

## Major Review – Reduction of our Carbon Footprint

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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 to give consideration to 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 further evidence as part of the review into how the Council can reduce its Carbon Footprint. A number of actions were asked for officers and updates on these will be provided at the meeting.
2. **Decentralised Energy – Heat and Power-** During discussion on this item the Council's Energy Manager informed Members of the availability of funding from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) for investigating the feasibility for Decentralised Energy.
3. Attached for information is the Application and Guidance Pack from DECC. The Council's Energy Manager will update Members further at the meeting.
4. **Absorption Chilling** – This was raised at the last meeting and to remind Members this was a process which was used in the summer to convert hot water to cool water. This was a more cost effective system than electric chillers and the Energy Manager would update Members at the meeting on the feasibility of such a system to be introduced at a Council facility such as the Civic Centre.
5. **Anaerobic Digestion (AD)** – As a reminder to Members the potential benefits of AD to the Council, would be:-
  - 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
  - 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.

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This would be a revenue stream for the Council and could provide payback on medium scale AD plants of around 6-8years

- There would be income to the Council of gate fees which would be a type of “toll” on allowing waste over a weighbridge
- 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
- 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.

6. The Council’s Energy Manager would provide further information at the meeting on the feasibility of an AD plant on a site near New Years Green Lane, providing hot water and electricity to nearby residents.
7. As part of proposals for AD, reference was made to organic waste such as slurry from nearby farms in the Borough. This slurry could be used as part of the anaerobic process and could be brought into an AD Plant. Reference was made to the development of a pipeline from nearby farms which could pipe in slurry. The Council’s Energy Manager would update Members at the meeting on the feasibility of this.
8. **Corporate Sustainable Energy Policy for Corporate Buildings, Housing, Open spaces and Energy used in Fleet and Transport** - At the last meeting Members were informed that the review so far had indicated that the Council needed to approach its energy policies more corporately and it was suggested that the review gave the Council the opportunity to implement a Corporate Sustainable Energy Policy.
9. Such a policy would take account of existing policy and legislation in building design and energy use and the suitable waste streams arising from operations in the Borough. It would drive the reduction of costs and carbon falling within the Council’s remits by promoting cross-Council working amongst colleagues, motivating the organisation to achieve the best and most holistic result internally.
10. A policy would link to the Council’s Sustainable Community Strategy and also link to strategies for planning, waste and procurement. Members were informed that this would enable the Council to identify longer term strategic planning objectives which would create the environment for opportunities such as AD and decentralised energy.
11. An update on this would be provided at the meeting on a draft corporate policy and how it would link with key sections to the Council’s Sustainability Strategy.
12. **Draft Recommendations** –For the meeting, officers will work with Members on suggested draft recommendations for the review. To help Corporate Services & Partnership Policy Overview Committee –13 March

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Members with discussion, a summary of the evidence which the review has received is attached as **Appendix B** to this report.

## **PAPERS WITH REPORT**

**APPENDIX A** - Application and Guidance Pack from Department of Energy and Climate Change on Heat Network Funding Stream

**APPENDIX B** – Summary of Information received during the review