

Business, Enterprise and Employment Scrutiny Board (3)  
Cabinet Member (Business, Enterprise and Employment)

8<sup>th</sup> October 2014  
20<sup>th</sup> October 2014

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Business, Enterprise and Employment – Councillor K Maton

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Executive Director, Place

**Ward(s) affected:**

None

**Title:**

Revision of the Council's Carbon Management Plan

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**Is this a key decision?**

No

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**Executive Summary:**

In September 2009 a Carbon Management Plan (CMP) for the City Council was approved by the then Cabinet Member for (Climate Change, Housing and Sustainability). The plan set an aspirational target of reducing the City Council's carbon dioxide emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>) by 30% over five years.

This document provides an update on achievement against this target and presents a revised CMP which reflects changing priorities and sets new performance targets to be achieved by 2020. It also requests the approval of a revised Energy, Water and Carbon Management Policy.

The City Council has had significant success in reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions over the last five years and has achieved a 21% reduction. This has been achieved despite significant challenges such as the uncertainty around the long term use of City Council office accommodation prior to the planned move to Friargate and the Government's cancellation of the Building Schools for the Future programme.

The reasons for reducing the carbon footprint of the City Council are even more pressing than when the CMP was first produced. To address this increasing priority a revised CMP and Energy, Water and Carbon Management Policy has been prepared. The CMP has been revised to take into account changing circumstances and sets out the agenda and CO<sub>2</sub> emission targets for the next six years reflecting the national reduction targets.

The 2020 targets in the revised CMP are:

- CO<sub>2</sub> reduction target of 35%. Equivalent to 9,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction against the baseline.
- Renewable energy target of 15%. Equivalent to 2,500 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> of carbon dioxide emissions being offset through the supply of renewable energy.

To continue the City Council's progress in reducing carbon the Cabinet Member is asked to approve the revised CMP and the supporting Energy, Water and Carbon Management Policy.

### **Recommendations:**

Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board 3 is asked to:

1. Consider this report and forward any recommendations to Cabinet Member (Business, Enterprise and Employment).

Cabinet Member is asked to:

1. Consider any comments/recommendations made by Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board 3;
2. Approve the revised Carbon Management Plan; and
3. Approve the Energy, Water, and Carbon Management Policy.

### **List of Appendices included:**

Appendix 1 - Coventry City Council's Carbon Management Plan

Appendix 2 - Energy, Water and Carbon Management Policy

### **Other useful background papers:**

Coventry City Council, 2009. *Carbon Management Plan*.

[Available at

[http://democraticservices.coventry.gov.uk/Data/Cabinet%20Member%20\(Climates%20Change,%20Housing%20and%20Sustainability\)/200909010930/Agenda/04%20-%20Carbon%20Management%20Plan.pdf](http://democraticservices.coventry.gov.uk/Data/Cabinet%20Member%20(Climates%20Change,%20Housing%20and%20Sustainability)/200909010930/Agenda/04%20-%20Carbon%20Management%20Plan.pdf)

Coventry City Council, 2010. *Energy and Water Management Policy 2010*.

Published as appendix to Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme Cabinet Member Report available at

<http://democraticservices.coventry.gov.uk/Data/Cabinet/201010051400/Agenda/06%20-%20Carbon%20Reduction%20Commitment%20CRC%20Energy%20Efficiency%20Scheme.pdf>

### **Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

Yes, to be considered at the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board 3 on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014

### **Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

Carbon Management Board – September 19<sup>th</sup> 2014

### **Will this report go to Council?**

No

## **Report title: Revision of Carbon Management Plan**

### **1. Context (or background)**

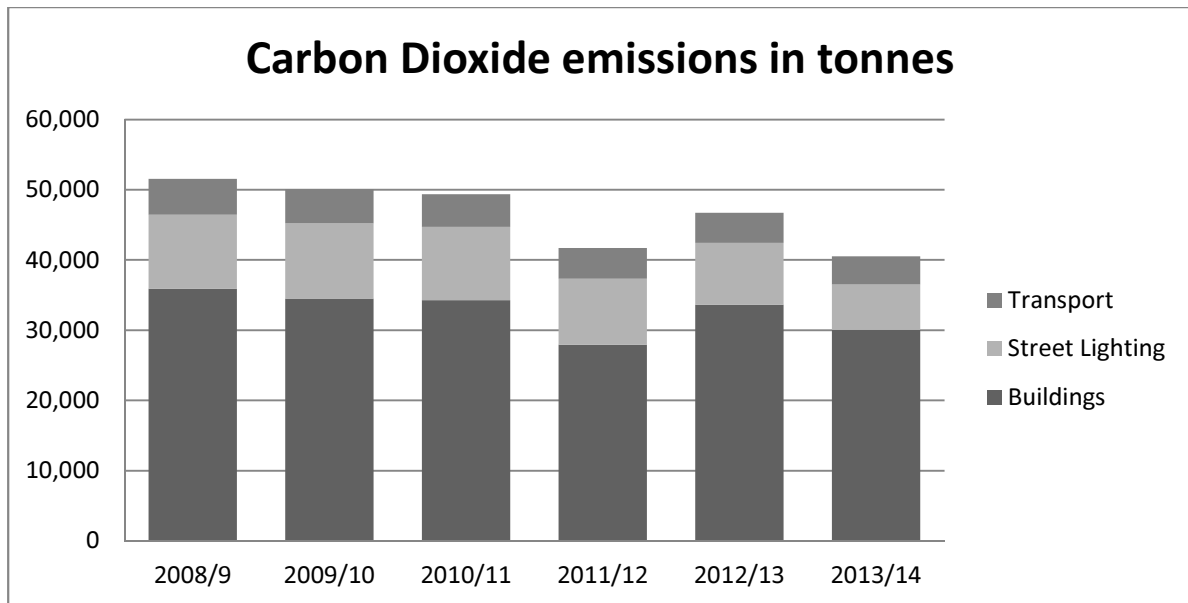
- 1.1 In September 2009 a Carbon Management Plan (CMP) for the City Council was approved, by the then Cabinet Member for (Climate Change, Housing and Sustainability), and set an aspirational target of reducing the City Council's carbon dioxide emissions by 30% over five years. The CMP expired in March 2014 during which time the carbon dioxide emissions from Council operations (including schools) reduced by 21%.
- 1.2 The Energy Policy was written in 2010 to support energy and carbon management best practice within the City Council.
- 1.3 One of the priorities of the Council Plan is to make savings by reducing operating costs through low carbon initiatives.

### **2. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 2.1 The scope of the CMP covered carbon dioxide emissions from City Council operational property, fleet and school buildings. The CMP included a programme of carbon reduction projects which would have delivered the ambitious 30% target.
- 2.2 However, the economic downturn followed by a change in Government in 2010 and the subsequent change in policies have resulted in the ending of some carbon reduction programmes and the reprioritising of others.

This has had an impact on the ability of the City Council to deliver the planned savings from the activities listed in the Carbon Management Plan. For example, the Building Schools for the Future programme would have made an annual saving of around 2,800 tonnes of carbon dioxide, but the Government's decision to end this rebuilding programme for schools has meant that these savings cannot now be achieved. Also, due to the uncertainty around the long term use of City Council office accommodation it has been prudent to mainly focus on properties the City Council is certain to occupy after the move to Friargate. This has limited the energy efficiency measures that could be implemented to those having little or no cost and those demonstrating business cases with rapid pay back. Other activities in the plan have been considered and proved to not now be feasible. However, a range of projects have been put in place and completed which have delivered planned savings.

- 2.3 Projects related to the replacement of the City's street lighting, property rationalisation, district heating (Heatline), lighting upgrades in council offices, low carbon vehicles and network of green champions have all contributed to a significant reduction of 21% reduction over five years.
- 2.4 The graph on the following page gives the carbon dioxide emissions measured from council and school buildings, street lighting and fleet operations since the 2008/9 financial year baseline.
- 2.5 Carbon dioxide emissions from buildings are weather dependent. The large increase in emissions for the period 2012/13 was primarily due to the extreme period of cold weather experienced over 2012/13 which saw a 24% increase in demand for heating compared to the 20 year average.



Year	2008/9 (t CO2e)	2009/10 (t CO2e)	2010/11 (t CO2e)	2011/12 (t CO2e)	2012/13 (t CO2e)	2013/14 (t CO2e)	% change
Council & School Buildings	35,900	34,500	34,300	28,000	33,600	30,000	-16%
Street lighting	10,500	10,700	10,400	9,400	8,800	6,500	-38%
Transport	5,100	4,900	4,700	4,400	4,300	4,000	-21%
Total	51,500	50,100	49,400	41,700	46,700	40,500	-21%

2.5 The reasons for reducing energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions of the City Council are even more pressing than when the CMP was first produced. Increasing energy costs, enhanced national carbon reduction targets and the need to comply with additional energy related legislation (such as the Carbon Reduction Commitment Scheme) all make a compelling case to continue managing energy and carbon emissions proactively.

2.6 To address this increasing priority a revised CMP (Appendix 1) and Energy, Water and Carbon Management Policy (Appendix 2) have been prepared. Both have been revised to take into account changing circumstances while the CMP sets out the agenda and carbon dioxide emission targets for the next six years reflecting the national carbon reduction targets.

The 2020 targets in the revised CMP are:

- CO<sub>2</sub> reduction target of 35%. Equivalent to 9000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction against the baseline.
- Renewable target of 15%. Equivalent to 2500 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> being offset through the supply of renewable energy.

2.7 The CMP specifies the City Council's carbon management priorities, indicates the key projects that will achieve the required carbon reductions and outlines the available options for financing energy efficiency improvements.

2.8 Revising the CMP allowed an opportunity to revise its scope. The 2009 CMP included carbon dioxide emissions from Coventry schools. The revised CMP no longer includes schools because the ability of the City Council to influence

energy consumption within schools has diminished significantly. This is due to the increasing number of Academy schools and the Government's removal of the requirement to report school emissions under phase II of the Carbon Reduction Commitment scheme.

2.9 When schools are taken out of the scope of the CMP the carbon dioxide emissions reduction from Council Buildings, Streetlighting and Fleet operations is 27% compared to the baseline year.

2.10 To continue the Council's progress and leadership in cutting carbon the Cabinet Member is therefore asked to approve the revised CMP and the supporting Energy, Water and Carbon Management Policy.

### **3. Results of consultation undertaken**

No consultation has been undertaken

### **4. Timetable for implementing this decision**

4.1 Implementation of the revised CMP and Energy, Water and Carbon Management Policy will commence immediately after Cabinet Member approval.

### **5. Comments from Director of Finance and Legal Services**

5.1 Finance: Reducing energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions will have a financial benefit for the City Council in terms of helping offset likely energy price rises.

Larger energy efficiency projects requiring investment will be subject to the usual City Council approval process. A business case will be developed for each project that indicates a maximum payback period and method of financing. A report to cabinet is due to be submitted for approval imminently in this regard using a combination of external (Salix) and City Council resources.

5.2 Legal: There are no specific legal implications associated with this report.

### **6. Other implications**

#### **6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?**

Reducing spend on energy and fuel contributes to delivering the Council Plan priority of reducing operating costs (low carbon). Delivering the objectives of the CMP will contribute to improving the environment and tackling climate change.

#### **6.2 How is risk being managed?**

The risk of failing to deliver the CMP will be minimised by the governance and reporting arrangements that will be put in place.

#### **6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?**

Reducing spend on energy and fuel contributes to delivering the Council Plan priority of reducing operating costs (low carbon).

**6.4 Equalities / EIA**

None

**6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment**

Delivering the CMP will demonstrate that the City Council is leading by example in reducing its carbon dioxide emissions by a greater amount than national reduction targets.

It will also contribute to maintaining the excellent performance in reducing carbon dioxide emissions of the City.

**6.6 Implications for partner organisations?**

None

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