

**TO: ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
30 March 2004**

SUBJECT: UPDATE REPORT ON ENERGY MANAGEMENT (MINUTE NO. 966)

FROM: MEMBERS' SERVICES

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 in April 2003 (minute No. 966).

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 During 2002, the Scrutiny 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. The key points arising from each aspect were set out in detail in the report.
- 2.2 At their meetings in February and March 2003, the Committee, having discussed the issues raised, made a 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 As part of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee workplan for 2003/04 an item was included to review a decision of the Executive from 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".
- 2.4 Attached as appendices 2 and 3 to the report are updates from the Environmental Health and Property Service departments and appendix 4 covers the recommendations regarding the Local plan and corporate procurement, updating the Committee on progress made against the actions agreed by the Executive on 7 April 2003.
- 2.5 In addition to this the original Energy Management report and the work leading up to its submission to the Executive have been submitted as part of the CPA self assessment as an example of good scrutiny by this authority and it is felt by officers that this area of scrutiny can now be completed by assessing the performance of the Council against its recommendations over the past year.

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 and in February and March 2003

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

Areas in District Affected: All Wards

Executive Portfolio Area and Holder: Environmental Services.

For further information about this report please contact:

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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 remains 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 has carried on during the past year, in conjunction with Stratford-on-Avon District Council and NEA, to develop a Strategy for Affordable Warmth for South Warwickshire. A draft of this Strategy was endorsed by Environment Scrutiny & Overview Committee in February 2004, and subsequently agreed by the Executive at their meeting. (This will be followed through by a launch of the Strategy later in 2004).

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 Appendix 7.

Recommendation 10

The HECA target is to achieve a 30% reduction in CO₂ 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:

Year	% improvement	Cumulative % improvement
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	Not yet available	Not yet available

Recommendation 11

It will be seen from the Service Level Agreement attached as Appendix 7 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 Environmental Health staff. Additional training will be made available to 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 arranged for front-line staff in both the PCT and in Social Services during 2004/6.

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Recommendation 2- Lighting controls have been installed into all kitchens and some toilets, corridors and meeting rooms at Riverside House, Newbold Comyn L/C and St. Nicholas Park L/C.

Programmable timers have been used to control vending machines and over sink water boilers for making tea & coffee at Riverside House

Recommendation 3 –All electricity that the Council uses is from renewable sources this includes Corporate Property, Very Sheltered Housing Schemes and Housings landlord's communal areas. In addition the Leisure Centres have Combined Heat and Power Units installed for on site generation of electricity for use inside the building, none of the electricity is exported.

Recommendation 4- This site is all electric therefore the use of woodchip at the Crematorium is not considered a possibility however it maybe possible to install a wind turbine to generate electricity on site. Enquiries have been made and it is hoped that a feasibility study can be set up within the next 6 months, any findings and recommendations will be reported back to this Executive.

Recommendation 5- 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.

Recommendation 7 & 11- Government Energy Efficiency Best Value Programme W.D.C has broadly followed the recommendations of the above programme and on occasions has taken advantage of having independent energy surveys carried out at some properties.

Electricity and Gas benchmarks are published for comparison of different categories of buildings W.D.C does not have any buildings that are worse than the typical performance indicators. (See appendix 5)

In November 2002 W.D.C was awarded the Nation Energy Foundations Accreditation for Achievements in Energy Efficiency, the 1st District Council in England to receive the accreditation, if the Council decides to apply for Re-Accreditation in November 2005 funds (£4000) will need to be made available.

The latest survey was at Riverside House in November 2003 and carried out by seven students from Brookes University, Oxford (See appendix 6) for the main recommendation and findings they made.

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Recommendation 6

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

This recommendation will be taken into consideration during the production of the corporate procurement policy, along with the comments of the Audit & Resources Scrutiny Committee on this item, which were “that the recommendations be supported and commented that a balance needed to be struck between environmental and financial issues when considering payback

Mary Hawkins
Section 151 Officer

Recommendation 8

Following from recommendation 8, the following policy has now been included within the draft local plan as policy DP12.

The layout and design of development will be encouraged to promote the conservation of energy by its future occupiers. Development proposals will be expected to demonstrate that they:-

- a) maximise passive solar gain, minimise heat loss and wind tunnelling and eddying;**
- b) limit overshadowing of buildings to minimise loss of useful solar gain;**
- c) utilise opportunities for landscaping to provide shelter belts to improve energy conservation;**
- d) use materials with a reduced energy input, such as recycled products produced locally; and**
- e) use sustainable and renewable forms of heating such as the use of solar panels and CHP (Combined Heat & Power) schemes.**

The policy has been included among a series of core development policies that aim to promote good quality design and will be applied across the district. The Local Plan was approved by the Council in October for placing on deposit for public comment and the deposit period took place between December 2003 and January 2004. The policy will be independently tested, probably through a local plan inquiry that is scheduled to take place in the Spring of 2005. It is hoped that the Local Plan will be adopted in 2006.

Philip Clarke
Group Leader (Policy Projects Conservation)

Summary: Brookes College, Oxford
November 2003

Seven students from the above college spent a day at Riverside House conducting a survey into the energy efficiency and environmental issues of the building; the object was to identify the current energy efficiency of the building and target areas for improvement when comparing the building's electricity and gas usage with the NPI in appendices 1

- 1 Student rated the building very good
- 2 Students rated the building as better than good practice
- 3 Students rated the building as good
- 1 Student didn't submitted NPI calculations

The decision by W.D.C to buy all electricity from renewable sources was considered to be a good business and environmental decision

From the survey the following recommendations have been made

Low Cost

- Improve good house keeping i.e. switch off I.T equipment when not in use.
- Encourage good energy saving practices amongst staff
- Add some form of timer to the double entry doors in reception
- Continue installing presence detectors to lighting systems to reduce electricity usage

Medium Cost

- Toilets replace cisterns with low flush type to reduce water usage
- Add shading to windows to reduce solar gain
- Remove some ceiling lights in open plan areas
- Check building for cavity wall insulation and increase insulation levels in roof void.

High Cost

- Add ground source heat pump to provide winter heating and summer cooling
- Provide a passive ventilation system using stack ventilation
- Replace windows with double glazed wooden framed windows
- Use sun tubes to provide more daylight into offices
- Use solar panels to supplement gas boilers.