

REPORT TO Corporate Services Policy & Performance Board
DATE 5th January 2010
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Environment
SUBJECT: Use of Resources Topic Theme Progress Report
WARD: Borough Wide

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To advise on progress with the Use of Resources topic theme

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The report be noted.

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 At the Board's meeting in September information was provided on the scope of the Corporate Area Assessment Use of Resources theme. The Board subsequently identified priority areas for review within the assessment area as part of their work programme for 2009/10. The areas selected energy management in buildings and procurement. These were prioritised as emissions from buildings accounted for approximately 70% of the carbon emissions from the Council's activities and spend of goods and services was in excess of £190m

The first meeting of the Working Group set up to look at energy management in buildings has met and agreed the scope of the review and key lines of enquiry. The Working Group has been provided with a good practice model for developing a strategic approach to energy management, details of the Council's current energy policy, baseline data in respect of energy use in the Council's buildings and actions taken to date by the Council to manage its energy use. The Working Group has identified a number of key individuals/agencies both internally and externally who will be invited to future meetings to enable them to contribute their views to the topic theme.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Corporate Area assessment includes an annual use of resources assessment, part of which indicates how well the Council is making effective use of the natural resources. The Council has also made the commitment through the Carbon Management Programme to reduce its carbon emissions from its own activities.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are likely to be financial and staffing costs associated with adopting a more strategic approach to energy management in buildings. These will need to be identified and developed before the Group's final recommendations are formulated.

6. **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

The Council's priorities include adopting sustainable principles and addressing climate change as part of the Corporate Plan an urban renewable priority addressing the use of resources as consistent with this priority.

7. **RISK ANALYSIS**

The main risk in not understanding managing and reducing the Council's use of natural resources and this could be reflected in an adverse Comprehensive Area Assessment by the Audit Commission. The introduction of a more structured approach to energy management in buildings would be one way of mitigating this risk.

8. **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

None.

9. **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100 (d) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

Documents: Corporate PPB Working Group

Place of Inspection: Municipal Building

Contract Officer: Jim Yates