

 Overview & Scrutiny Committee 26 June 2018		Agenda Item No. 6
Title	Review of Council's Sustainability and Climate Change Approach	
For further information about this report please contact	Alice Ellis, Sustainability Officer, Health & Community Protection Alice.Ellis@warwickdc.gov.uk Tel: 01327 456102	
Wards of the District directly affected	All	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No If yes state why	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	Date of meeting when issue was last considered: 26 November 2016	
Background Papers		

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

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive		
Head of Service		
CMT		
Section 151 Officer		
Monitoring Officer		
Finance		
Portfolio Holder(s)		
Consultation & Community Engagement		
<p>Insert details of any consultation undertaken or proposed to be undertaken with regard to this report.</p> <p>Consultation with the Sustainability Officer Group.</p>		
Final Decision?	No	
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. **Summary**

1.1 This report summarises the Council’s latest position in relation to Sustainability & Climate Change including a refresh of the Sustainability Approach document and the Council’s achievements in the last year.

2. **Recommendation**

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

3. **Reasons for the Recommendation**

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

4. **Policy Framework**

4.1 **Fit for the Future (FFF)**

The Council’s FFF Strategy is designed to deliver the Vision for the District of making it a Great Place to Live, Work and Visit. To that end amongst other things the FFF Strategy contains several Key projects. This report shows the way forward for implementing a significant part of one of the Council’s Key projects for ‘Green, Clean and Safe’.

The FFF Strategy has 3 strands – People, Services and Money and each has an external and internal element to it. The table below illustrates the impact of this proposal if any in relation to the Council’s FFF Strategy.

FFF Strands		
People	Services	Money
External		
Health, Homes, Communities	Green, Clean, Safe	Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Improved health for all Housing needs for all met Impressive cultural and sports activities Cohesive and active communities	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Area has well looked after public spaces All communities have access to decent open space Improved air quality Low levels of crime and ASB	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Dynamic and diverse local economy Vibrant town centres Improved performance/productivity of local economy Increased employment and income levels
Impacts of Proposal		
Homes that are warmer and more energy efficient directly improve the health and wellbeing of residents.	The Sustainability approach directly links to projects that link to the objective of improving air quality Delivering here against	Energy efficiency measures and technological advancements improve the performance of the local business economy.

	clean and green	
Internal		
Effective Staff	Maintain or Improve Services	Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> All staff are properly trained All staff have the appropriate tools All staff are engaged, empowered and supported The right people are in the right job with the right skills and right behaviours	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Focusing on our customers' needs Continuously improve our processes Increase the digital provision of services	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Better return/use of our assets Full Cost accounting Continued cost management Maximise income earning opportunities Seek best value for money
Impacts of Proposal		
A greener staff culture will help empower staff to feel they can make a positive contribution to reducing their impact on the environment.	Embedding sustainability within the organisation rather than it being a stand-alone area of work will help improve our processes.	Improved energy efficiency will lower operational costs particularly as energy prices are expected to continue to rise.

4.2 Supporting Strategies

Each strand of the FFF Strategy has several supporting strategies and the relevant one for this proposal is the Sustainability Approach. There are other strategies that link to the sustainability agenda but which are addressed by other means; these aspects include strategies at a District level, for example, the Warwick District Air Quality Strategy, and other strategies that are more widely set at a County level, such as Warwickshire's Municipal waste Management Strategy.

4.3 Changes to Existing Policies

None.

4.3 Impact Assessments – Not applicable

5. Budgetary Framework

5.1 There are no budget implications for this report.

6. Risks

By not delivering on the Sustainability Approach, carbon emissions will remain the same, if not increase, contributing to global warming, and local air quality will not be improved which will have adverse affects on the health of local residents. This will, in turn, risk adverse negative opinion from the local community. Where particular projects require investment, financial risks will be identified and approval sought through the appropriate channels.

7. Alternative Option(s) considered

7.1 Not applicable as the report is providing an update of the work against the Sustainability Approach.

8. Background

8.1 In 2016, an annual review of the Council's Strategic Approach to Sustainability, shown in Appendix 1, was undertaken to ensure that the emphasis was in the right areas and actions were being delivered.

8.2 In 2018, a Sustainability Officer was appointed to coordinate the delivery of the Sustainability Approach and to facilitate progress which has resulted in a re-energised Sustainability Officer Group (SOG) with meetings are being held on a regular basis with representation from across the authority.

8.3 The SOG is responsible for reviewing progress against the Sustainability Approach, raising any issues of concern and identifying new opportunities for improvement. There is a lot of enthusiasm within the group currently to look even further at the Council's current position to make improvements in relation to the Council's operations, to help residents lower their energy bills and to adopt low-carbon technologies within local communities.

8.4 There are three Strategic Aims of the Sustainability Approach are as follows:

- Strategic Aim 1 – Embed sustainability at a strategic level within the organisation (Warwick District Council).
- Strategic Aim 2 – Address our own impacts relating to sustainability and ensure our physical assets and operations remain resilient in the face of a changing climate.
- Strategic Aim 3 – Promote and enable sustainability and climate change resilience in the wider district.

8.5 For each of these strategic aims, a number of specific objectives were defined based around the priorities which are shown in Appendix 2.

8.6 Sitting behind the Strategic Aims and the Priorities is the Acton Plan in Appendix 3, where the progress is clearly visible.

9.0 Strategic Aims Progress

The following provides an update against each of the Strategic Aims.

Strategic Aim 1

9.1 A 'Clean, Green, Safe' element has been included in the Fit for the Future (FFF) table contained within all report templates and construction of supporting guidance to authors on how to complete the Clean, Green and Safe element are in draft. Since the introduction of the FFF table, 85 reports at Council and Executive have had to consider their green impact, with a whole host of other reports at other committees also being assessed.

- 9.2 An intranet page has been developed for the Sustainability Officer Group which contains relevant information about the group. Further information will be added over time to inform staff on initiatives as they occur.
- 9.3 National Energy Action fuel poverty training has been delivered to 35 frontline staff and Members to provide information about home energy efficiency advice along with national and local projects.

Strategic Aim 2

- 9.4 The District Heating scheme has moved onto the next stage with a tender being awarded to Encraft Ltd who have now started work to deliver feasibility studies of District Heating schemes within the areas of Myton Gardens and Leamington Spa Town Centre.
- 9.5 Since 2016, five electric and hybrid pool vehicles have been leased for two years, using Office of Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) funding. The use of these vehicles proved to be successful, and it has been agreed for four-year leases to be taken on new replacement vehicles. In addition, further electric vehicles are being explored for the pest control team and neighbourhood services.
- 9.6 The new HQ is expected to achieve at least a BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) 'very good' rating with provision to be made for the installation of solar PV, LED lighting, a highly energy efficient air-conditioning system and high levels of insulation. Cycle infrastructure storage and showers for cyclists will be provided. In addition, a starting number of 86 electric vehicle chargepoints are to be installed including provision for additional chargepoints in the future.
- 9.7 It should be noted that one area of further improvement relates to benchmarking of the Council's own data in relation to carbon emissions and waste and recycling. Although targets have been set to reduce energy consumption per employee, realistically these are only likely to be achieved once council employees have moved into the new HQ. Paper use is being monitored monthly and initiatives to further reduce paper will be considered by the Sustainability Officer Group.

Strategic Aim 3

- 9.8 The Service Level Agreement with Act on Energy has been renewed with a greater focus on delivering a few key projects.
- 9.9 An initiative to contact private sector landlords with Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) of 'F' and 'G' has been undertaken, and we have signposted such landlords to information to help make improvements. Over 130 landlords have been contacted so far, with further work to be undertaken, and 27 follow-ups have been undertaken so far.
- 9.10 An Expression of Interest has been submitted and approved by the Ultra-Low Emission Bus Scheme to have electric buses and charging infrastructure on Route 67 (Sydenham – Leamington – Cubbington). This was submitted by a consortium of organisations including Warwick District Council; Volvo, Stagecoach Midlands, Warwickshire County Council, Stratford District Council and Greenwatt Technology. A full commercial bid being drafted.

- 9.11 ECO (Energy Company Obligation) funding is provided by energy providers and is aimed at householders on means tested benefits to help cover the cost of installing boilers and insulation measures. A Statement of Intent has been signed in relation to ECO Flex, which is an extension of ECO. The 'flex' element enables the Council to provide funding to vulnerable residents not necessarily on means tested benefits such as those on a low income, with small children, a disability or health condition and on a pre-payment meter. There have been over 40 grant referrals during 2017/18.
- 9.12 Two 'Save in Summer. Be Warm in Winter' home energy drop-in sessions for residents have been held at the Brunswick Healthy Living Centre, and the Packmores Centre, with a further session planned at the Sydni Centre. These were aimed at all residents to advise them on grants available and other free help offered by Act on Energy. Those held so far have not been attended by a large number of people, however the fuel poverty strategy aims to identify a number of other ways to effectively communicate home energy efficiency help that is available to residents.

10.0 Upcoming Significant Projects of Interest

- 10.1 There are a number of significant additional projects currently being explored, including a bike share scheme and electric chargepoint installations.
- 10.2 In addition, two students from The University of Warwick will be supporting the Health and Community Protection Team over the summer months of 2018 on a number of projects; this includes helping to develop the fuel poverty strategy, exploring the usefulness of green and living benches/walls as a way of improving air quality, researching the contribution of taxis to local air quality, and further work on home energy efficiency improvements in relation to private sector landlords.