

**TO: ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
23 March 2005**

**SUBJECT: ENERGY MANAGEMENT**

**FROM: SECTION 151 OFFICER, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, PLANNING &  
ENGINEERING AND PROPERTY SERVICES**

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the progress made with regard to actions recommended to Executive from this Committee on Energy Management and agreed by the Executive in April 2003 (minute No. 966)

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 During 2002, this Committee received four reports or presentations covering different aspects of the Council's responsibilities with regard to energy management. These were an overview, Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA), energy and the local plan, and energy conservation in Council offices and buildings.
- 2.2 At their meetings in February and March 2003, the Committee, having discussed the issues raised, made eleven recommendations to the Executive, attached as appendix 1, which were agreed, at its meeting on 7 April 2003 and were to be taken forward for action during 2003 - 2004.
- 2.3 This Committee reconsidered this matter as part of its work plan for 2003/04 to fulfill its role defined within the Council's constitution to "review & scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the Executive and/or committees and Council Officers both in relation to individual decisions and performance" and updates on the progress made in implementing the recommendations were attached as appendices to the report from the relevant departments.
- 2.4 When considering the updates from the relevant departments last year the Committee agreed to review the progress of recommendations again in this municipal year as part of its work programme and these updates are attached as appendices 2, 3 and 4.

**3. POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK**

- 3.1 The proposals set out in the original report supported the Council's approach to environmental management and the budgetary implications of the proposed recommendations were to be taken up within the individual projects and reported separately.

#### 4. **OUTCOME REQUIRED**

- 4.1 To note the content of the report and report to the Executive any actions which are necessary to complete the actions outlined in minute number 966 of the Executive on 7 April 2003.

**Graham Leach**  
**Committee Services Officer**

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Reports to and Minutes of Environment Scrutiny in May, June, July and September 2002, in February and March 2003 and March 2004.

Report to and Minute (966) of Executive 7 April 2003.

**Areas in District Affected:** All Wards

**Executive Portfolio Area and Holder:** Environmental Services.

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## EXECUTIVE

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7 April 2003, in the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Crowther (Chair); Councillors Boad, Coker, Ms Flanagan, Hammon, Kirton, Kohler and Tamlin.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Caborn (Chair of the Audit and Resources Scrutiny Committee);

Councillor Doody (Chair of the Community Scrutiny Committee);

Councillor Mrs Compton (Chair of the Environment Scrutiny Committee); and

Councillor Darmody.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs Begg.

#### 966. ENERGY MANAGEMENT

The Executive considered a report from the Environment Scrutiny Committee on energy management.

During 2002, the Scrutiny Committee had received four reports or presentations covering different aspects of the Council's responsibilities with regard to energy management. These were an overview, Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA), energy and the local plan, and energy conservation in Council offices and buildings. The key points arising from each aspect were set out in detail in the report.

At their meetings in February and March 2003, the Committee, having discussed the issues raised, agreed to make the following recommendations to the Executive:-

Recommendation 1 - energy conservation should be high on the list of the Council's key concerns. This should be for environmental reasons more than just financial reasons.

Recommendation 2 - The Council should make every effort to "put our own house in order" as a start. This means, for instance: -

Ensuring we have robust mechanisms for ensuring lights in Council buildings (such as car parks and offices) are turned off when not in use, (i.e. at night).

Zoning of energy areas to enable detailed monitoring and management to take place in continued awareness campaigns amongst staff.

Taking energy efficiency into account when purchasing electrical appliances.

Recommendation 3 - The Council should expand the use of green energy as a high priority.

Recommendation 4 - potential for renewable energy sources and other carbon neutral sources should be fully explored including, for example, the use of woodchips to provide energy at the crematorium.

Recommendation 5 - the idea of energy capping use at existing levels by requiring all equivalent savings to be made whenever proposals that increase energy use are made.

Recommendation 6 - given that environmental concerns outweigh financial concerns, payback periods on investments should be extended for schemes that bring about significant environmental benefits.

Recommendation 7 - The Council should work to achieve the targets that have already been set, but do not need any more targets.

Recommendation 8 - the local plans should include policies that encourage energy efficient building but that the potential for significant impacts in these areas is limited by conflicting policies/concerns.

Recommendation 9 - The Council must continue to support the Warwickshire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (WEEAC), as the key mechanism for ensuring HECA targets are achieved.

Recommendation 10 - HECA targets may not be achieved without additional resources being applied.

Recommendation 11 - work to raise awareness amongst businesses and householders by working with the Council's partners, (such as Action 21 and WEEAC), possible actions including: -

- Development of case studies, (including the Council's), to be promoted to local businesses;

- Promotion of the Government's Energy Efficiency Best Value Programme for business;

- Awareness sessions for Staff and partners on energy efficiency issues, with a strong message about what can be done at home.

The proposals set out in the report would support the Council's approach to energy management. Any budgetary implications of the proposed recommendations would be taken up within the individual projects and reported separately.

The Audit & Resources Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report and commented that a balance needed to be struck between environmental and financial issues when considering payback.

The Community and Environment Scrutiny Committees supported the recommendations in the report.

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) the work of the Environment Scrutiny Committee on energy management be noted; and
- (2) the key recommendations of the Environment Scrutiny Committee as set out above be supported and taken forward for action during 2003 - 2004.

**Recommendation 1** - Energy conservation continues to be a high priority for the Environmental Health Business Unit in carrying out its work in relation to HECA. (See comment on recommendations 9, 10 & 11 below).

Work continued during the past year, in conjunction with Stratford-on-Avon District Council and the NEA, to develop a Strategy for Affordable Warmth for South Warwickshire. The Strategy was successfully launched at an event held at the Pump Rooms on 26 November 2004. It was attended by more than 80 people, comprising Members, the PCT, Professionals in the Energy Field, Voluntary Workers, Social Services and Politicians. Work has now commenced on the implementation of the Strategy, the first meeting of the South Warwickshire Affordable Warmth Action Group (SWAWAG) being held on 14 February 2005.

**Recommendation 9** - Alongside all other local authorities in Warwickshire and Worcestershire, and including Coventry City Council, Warwick District Council has a Service Level Agreement with the Warwickshire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre to act in the manner set out in the Annual Report for 2003 – 2004 attached as Appendix 2(a).

(It will be noted that the Annual Report not only gives an overview of activity during the year, but also shows in some detail what energy efficiency measures are needed overall, what has been carried out during 2003/4, and how much energy has been saved. The Report also shows how Warwick District Council is performing against other local authorities in Warwickshire (including Coventry) and Worcestershire).

**Recommendation 10** - The HECA target is to achieve a 30% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from domestic property (in effect an improvement in energy efficiency of 30%) over the 15 year period 1996 – 2011. The progress we have made towards meeting this target is shown in the table below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>% improvement</b>	<b>Cumulative % improvement</b>
1996/7	1.0	1.0
1997/8	1.85	2.85
1998/9	2.15	5.0
1999/2000	3.9	8.9
2000/1	2.22	11.12
2001/2	2.08	13.2
2002/3	5.03	18.23
2003/4	4.29	22.52
2004/5 (not yet available)		

Although we have reached 75% of our target in just over 50% of the time allowed by government, the Warwickshire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre advise us that it will become progressively more difficult to continue the excellent progress as the “easy” target dwellings have all but all been improved. To convince property owners who are “fuel rich” that reducing their energy usage is not only a “good thing” for the environment, but also a “good thing” for them, and well worth the effort, is likely to take at least as much resource as has been expended already.

**Recommendation 11** - It will be seen from the Service Level Agreement attached as Appendix 2(a) that the Warwickshire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre can carry out both training for front-line staff and Councillors. This year, we have arranged one training session for more Environmental Health staff. Additional training has been arranged for Housing Business Unit staff during the coming year. It would be possible to arrange awareness training for Members at short notice if required.

As a part of the Affordable Warmth Strategy, awareness training will be offered for front-line staff in both the PCT and in Social Services during 2005/7.

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**Recommendation 2** - New more energy efficient lighting systems have been installed at

- Newbold Comyn L/C
- St Nicholas Park L/C
- Abbey Fields Swimming Pool
- Castle Farm Sports Hall

The original lights used lamps rated at 400w, the new lights use lamps rated at 150w giving a saving in electricity usage. The new lamps also have a burning life of about 7 years reducing the time and costs required for maintenance.

**Recommendation 3** - Electricity used in all Corporate Properties, Very Sheltered Housing Schemes and Housing Landlords communal area's is obtained and certificated as being from renewable sources. A new two year supply contract has been signed with Scottish and Southern Electricity for all the Council's buildings using over 100kwh. This contract is from 1 October 2005 until 30 September 2007.

**Recommendation 4** - Oakley Wood Crematorium is an all electric building and in the previous report of March2004 it was proposed that a feasibility study should be carried out with regard to the possibility of installing a wind turbine to generate electricity on site.

Information has been gathered but we have been unable to complete the feasibility study as it's not been possible to find a manufacturer who produces a wind turbine of the anticipated size required.

A key problem is that the average wind speed in the area doesn't appear sufficient to enable the turbine to run for about 7000 hours a year to make it viable. As previously mentioned the Crematorium is currently using electricity from renewable sources.

**Recommendation 5** - As reported last year to enforce the idea of energy capping an instruction should be given to all Heads of Departments to take energy into consideration when planning any alterations to buildings, new buildings and purchase of new equipment.

**Recommendations 7 and 11** - Electricity and Fossil fuel benchmarks are published for comparison between different categories of buildings and a graph is attached as Appendix 3(a)

In November 2002 W.D.C was awarded the National Energy Foundations Accreditation for Achievements in Energy Efficiency. This expires in October 2005 and as part of the Service Plan process. it was decided not to apply for re-accreditation at a cost of £3500.

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**Recommendation 6** - It was reported last time that this recommendation would be progressed as part of the Corporate procurement Policy. At present the corporate Procurement Policy is awaiting a spend analysis in order to set the Policies aims.

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**Recommendation 8** - With regard to the local plan, the draft Warwick District Local Plan (1996-2011) contains a policy on encouraging energy efficiency in buildings. This policy was subject to a number of objections during the deposit period, however these are not of a significant nature and it is hoped that the policy can be carried forward, with only minor modifications, as the local plan progresses. The policy can still, however, only *encourage* developments to be designed and laid out to maximise energy conservation. Local authorities do not currently have the planning powers to refuse applications that do not incorporate energy efficiency measures.

Since the draft local plan was prepared, the Government has issued a new "Planning Policy Statement 22: Renewable Energy" (August 2004) and this encourages local authorities to include policies in their Plans to encourage developments which generate energy from renewable sources. We are currently considering the potential for including such a policy within the revised draft of the local plan. This is expected during the spring/early summer of 2005.

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