

**Corporate Services & Partnerships Policy Overview Committee
Major Review Topic 2013/14 – Reduction of the Council’s Carbon
Footprint**

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REASON FOR ITEM

To provide Members with background information on this Committee’s next review which will be on how to reduce the Council’s Carbon Footprint. A presentation will be given by the Council’s Energy Manager, David Haygarth.

OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

1. To note the background information and the presentation material given to the Committee on the Council’s Carbon Footprint and how can the Council reduce this.

INFORMATION

1. At the last meeting of the Committee discussion took place on a possible review topic for this Committee’s next review for this Municipal Year. After discussions it was agreed that the Committee undertake a review on the Council’s Carbon Footprint, and how this could this be reduced.
2. For this meeting, the Council’s Energy Manager, David Haygarth will give Members a presentation on the topic and then based on the discussion, Officers will produce a scoping report for the review.

Definition

3. A basic definition of a carbon footprint is the total sets of greenhouse gas emissions caused by an organization, event, product or person. However, because calculating total carbon footprints is impossible due to the large amount of data required and the fact that carbon dioxide can be produced by natural occurrences, a more practicable definition is:

“A measure of the total amount of carbon dioxide and methane emissions of a defined population, system or activity, considering all relevant sources, sinks and storage within the spatial and temporal boundary of the population, system or activity of interest. Calculated as carbon dioxide equivalent using the relevant 100 year global warming potential (GWP100).”

Further Information

4. For Members information attached to this report are documents which provide some further detail on the Council’s Carbon emissions that the Council is required to report on as part of the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme legislation.

- A summary of site emissions in tonnes of CO2 that is split between GF (General Fund), Academies and Schools, and HRA (Housing Revenue Account)
- The same site summary as above but figures presented in kWhs.
- The Environment Agency Summary of London Borough of Hillingdon's emissions (Note that the total tonnes of CO2 in the EA report is slightly different to the figures in item 1) above as the CRC Registry applies an uplift of 10% to those supplies defined as "estimated" when the raw data is entered.
- Cabinet Report on CRC Allowances - The Council is required to purchase CRC allowances at £12 per tonne of CO2 for emissions regulated by the CRC. This acts as a financial driver to reduce emissions For 2012-13 the Council's CRC Allowance liability is £359,832. This report was written prior to figures for 2012-13 were finalised but gives some background on the process and CRC.
- A summary of recent changes to the CRC following the Governments simplification response. The CRC is quite complex so this is a short summary of the scheme and what has changed. Further information on CRC can be found here <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/pollution/126698.aspx>