
Meeting of the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services and Advisory Panel

6th December 2007

Report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services

Carbon Management Programme – Neighbourhood Services

Summary

1. This report provides information on work carried out by Neighbourhood Services in support of the environmental sustainability elements of the corporate strategy.

Background

2. The council's corporate strategy agreed at Executive in early October 2007 includes 'reducing greenhouse gas emissions' as one of ten corporate priorities. The council has signed up to the Nottingham declaration on climate change, thus pledging to tackle climate change.
3. The council has a corporate approach to environmental management, and carbon reduction within that. An environmental policy was agreed in September 2007. As part of delivering the environmental policy, two major corporate programmes aimed at reducing our organisational environmental impact are underway.
 - the carbon trust are supporting CYC to run a carbon management programme which aims to measure and then reduce our 'carbon footprint' by an indicative 25% on the 2005/06 baseline by 2013.
 - the council has also started to implement an environmental management system (EMAS) that will limit the wider environmental impact of our activities.
4. Neighbourhood Services is playing its part in these programmes, within the corporate timeframes that are in place. In both cases the key tasks are to develop a baseline measurement of our footprint (carbon footprint and ecological footprint respectively) before moving on to reduce those footprints. Working on developing a strong evidence base is key to ensuring that we tackle the most important issues we face, which may not always be the most obvious things.
5. Much of Neighbourhood Services' activity also either helps to improve the local environment (e.g. air quality management work), or helps residents to reduce their environmental impact (e.g. work to support the diversion of methane-producing organic matter away from landfill).

Work So Far – EMAS

6. The EMAS programme has just started. We have identified ten groups of activities in the directorate that together contribute to our environmental impact. We are now working through an analysis of each activity's impact on the environment – including emissions to air, water and land, and how we manage materials and our waste production. The audit process will measure the significance of the key aspects of our activities, and identify the quality of management controls in place to deal with the environmental impact. The audit will identify areas for improvement ie where the likely impact is significant and controls are weak.
7. So far (mid-November) we have begun auditing the environmental impact of bereavement services, licensing, environmental health and trading standards, neighbourhood management, building maintenance and civil engineering services, as well as our use of the depot. The aim is to complete work in these areas by Christmas, and then audit other parts of the directorate in the new year – completing the work by March 2008.

Work So Far – Carbon Management

8. Work under the carbon management programme is more advanced. Neighbourhood Services contributed to the baseline measurement carried out in 2007, and we are now contributing to the development of a carbon reduction programme across the council.
9. Carbon reduction projects can be grouped into four:
 - Ongoing NS projects.
 - NS contribution to new or ongoing corporate projects.
 - NS potential new projects.
 - NS potential new projects (ongoing projects with carbon impact).
10. Ongoing Neighbourhood Services projects

Eco Depot. The move to the depot will contribute a significant proportion of our targeted carbon reduction. The new buildings and workshops are more energy efficient than the buildings we moved from. Between December 2006 and September 2007, the eco-office had gained 42% of its electrical requirements from the photo-voltaic arrays.

As the buildings bed down, regular energy monitoring will give us the information we need to make the most of the site's energy-reduction potential. The past year has been atypical weather-wise with a mild winter and cool summer. The next winter and summer should help us see how the building performs under more normal weather conditions.

Waste recycling. We are now rolling out the internal recycling scheme that has been piloted at Hazel Court across the rest of the council's buildings. Initial figures suggest that 47% of all waste at the depot was recycled through the pilot scheme – so figures for other administrative buildings would be expected to be higher. Champions have been

identified in each building who are now identifying the type and number of bins required, and the arrangements for emptying those bins.

Fleet management. The directorate has an ongoing fleet replacement programme to replace older vehicles with vehicles which are generally cleaner and more fuel efficient. Over the past few years the normal working life of a Neighbourhood Services vehicle has reduced from seven to five years. This has meant the introduction of the latest vehicle technology and efficiency much sooner. It has also brought benefits in terms of less risk of breakdowns and higher maintenance costs in years six and seven, and an improved fleet image. We are continually looking to reduce in work vehicle mileage through changes to work processes. The best example is the Jewsons project, but there is also potential to reduce vehicle mileage in refuse services through e.g. satellite tracking which may help us to improve our response and reduce our mileage when we miss a bin collection.

Neighbourhood Services' Fleet Manager is also examining potential alternative emission reduction technologies and fuels. We could seek to shift towards bio-diesel or diesel produced from recycled materials but further research is needed in this area as it is unclear whether reducing vehicle emissions in one area would be outweighed by increases in other areas. Changing fuel may also affect warranties and maintenance costs. Any shift by the directorate would ideally fit within a corporate fuel or energy source policy. If potential emission reduction fuels or technologies appear practical, then we would be keen to evaluate them.

Emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and other pollutants that affect local air quality are steadily being reduced by European emission directives that encourage manufacturers to produce cleaner vehicles. The fleet replacement programme brings these benefits to the council's fleet. Care is needed when considering other emission reduction technologies or fuels. Measures to reduce emissions that affect the upper atmosphere such as CO₂, could in some cases adversely affect local air quality by producing an increased level of NO_x.

Material recycling and reuse. Services in the directorate recover significant amounts of materials in the course of their work, either to reuse or to send to recycling. For example, the civil engineering service recycles about 80% of their waste road material – estimated at about 10,000 tonnes per year (with inert waste landfill tax charges at £2 per tonne). Most of this material is then processed and either sold on or reused, while it all contributes to reducing landfill tonnages. Working in this way also saves on emissions from reduced travel, and makes financial savings in terms of reduced tipping charges and staff time.

11. Neighbourhood Services contribution to new or ongoing corporate projects

'Switch it off' campaign. We are working with the corporate 'switch it off' campaign. At present we are identifying and training eco-volunteers in our buildings who will start to influence staff behaviour – for example trying to ensure that non-essential electrical equipment is turned off at

night. Projections suggest this better 'housekeeping' could save up to 10% of energy use in buildings.

Travel to work (green travel plan). There is a green travel plan for the Eco Depot. We have fewer car parking spaces available at the Depot than there were at Foss Islands. Cycle storage facilities are better (and are always full so we have increased the capacity available) and cyclists have access to showers. However the lack of parking and the relative distance of the depot from bus routes is causing some difficulties with staff recruitment and retention. We are making efforts to encourage First to reroute buses via James Street. A recent staff travel survey has been undertaken and this will help us to understand the environmental impact of staff travel to and from work.

12. NS potential new projects

The carbon reduction programme is now at the stage of identifying a range of carbon reduction projects to contribute to meeting our corporate targets.

Cremator replacement. The cremators will have to have additional equipment installed within the next 3 years to reduce mercury emissions. Adding the mercury abatement equipment will allow the cremators to operate more efficiently, thus reducing overall energy requirements.

Water use. Water has a significant carbon footprint due to the power required to treat the water we use. The review of public toilet facilities will look at the potential to reduce water used in the facilities.

13. NS potential new projects (ongoing projects with carbon impact).

Jewsons project. The ongoing development of our building maintenance supply chain through working closely with Jewsons will have a number of positive environmental impacts. It will reduce the number of miles travelled by our vehicles in stocking up. Jewsons also have a policy of sourcing sustainable timber (although carbon benefits from this would show up in Jewsons group's reduction).

More widely, we are contributing to strengthening the sustainability elements of the corporate procurement strategy. This policy will be developed by the end of 2007/8 financial year.

Future Programme

14. Environmental sustainability is a corporate priority and so work is being driven primarily via the corporate programmes. A dedicated resource has now been found from within the performance team to improve our monitoring of environmental impact, and to help us derive maximum benefit from the eco-depot site. For example, we have started to develop an assessment of the directorate's carbon footprint baseline using the data collected through the carbon management programme. Once the

EMAS audit is completed, we will be able to pull together a full environmental programme for the directorate.

Consultation

15. Consultation has been limited to officers in Neighbourhood Services and City Strategy directorates.

Options

16. This report is primarily to provide an update for Members, and no options are presented. A further update in June 2008 would be appropriate following the development of the carbon management action plan.

Corporate Priorities

17. This report sets out how Neighbourhood Services is contributing to the corporate priority around reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and the corporate direction statement on environmental sustainability.

Implications:

- **Financial.** There are no financial implications in this report.
- **Human Resources.** There are no staff implications in this report.
- **Equalities.** There are no equalities implications in this report.
- **Legal.** There are no legal implications in this report.
- **Crime and Disorder.** There are no crime and disorder implications in this report.
- **IT.** There are no IT implications associated with this report.
- **Property.** There are no property implications in this report.

Risk Management

18. In compliance with the council's risk management strategy, there are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

Recommendations

19. That the Advisory Panel advises the Executive Member to note the contents of the report.

Reason: To update members on work carried out by Neighbourhood Services in support of the environmental sustainability elements of the corporate strategy.

Contact Details

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Report Approved**Date** 15.11.07**Specialist Implications Officer(s)**

No specialist implications.

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all***All****For further information please contact the author of the report****Background Papers:**

CYC Corporate Strategy 2007-2011 – Executive 25th September 2007
CYC Environmental Policy – Executive 11th September 2007

Annexes:

None.