

9. **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT (A595 / MF)**

1. **Purpose of the report**

This report details the environmental performance data for the 2014/15 financial year and progress against performance in previous and baseline years. The data relates to the environmental impacts arising from the Authority's operations and reflects the scope and methodology of reporting as established in the Authority's Carbon Management Plan (CMP).

Key issues

- **Performance continues to improve and the Authority has demonstrated a 20% reduction in carbon emissions since the 2009/10 baseline period. This is broadly in line with the overall target of achieving a 30% reduction by the end of the 2016/17 year**

2. **Recommendations**

1. **That the environmental performance data detailed in Appendix 1 be adopted as a measure of the Authority's operational environmental performance over the 2014/15 reporting period.**
2. **That the 2015/16 Authority performance indicator be amended to include a more specific target for the reduction in carbon emissions. It is recommended that the target be amended to the following:
"25% reduction from 2009/10 baseline."**

3. **How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?**

4. **Background**

5. Authority members recommended that the corporate indicator on carbon emissions be made more specific when approving the proposed Performance and Business Plan and this has been addressed within this report.

6. Appendix 1 fulfils the commitment to regular reporting established in Authority decision of 23rd January 2009 (Minute ref: 6/09) and the Authority's Environmental Management Policy.

7. The Authority approved the revision of the timescales to achieve a 30% reduction in carbon emissions by 2016/17 (minute ref: 9/14). A revised list of carbon management plan projects including a revised profile for achieving the target was approved by Senior Management Team in December 2013. A summary of the revised profile is provided in Figure 1 of Appendix 1.

Proposals

8. The report contained within Appendix 1 represents Authority's environmental impacts over the 2014/15 financial year. The report details the progress made in the key areas of environmental impact but the key trends and points of note are:
- A total decrease in Carbon Emissions of 20% since the baseline year,

representing a 189 tonnes reduction in emission against baseline and a 223 tonne reduction against a business as usual (BAU) scenario (23% against BAU emissions). This is a continuation of our steady progress in this area.

- The reductions made include:
 - A 22% reduction in emissions related to energy use within buildings.
 - Emissions from travel and transport have decreased by 21% compared to baseline levels.
 - Improvements continue to be made in the tenanted housing stock resulting in a further reduction in emissions.
 - Emissions from waste production and water use have fallen with the most significant reductions being in emissions resulting from increases in waste recycling.

9. Financial savings from the measures associated with the Carbon Management Plan are broadly in line with those predicted in the revised profile. When anticipated increases are taken into consideration, the actual savings against the 'business as usual' scenario of continuing consumption at 2009/10 levels, savings are calculated to be approximately £105,000 to date.

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

10. **Financial:**
Resources are in place to fund the current Carbon Management Plan for the period of the target (up to 2016/17). The Authority has already benefited significantly from the reductions in travel, energy use and waste production. Many of the financial benefits are not directly attributable to particular cost centres (or they are offset by increases in fuel and energy costs), whereas a number of projects have directly contributed towards efficiency savings and future projects will continue to do so.
11. **Risk Management:**
The most significant risk is that actions in the Carbon Management Plan to improve the Authority's environmental performance do not achieve the anticipated level of reductions. The projects within the plan are set to achieve the required level of reductions and be implemented within the specified period. However, it should be recognised that there will, in the case of some projects, be a lag between project implementation and benefiting from the reductions in emissions, particularly where projects are implemented late on in the reporting period.
The monitoring of environmental performance will help this risk to be managed and will inform future proposals in an updated Carbon Management Plan beyond 2016/17 which will be developed to support the new corporate plan.
12. **Sustainability:**
Sustainability of the Authority's operations is implicit within this report
13. **Background papers** (not previously published)
None

Appendices –

Appendix 1 - Environmental Management Annual Performance Report 2013/14

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

Matt Freestone, Environmental Management Officer, 9 July 2015