

MAYOR AND CABINET			
Report Title	Energy Policy		
Key Decision	Yes	Item No.	
Ward	All		
Contributors	Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration, Head of Law		
Class	Part 1	Date:	16 July 2014

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report seeks agreement to a corporate Energy Policy and new targets of a 20% reduction in carbon emissions from the operational estate and a 20% reduction in carbon emissions per pupil in schools over the next 5 years.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Mayor approves the draft corporate Energy Policy.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1 The content of this report is consistent with the Council's policy framework and in particular the corporate priority *Clean, green and liveable*: improving environmental management, the cleanliness and care for roads and pavements and promoting a sustainable environment. The report also supports the achievements of the Sustainable Community Strategy policy objectives *Clean, green and liveable*: where people live in affordable, high quality and adaptable housing, have access to green spaces and take responsibility for their impact on the environment.
- 3.2 Lewisham's Carbon Reduction and Climate Change Strategy was published in 2008. In 2013 the Council set a new target of a 44% reduction in the borough's carbon emissions by 2020.
- 3.3 The report also supports delivery of the corporate priority 'Inspiring efficiency, effectiveness and equity'. Gas and electricity consumption across the operational estate, schools and streetlighting cost £4.5m in 2013/14. Delivery of the actions and targets within the Energy Policy will reduce the Council's exposure to rising energy costs and would be expected to play an important part in enabling the Council to respond to pressures on public finances.

- 3.4 The Energy Policy will be part of the suite of documents within the Council's Strategic Asset Management Plan due to be agreed for 2015.

4. Background

- 4.1 The Energy Policy consists of three documents.
- A public facing document setting out the principles, targets and an overview of the workstreams delivering energy efficiency and carbon reduction.
 - An operational action plan setting out workstreams in more detail and allocating responsibility within the Council.
 - A heating protocol
- 4.2 Carbon targets have been proposed as the primary measure as they reflect the environmental implications of energy use and because they are a better proxy for energy spend than separate energy and gas consumption data.
- 4.3 The Energy Policy covers corporate operational sites and schools. The Schools Forum discussed the content of the Energy Policy at its meeting on 20th March and endorsed the proposed target for schools of a 20% reduction in carbon emissions per pupil by the end of 2017/18. A report is scheduled for discussion at the September Schools Forum setting out data for 2013/14.
- 4.4 A key strand of the work to achieve the target of a 20% reduction in carbon for operational estate will be an enhanced monitoring and targeting programme. In recent years the Council has significantly improved the quality of data on energy consumption, which has enabled officers to identify and respond to unexplained energy consumption and align investment in the corporate estate to improve efficiency. This understanding of energy consumption will be used to help shape decisions on optimising the corporate estate going forward.

5. Financial implications

- 5.1 Gas and electricity consumption across the operational estate (£1.6m), schools (£1.9m) and street-lighting (£1m) cost £4.5m in 2013/14. Delivery of the actions and targets within the Energy Policy will reduce the Council's exposure to rising energy costs and would be expected to play an important part in enabling the Council to respond to pressures on public finances.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 is the legal framework for ensuring that Government meets its commitments to tackle climate change requiring an emissions reduction of at least 80% by 2050, compared to 1990 levels. The role of local delivery in helping to reach these targets is not

set out in statute but competence powers given to local authorities under the Localism Act 2011 and powers under various planning and environmental legislation enables it to set targets for reducing energy consumption.

7. Crime and Disorder Implications

- 7.1 There are no crime and disorder implications arising as a result of this decision.

8. Equalities Implications

- 8.1 The Council's Comprehensive Equality Scheme for 2012-16 provides an overarching framework and focus for the Council's work on equalities and helps ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010.
- 8.2 There are no direct implications for equalities as a result of this Energy Policy.

9. Environmental Implications

- 9.1 The contents of this report support the achievement of the Sustainable Community Strategy policy objectives Clean, green and liveable: where people live in affordable, high quality and adaptable housing, have access to green spaces and take responsibility for their impact on the environment. Delivering on the recommendations proposed in this report would be expected to further reduce Lewisham's carbon emissions and improve energy efficiency.

10. Conclusion

- 10.1 It is recommended that the Mayor approves the draft corporate Energy Policy.

11. Background Documents

- 11.1 No background documents relating to this report.

If there are any queries on this report please contact Martin O'Brien,
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