%20for%20schools%202002.pdf>