

	<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b> <b>29 November 2016</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 6</b>
<b>Title</b>	Review of Councils Sustainability and Climate Change Approach	
<b>For further information about this report please contact</b>	Marianne Rolfe, Head of Health and Community Protection <a href="mailto:Marianne.rolfe@warwickdc.gov.uk">Marianne.rolfe@warwickdc.gov.uk</a> Tel: 01926 456700	
<b>Wards of the District directly affected</b>	All	
<b>Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?</b>	No	
<b>Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number</b>		
<b>Background Papers</b>		

<b>Contrary to the policy framework:</b>	No
<b>Contrary to the budgetary framework:</b>	No
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)</b>	No
<b>Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken</b>	Yes

<b>Officer/Councillor Approval</b>		
<b>Officer Approval</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	15/06/17	Chris Elliot
Head of Service	31/10/16	Marianne Rolfe
CMT	15/06/17	Chris Elliot
Section 151 Officer		
Monitoring Officer		
Finance		
Portfolio Holder(s)	16/11/16	Andrew Thompson
<b>Consultation &amp; Community Engagement</b>		
<b>Final Decision?</b>	No	
<b>Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)</b>		

## **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1. This report summarises the Council's current position in relation to Sustainability and Climate Change including the current approach and the Council's achievements in the last year.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The committee note the achievements of the council against the thematic priority of Sustainability.

## **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Significant achievements have been made by officers and the council in delivering against the sustainability agenda.

## **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1. In 2016 officers undertook an annual review of the Council's approach to sustainability to ensure that the approach was correctly directed and delivering actions which were measurable. The 2016 revision of the approach is attached in appendix 1 (dated May 2017 as amended).
- 4.2. However, it will be noted that there is a shift in emphasis towards improving our impact. This is a reflection of the current Fit for the Future priorities and availability of resource to progress initiatives. The exceptions to this prioritisation are in the areas of fuel poverty and our responsibilities as a landlord.
- 4.3. The action plan from the 2014 report can be found in appendix 2. This demonstrates how the actions have been included in the revised approach and the progress against those actions prior to migration to the new approach format.
- 4.4. The inclusion of landlord responsibilities stems both from the need to invest in our housing stock to ensure it remains fit for purpose in the longer-term and from new legislation affecting both our domestic and commercial property holdings. Under the provisions of the Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Sector) (England and Wales) Regulations 2015, from 2018 private sector rentals (including non-domestic properties) will

be required to have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of E or better. The regulations will come into force for new lets and renewals of tenancies from 1st April 2018 and for all existing tenancies on 1st April 2020. In addition, the Heat Network (Metering and Billing) Regulations 2014 required the council as the supplier of heat through communal and district heating systems to install heat meters for each end user (i.e. individual tenant), where feasible, by 31st December 2016. Where metering is found not to be feasible, the feasibility exercise must be repeated at least every four years. This has been completed where feasible.

- 4.5. The action plan in appendix 1 details the progress that is being made towards achieving our aims. However the detail below outlines some of the activities in more detail.
- 4.6. Some of the actions have not been completed by the timescale set however all actions have work on going. Following this report the approach will be further updated to reflect the new expected timescales.
- 4.7. The paragraphs below highlight some of the specific actions contained within the action plan successes column in more detail.
- 4.8. Strategic Aim 1
- 4.9. Good progress is being made in terms of embedding sustainability into the organisation and implementing practical projects to meet the specific objectives set out in in the Strategic Approach to Sustainability and Climate Change. However, it is recognised that more needs to be done to engage the council's workforce in order to increase staff participation and accountability and to facilitate capture of monitoring information.
- 4.10. Sustainability input has been provided to the following strategic plans and projects :
  - Local Plan
  - Air Quality Action plan
  - Leisure centre redevelopment
  - HQ relocation
  - Housing Strategy refresh
  - Proposed new car parking strategy
- 4.11. In February 2015, Warwick District Council signed up to the LGA's Climate Local initiative. Whilst the programme technically still exists, the programme closed on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016.

4.12. Strategic Aim 2

- 4.13. The phase 1 District Heat Mapping and Energy Master planning Study, carried out by AECOM on the council's behalf, is now complete. The study identified three main opportunity areas for future district heating schemes: Leamington town centre, an area to the south of Myton Road, and Warwick town centre. A successful application for further funding was made to the Department for Energy and Climate Change. This resulted in a grant of £87,100 being awarded to the Council to part-fund full feasibility studies for schemes in Leamington town centre and an area to the south of Myton Road.
- 4.14. A project manager has been appointed to oversee the invitation to tender and the delivery of the second phase. It is estimated that study will be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.
- 4.15. Following the successful bid for funding from the Department for Transport's 'ULEV (ultra-low emissions vehicles) Readiness' fund to cover 75% of the cost of a two-year lease on five electric vehicles and associated charging infrastructure, and subsequent approval of the business case by Executive to cover the remaining costs, the vehicles were procured. They have been in use since June and July 2016.
- 4.16. Charging points were installed in March / April at Riverside House and Acorn Court. The vehicles will be used by the Lifeline team (two BMWs), Development Services (one Nissan Leaf), and Housing and Property (one Nissan Leaf and Peugeot Partner van). Their usage levels, and resultant cost savings and carbon emissions reductions will be monitored. Currently 21597 miles have been travelled in the 5 vehicles within the first 10 months.
- 4.17. The council's green travel plan for the HQ relocation, the purpose of which is to identify and implement measures to make staff travel more sustainable and cost-effective, has been written.
- 4.18. A Riverside House bicycle user group (BUG) has been set up, consisting of WDC employees and representatives of CSW Sport. The group meets regularly and has succeeded in creating a secure cycle store, improving locker and shower facilities, creating an identity (logo, email address, intranet page and pull-up) and a cycle to work day event. A modest budget has been secured to cover further improvements (racking to go in the cycle store and a work station) and further promotional events.
- 4.19. Council staff are travelling less mileage in their cars than in previous years. There has been a 53,989 mile reduction in claimed over the last

three years which is an 18% reduction in mileage travelled and thus a reduction in our carbon footprint for this aspect of our operation since 2014.

- 4.20. An assessment of renewable and low carbon energy options has been carried out to support proposals for the upgrading Newbold Comyn and St Nicholas Park leisure centres, as a result of which combined heat and power units will be installed which will power the carbon footprint of the properties. In addition a Solar photovoltaics system will be installed in Newbold Comyn Leisure centre to supply energy to heat water and electric vehicle charging points in the carpark.
- 4.21. Strategic Aim 3
- 4.22. Affordable Warmth training sessions for frontline staff have been carried out.
- 4.23. The council remains an active member of the South Warwickshire Affordable Warmth Group and Public Health Warwickshire-funded Warm and Well Partnership. Aimed primarily at vulnerable residents with health complaints that are exacerbated by inadequately heated living accommodation, the latter provides a range of interventions including emergency heating, boiler servicing and repairs, benefits checks, and grant funding for insulation and replacement boilers.
- 4.24. A Warm Home Discount campaign was run in conjunction with the County Council and Citizens' Advice during the winter season 2015/16, the purpose of which is to assist eligible residents to claim a £140 discount on their fuel bills from their energy supplier. As a result of this campaign, information on the Warm Home Discount scheme was provided to 162 residents of the district, of whom 17 were helped to make a claim (total value £2,900). A further 41 residents were helped to switch energy supplier and as a result achieved total savings on their fuel bills of £12,700.
- 4.25. The council has continued to engage with the community and voluntary sector on sustainability and has:
- funded energy efficiency audits of three community buildings
  - assisted The Gap Community Centre to obtain additional RUCIS funding to make their building more energy efficient
  - provided advice to the Bishop's Tachbrook Neighbourhood Planning group on incorporating sustainability into their new draft neighbourhood plan
  - assisted the Burton Green village hall committee in drawing up proposals to make their new building - to be funded by HS2 - more

sustainable, for example through the addition of renewable energy technologies (PV and heat pump) and high levels of insulation.