

## Major Review – Reduction of our Carbon Footprint - Witness Session

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### REASON FOR ITEM

To be provided with further evidence for this Committee's review on how the Council can reduce its Carbon Footprint.

### OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

1. To question the witnesses who are providing the Committee with evidence for the Committee's review.
2. To receive further information on areas of the review which were requested at the last meeting.

### INFORMATION

1. At the last meeting of the Committee Members received a variety of information from reports and from witnesses relating to:-
  - **Anaerobic Digestion (AD)** - This was where organic waste, food, grass, slurry etc, was mixed and broken down to form gas. The gas was then used to power an engine which generated heat and electricity, which was then sold to the grid and local users through a district heat and power network. Reference was made to a new AD plant which had opened in County Durham. This new plant produced 1.56MWh which was enough energy to power 2,000 homes from processing up to 50,000 tonnes of commercial food waste.
2. The Council's Energy Manager who has been providing the POC with his support to the review suggested that it was feasible that a comparable facility within this Borough would provide enough power for a facility such as the Civic Centre. He also referred to the number of farms within the Borough which could be used for this anaerobic process. For this meeting further information will be provided on how such a facility could work in this Borough, utilising the farm waste and food waste within the Borough.
  - **Decentralised Energy – Heat and Power**- The Committee was made aware of the recently set up Energy Centre and heat network at Bunhill, in the London Borough of Islington. The Centre provided a heat network in the Bunhill ward and provided cheaper, greener and locally produced energy. The heat network was fed by a local energy centre which produced electricity and heat. The Committee was informed that this Energy Centre produced more efficient electricity than the central power stations because the normally wasted heat which occurred in central power stations was captured and piped around the heat network in the Energy Centre. The Energy Centre was generally much

more efficient, cheaper and greener and provided residents with affordable warmth and helped reduce carbon emissions.

3. The Committee expressed an interest in this facility and in the New Year a site visit and presentation will be arranged to enable further information to be gathered for the review. In addition, the Council's Energy Manager agreed to provide information on the feasibility of such a facility within the Borough.
  - **Helping Residents switch energy supplier** –At the last meeting Members were informed that a press release would be released which would inform residents that practical advice on switching energy providers and getting the best energy deals would be available from a Council backed helpline. The Council had teamed up with the Energy Helpline to provide this free and impartial service. Residents who were worried about the impact of rising energy prices which had recently been announced by gas and electricity suppliers would be encouraged to find out if they could save money by swapping to a different company. The Council's website contained information for residents on energy efficiency and savings which could be made.
4. At the meeting, Members were informed that this press release would be passed to local newspapers and consideration would also be given to producing flyers for local libraries and for street champions to distribute. In addition officers were asked to consider including local businesses in the initiative. Officers will update Members with progress on this at the meeting.
  - **Council's Vehicle Fleet** – Members were provided with details of the Council's vehicle fleet together with details on fuel used.
5. In relation to anaerobic waste, officers were asked to look at the feasibility of using this as a possible alternative fuel and report back to a future meeting.
  - **Electric Car Charging Points** – The Committee was provided with information on the usage of these points throughout the Borough.
6. The Committee asked for more information on electric charging points, particularly more detail on the use of each charging point and the levels of ownership of electric vehicles within the Borough. In addition Members thought it would be useful for information on what facilities other neighbouring local authorities provided, together with information on any electric car dealerships which were in the Borough. For this meeting Alan Tilly, the Council's Transport Team Manager will attend the meeting and answer Member's questions. Attached as **Appendix A** to this report is a brief paper which provides more information for the review.

- **Procurement - Energy Contracts 2013/14** – The Council’s Energy Manager provided Members with the background to the Council’s current energy contracts and the proposals for the Council to procure energy on a greener tariff. This would have obvious consequences of reducing CO2 and reducing this Council’s Climate Change Levy. The Committee was encouraged by this strategy and the move to greener energy. A further update on this will be provided at the meeting.

**PAPERS WITH REPORT**

Appendix A – Paper on Electric Charging Points and Cars,  
Appendix B – Scoping Report