

TO: DRAFT REPORT TO EXECUTIVE - APRIL 2003

SUBJECT: ENERGY MANAGEMENT

FROM: ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That Executive notes the work of the Environment Scrutiny Committee on Energy management along with the key findings of their work
- 1.2 That Executive supports the key recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee with regard to energy management (as set in section 3 below) and that these are taken forwards for Action during 2003/2004

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 During 2002 the Environment Scrutiny Committee received 4 reports or presentations covering different aspects of the Council's responsibilities with regard to energy. The reports covered the following topics : The 4 presentations were as follows :

- May 2002 : Energy Conservation Overview
- June 2002 : Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA)
- July 2002 : Energy and the Local Plan
- September 2002 : Energy Conservation in Council Offices and Buildings

2.2 The key points arising from these four presentations were :

2.2.1 Overview : WDC has a broad range of responsibilities in relation to energy conservation including heating, cooling and lighting of offices and facilities, work undertaken by contractors, influencing the behaviour of businesses and households, purchasing practices, planning policy and housing provision

2.2.2 Overview : Energy conservation is seen as important in order to address concerns over climate change, use of finite resources, air pollution, fuel poverty and financial efficiency

2.2.3 Overview : To be effective in managing energy we need to have a clear strategic commitment, mechanisms for improving and managing performance in key areas and a process for measuring and monitoring progress

2.2.4 Overview : The July Citizen's Panel asked local people about their views on sustainability issues. The Panel was given a list of 24 sustainability issues and was asked to suggest which were most important. 89.4% included Global

warming/climate change in their top 5 priorities (ranking this issue as 10th out of 24, and 89.3% included use of finite resources (ranking this issue as 11th out of 24). The panel was also asked about which actions they considered it most important for WDC to take. Out of a list of 27 issues 65.5% considered "Reduce energy in offices, buildings and activities run by the Council" to be amongst the three most important actions, ranking this as 9th out of 27 possible actions

2.2.5 HECA : The table below shows the Council's performance for domestic energy savings since 1996 in comparison with national and regional performance

| | England & Wales | West Midlands | Warwick District Council |
|---|-----------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Improvements to 31st March 2001 (%) | 2.21 | 1.02 | 2.22 |
| Cumulative Improvements to March 2001 (%) | 8.12 | 8.83 | 11.12 |
| Improvements to 31st March 2002 (%) | ? | ? | 2.08 |
| Cumulative Improvements to March 2002 (%) | ? | ? | 13.2 |

2.2.6 HECA : The target is to achieve a 30% reduction in energy consumed by households within Warwick District by 2011

2.2.7 HECA : The target has to be achieved with very minimal resources and so working in partnership and particularly through the Warwickshire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (WEEAC) is vital as a way of drawing in funding. Whilst on a linear graph (see 2.2.5) WDC is "on target" to achieve the 30% required reduction, the Energy Savings Trust (a Government arms length body) acknowledges that the remaining 17 % reduction (in our case) will be more difficult to achieve. So much so that additional resources may need to be inputted.

2.2.8 HECA : The Council in partnership with the WEEAC has already participated in actions to reduce home energy use through advice and information, school education, exhibitions and promotion, managing projects such as SWEEP, collecting data on energy use and targeting grants, advising people on home improvement works.

2.2.9 Energy and the Local Plan : Planning can promote energy efficiency in three ways :

- a) through identifying opportunities for community heating (i.e CHP)
- b) by clarifying site layout criteria
- c) by clarifying criteria for building design

2.2.10 Energy and the Local Plan : scope for refusing planning permission on the grounds of energy inefficiency is limited and policies can only encourage developers

2.2.11 Energy and the Local Plan : Sites often place practical limitations on the ability to bring about energy efficiency and there are often conflicting priorities and the desire

to promote energy efficiency must be weighed alongside other priorities (protecting Greenfield sites, avoiding overlooking/overshadowing, designing out crime etc)

2.2.12 Energy and the Local Plan : To make balanced decisions some basic principles need to be established, These principles may include the following:-

- In choosing between possible alternative development sites within the local plan, the ability of the site to deliver energy efficient development should be one factor to be weighed against others.
- In preparing planning briefs for individual sites, there should be explicit consideration given to how issues of energy efficiency of the buildings can be addressed, with reasons given if the most energy efficient solution to the development of the site is not chosen.
- In considering detailed applications, there should be a presumption in favour of encouraging energy efficient design and layout, unless other factors dictate otherwise. These factors may include:-
 - the historic character of neighbouring buildings and the local area,
 - the need to find a particular design solution which meets particular local circumstances.
- In submitting planning applications, we would ask developers to demonstrate how their development proposals meet the Council's energy efficiency objectives.

2.2.13 Energy Conservation in Council Buildings : WDC has an Energy Management Fund which is self financing through savings achieved from investment

2.2.14 Energy Conservation in Council Buildings : Energy usage data is collected and reported for all Council buildings

2.2.15 Energy Conservation in Council Buildings : In 1993/4 WDC signed the Making a Corporate Commitment Campaign. The National Making a Corporate Commitment scheme was renewed in 2001 and WDC signed this in 2002 making a commitment to reduce CO2 emissions from Council premises by 30% by 2010

2.2.16 Energy Conservation in Council Buildings : Of all Council buildings, the largest consumers of energy are the three swimming pools/leisure centers, the Spa Centre and Pump Rooms and Riverside House.

2.2.17 Energy Conservation in Council Buildings : Despite increases in efficiency, energy consumption across all Council buildings has increased since 1993/4 and is currently increasing at about 4% per year. This is mainly due to improvements to in services and increases equipment. The new buildings at Jephson Gardens will further increase energy consumption levels

2.2.18 Energy Conservation in Council Buildings : The Council now use "Green Electricity" for its main buildings (this electricity which has been produced using renewable sources or for which cost of contributes to investments in renewable resources

2.2.19 Energy Conservation in Council Buildings : The Council achieved accreditation for Achievements in Energy Efficiency from the Institute of Energy in 2002.

2.2.20 Energy Conservation in Council Buildings : Photovoltaic cells (which use solar energy to convert in to electricity) have been considered for Council buildings. The costs of these is prohibitive. They cost about £5000 per Sq/m - or about £3000 with Government Grant. 1 square metre produces up to 1 kw/h per day. Currently the Council buys green electricity (ie from renewable sources) for 3.5p per kw/h, meaning each 1 metre square cell would save about £13 per year. The pay back period on this could not be sustained from the energy management budget.

3. Key Recommendations

3.1 At its meetings in February and March, the Scrutiny Committee discussed a range of issues arising from these presentations and agreed to make the following recommendations to Executive :

3.1.1 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

3.1.2 Recommendation 2 : We 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 and continued awareness campaigns amongst Council staff

† taking energy efficiency in to account when we purchase electrical appliances

3.1.3 Recommendation 3 : We should expand the use of Green Energy in the Council as a high priority

3.1.4 Recommendation 4 : Potential for renewable energy sources and other carbon neutral sources should be fully explored including for example, the use of wood chips to provide energy at the crematorium.

3.1.5 Recommendation 5 : The idea of capping energy use at existing levels by requiring equivalent savings to be made whenever proposals that increase energy use are made

3.1.6 Recommendation 6 : Given that environmental concerns outweigh financial concerns, payback periods on investments, should be extended for scheme that bring about significant environmental benefits

3.1.7 Recommendation 7 : We should work to achieve the targets that have already been set (see para's 2.2.6 and 2.2.15), but do not need any more targets

3.1.8 Recommendation 8 : The Local Plan should include policies that encourage energy efficient building, but that the potential for significant impacts in these areas is limited by other conflicting concerns/policies

3.1.9 Recommendation 9 : We must continue to support the Warwickshire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (WEEAC) as the key mechanism for ensuring we achieve HECA targets

- 3.1.10 Recommendation 10 : HECA targets may not be achieved without additional resources being applied
- 3.1.11 Recommendation 11 : Work to raise awareness amongst businesses and householders by working with our partners (such as Action 21 and WEEAC). Possible actions include :
- † Development of case studies (including our own) to be promoted to local businesses
 - † Promotion of the Government Energy Efficient Best Practice Programme for businesses
 - † Awareness sessions for staff and partners on energy efficiency issues with a strong message about what can be done at home

Cllr J Crompton
Chair Environment Scrutiny Committee

4. POLICY & BUDGET FRAMEWORK

The proposals set out in the report are support the Council's approach to environmental management.

Any budgetary implications of the proposed recommendations will be taken up within the individual projects and reported separately

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Reports to Environment Scrutiny in May, June, July and Setember 2002 and in February and March 2003

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Areas in District Affected: | All Wards |
| Executive Portfolio Area: | Environmental Management |
| Portfolio Holder: | Cllr M Begg |
| Scrutiny Committee: | Environment |
| Key Decision | Yes |
| Included in the Forward Plan | Yes |

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