

## 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 and consider draft recommendations for the review.

### OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

1. **To question officers who are providing the Committee with evidence for the Committee's review.**
2. **To consider the information which has been received during the review and to give some thought to draft recommendations for officers to take forward for consideration.**

### INFORMATION

1. At the last meeting of the Committee Members received a variety of information relating to Decentralised Energy – Heat and Power, Anaerobic Digestion and related issues and on Electric Cars and charging points. For this meeting Officers will update the Committee on these areas and provide information which was requested at the last meeting.
2. **Decentralised Energy – Heat and Power-** Members were provided with details of potential heat and power networks within the Borough which included area close to Uxbridge High Street, Hillingdon Hospital and Brunel University. Members discussed the site of the former EMI vinyl factory in Hayes and officers were asked to give this site consideration as a potential network. Members noted that for a heat and power network facility to be implemented within the Borough, it would require high level technical feasibility and financial modelling.

Officers will provide Members with a briefing note on the suitability and viability of such a facility at the former EMI vinyl factory site.

3. **Absorption Chilling** – This was a process which was used in the summer to convert hot water to cool water. Members were informed that Absorption Chilling was cost effective and more economical than electrical chillers and therefore would reduce energy costs. Officers would provide an update on this and whether this could be developed as part of any proposals for Decentralised Energy in the Borough.
4. **Anaerobic Digestion (AD)** – The Committee at the last meeting were provided with the potential benefits of AD to the Council, which were summarised as:-

1. Reducing the amount of food waste which would go to landfill which was one of the key waste management targets. AD would be a cost effective alternative solution to landfilling
2. It would provide income from electricity production by means of renewable energy sources. Energy companies were legally obliged to buy energy produced from renewable energy sources. This would be a revenue stream for the Council and could provide payback on medium scale AD plants of around 6-8years
3. There would be income to the Council of gate fees which would be a type of “toll” on allowing waste over a weighbridge
4. The Borough had a large proportion of Green Belt in the region which could give the authority the ability to utilise or sell the digestate to the occupiers
5. The heat generated from an AD plant could help supply heat to nearby housing developments. This would again be a source of revenue to the Council and provide lower energy bills for residents.

Officers undertook to provide information on the possible use of a site near New Years Green Lane. Members were informed that this would be dependent on the planning use of the land and whether an AD plant would be a permissible use. Officers will update Members on this; together with the impact (if any) the proposed HS2 route would have on any such facility.

5. As part of proposals for AD, reference at the last meeting was made to the volume and type of **organic waste** that was collected annually in the Borough and whether the Council could use these waste streams, longer term as part of an AD facility Officer were asked to provide details on the amount of slurry produced at the farms in the Borough, tonnage, collection frequency and costs etc.
6. **Electric Car Charging Points** – The Council’s Transport and Aviation Manager provided further information on electric charging points within the Borough and Members discussed a number of possible incentives which could be offered to residents which may increase the usage of electric vehicles. These included: - free parking for electric cars in the car parks where electric charging points were located and free parking permits for electric cars within controlled parking zones. Officers will report back to Members on the feasibility of these and whether they could be used as incentives

## **PAPERS WITH REPORT**

Appendix A – Summary of Information received during the review