

**Report to:** School Forum

**Reporting Officer:** Divisional Manager Operations Economy  
Enterprise and Property

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> October 2012

**Subject:** Carbon Reduction Commitment/Low Carbon  
Schools Service

**Wards:** Borough Wide

## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide details of the Schools Carbon Footprint for 2011/1, note the financial contribution made in 2011/12 and make provision for funding for 2012/13. Additional views are sought on whether the School Forum would fund the delivery of a Low Carbon Schools Service which would aim to reduce energy bills in schools and the financial impact of the CRC in future years.

## **2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 The School Forum note the financial contribution of £80,808.85 from the 2011/12 Dedicated Schools Grant to fund the Carbon Reduction commitment
- 2.2 Provision be made of £85,000 from the 2012/13 Dedicated Schools Grant Budget to fund the Carbon Reduction commitment
- 2.2 The School Forum determine whether they wish to fund the Low Carbon Schools Service from the Dedicated Schools Grant.

## **3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 In October 2011 the Forum received a report which explained the operations of the Carbon Reduction Commitment and the financial implications for schools. The scheme requires the local authority to submit an annual report in July which outlines our carbon emissions for the previous year. Carbon allowances must be purchased to cover the emissions from the previous year at a current cost of £12 per tonne.
- 3.2 An annual report covering local authority and school emissions was submitted in July 2012 which indicated that the total emissions for the reporting year 2011/12 was 13,179 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>. The split between corporate and schools buildings is as follows:

Corporate: 5,932 tonnes at £12 a tonne = £77,327.85  
 (including Academies)  
 Schools: 7246 tonnes at £12 a tonne = £80,808.85

3.3 The Academies figure has been included in the Corporate figure and will be recharged separately.

#### 4. LOW CARBON SCHOOLS SERVICE

4.1 Since the Council started to collect data in 2006/07 overall there has been a reduction in Halton's carbon emissions (see table below). The Council has adopted a Carbon Management Plan up to 2013 which focusses primarily on projects in Corporate buildings. Work to date has shown a continual improvement since the base line year. In contrast school emissions have fluctuated but generally increased up to 2010/11. There has been a decrease last year but this was partly due to a very mild winter and reduced gas consumption.

Year	Schools KW/h	Corporate KW/h
2006/7	28,042,434	30,164,003
2007/8	29,079,392	28,689,484
2008/9	32,187,287	27,803,165
2009/10	29,093,078	27,958,534
2010/11	30,464,154	26,680,759
2011/12	26,635,820	23,498,432

4.2 The current energy spend in schools is approximately £1.6m. These costs are likely to rise in the coming years as fuel prices increase with predicted annual increases of 7%. Based on these projections if consumption levels remain static energy costs will rise by a further £500,000 over the next 5 years if current trends and price rises are sustained.

4.3 Increased emissions will also result in higher contributions towards the CRC and again whilst the current fixed price is £12 per tonne after the first phase of CRC this is predicted to rise further with predicted estimates of £20 per tonne by 2017 and £30 by 2020. Based on the current consumption levels this would increase CRC costs to £144,000 by 2017 and £217,000 by 2020.

4.4 There are significant opportunities for schools in Halton to save both money and carbon and the Council has recently undertaken a pilot study with a small number of schools to demonstrate the potential for low cost energy savings and larger Invest to Save projects. If the results of this pilot were spread across the Council school estate this could receive annual savings of between £15,000 and £20,000 per annum on energy bills and an additional £1,500 on CRC liabilities. This is based on working with 10 schools per annum with a collective energy spend of £200,000 and delivering savings of between 7.5% and 10%.

- 4.5 The pilot study identified the energy performance of schools against a number of metrics. A financial metric based on £/pupil/year energy costs, the Display Energy Certificates and out of hours electricity waste. Details of Halton School performance is shown in the attached appendix and highlights the scope for reducing consumption.
- 4.6 Over the 5 year programme the cumulative savings could be in the region of £225,000 on energy bills and £7,500 on CRC liabilities.
- 4.7 The Council has developed a Low Carbon Schools Service which aims to build capacity schools and provide tools to enable schools to take more control over their lighting, ICT, electricity equipment and heating. The Service also tries to capitalise on educational opportunities and the chance to engage the whole school and local community in actions around energy saving.

The service will provide a two-tier service to schools which would encompass:

**Schools Low Carbon Collaborative Support available to all schools on an annual basis**

1. A series of workshops and resource demonstration sessions (one per half term from Autumn to Easter), including:
  - a. Initial session to provide introduction to using AMR to monitor energy and introduction to whole school approach;
  - b. Out of Hours, Lighting and IT switch off resource demonstrations
  - c. Taking control of your Heating resource demonstration and technical advice on draft proofing/insulation etc.
  - d. A collaboration workshop to share learning, ideas and outcomes, and provide an AMR refresher.

**Direct Support provided to 10 schools each (ensuring all schools can receive this level of support over the 5 year programme):**

2. The provision of a direct point of contact/co-ordinator, who will:
  - a. Attend an initial meeting with the Headteacher, Business Manager and Identified Lead Representative at the school to gain commitment.
  - b. Provide an energy performance report detailing the consumption profile and potential/recommendations for improvement.

- c. Facilitate an energy strategy workshop with the school senior management team to establish baseline positions and agree a strategy for action for a whole school approach.
  - d. Monitoring school progress on a weekly basis during term time.
  - e. Provide *ad hoc* advice over the Autumn and Spring term regarding establishing a whole school approach, developing policies and action plans, and signposting to other support and information.
3. Onsite support in implementing at least two of the resources:
    - a. Lighting switch off and labelling
    - b. Out of Hours survey and switch off
    - c. Taking control of your heating
    - d. Impact of catering
  4. Support schools in preparing a business case for invest to save projects and preparing applications for external funding, where available.

Delivery of the service would require individual Heads to sign up to deliver the programme.

Each of the identified 10 schools will participate over a two term period although the programme will also focus on achieving longer term policies and whole school commitment via the ongoing collaborative support package, which will be available to all schools in each year. It is also anticipated that the Local Authority will continue to provide *ad hoc* light touch support to previous participants to maintain the momentum.

The plan will identify invest to save initiatives and if these are implemented by the schools, via financing schemes, schools' own investment or as part of the schools capital programme. It is anticipated that an additional above 10% saving can be achieved should this investment be made.

The Council has already developed and is rolling out an Energy Management Programme for managers within our own building portfolio. The pilots have shown savings in excess of 10% in corporate buildings. The Council staff resource used to develop and deliver this programme will be used to implement the school service.

It is estimated to deliver the schools programme would require support of approximately 2 days per week. Total estimated costs of delivering the programme on an annual basis are estimated at £10,000.

The School Forum is asked to consider whether to support the implementation of a Low Carbon Schools Service for a one year period and subject to performance reports further funding would be requested from the Forum to complete the other 4 years of the programme.

## **5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The drive to reduce carbon emissions falls in-line with Council Policy particularly the Carbon Management Plan as such it is imperative that schools do everything possible to help reduce their emissions as this will help reduce their costs.

## **6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The CRC Scheme has made the need for reducing carbon emissions even more relevant as failure to do so will lead to increased costs. A 'league table' arrangement is included as part of the scheme which will position participants in order, this will have a reputational impact on the authority as such it is imperative that we do all possible in the drive to reduce carbon emissions.

## **7. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

- 7.1 Children and Young People in Halton  
Cost and reputational impact
- 7.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton  
n/a
- 7.3 A Healthy Halton  
n/a
- 7.4 A Safer Halton  
n/a
- 7.5 Halton's Urban Renewal  
n/a

## **8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

- 8.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.