

TO: ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4th MARCH 2003

SUBJECT: ENERGY - RECOMMENDATIONS TO EXECUTIVE

FROM: POLICY SERVICES

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## 1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report attached in Appendix 1 proposes the information and recommendations that should be made to Executive in April based on the Committee's deliberations regarding Energy matters

## 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 During 2002 the Committee received 4 reports or presentations covering different aspects of the Council's responsibilities with regard to energy. At its meeting in February, the Committee discussed a range of issues arising from those presentations and agreed that a further report should be considered in March to agree the outcomes of these discussions and that this should form the basis of the Committee's recommendations to Executive

- 2.2 The Questions considered at the meeting in February were

- † How important is energy conservation to WDC? To what extent should energy conservation be a priority in the review of the Corporate Strategy later this year?
- † Is enough being done to meet our commitments under HECA? Should anything else be done on this?
- † To what extent should the review of the Local Plan take account of energy conservation issues?
- † Renewable energy alternatives will continue to be examined for Council buildings to see what is possible and cost effective. Could the Council do any more to introduce renewable energy in to its buildings or is this issues bet tackled through the Green Electricity scheme?
- † What more could the Council do to reduce its energy demand (current rising at about 4% per year)?
- † Should the Council set any other targets relating to energy consumption (over and above those detailed in paras 2.8 and 2.17)?
- † Consultation is currently taking place with staff at Leisure Centres, the Pump Rooms and the Spa Centre on small scale ideas for reducing energy consumption on these sites. Do members have any suggestions in relation to

leisure centers?

- † Currently fuel is cheap resulting in poor payback periods for investments from the Energy Management Budget. Is 7 or 8 years a reasonable payback period for schemes that also bring significant environmental benefits?
- † Should the Council try to expand the amount of “Green Energy” it uses?
- † Would it be a good idea to cap current energy usage by requiring service managers to balance proposals that lead to energy increases with savings elsewhere?
- † Are there any other ideas/issues that need to be explored in relation to energy conservation

2.3 The key conclusions arising from this are detailed in section 3.1 of the appendix

### 3 OUTCOMES REQUIRED

3.1 That Members agree that the report attach as appendix 1 be presented to Executive as the Committee’s recommendations with regard to the Council’s responsibilities on Energy

Dave Barber  
Policy Officer

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

**Areas in District Affected:** All

**Executive Portfolio Area and Holder:**  
Environmental Services - Cllr Margaret Begg

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