

CARBON MANAGEMENT PLAN (2009 – 2014) – 2011 UPDATE

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This paper introduces the Carbon Management Plan 2011 Update which has been produced with the support of the Carbon Trust through their Carbon Management Revisited Programme.
- 1.2 The workplan associated with the document has been informed by the Sourcing Strategy for renewable that is currently being developed with the support of the Carbon Trust.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are invited to note the contents and, in particular, the progress that is being achieved towards the 2014 targets.

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 The Council approved its initial Carbon Management Plan covering the period 2009 – 2014 in May 2009. This set out an ambitious target for a 20% reduction in the Council's carbon emissions by 2014.
- 3.2 Work has been ongoing over the past few months with the Carbon Trust, through their Carbon Management Revisited Programme, to assess the Council's overall progress towards this target.
- 3.3 The accompanying updated plan has been developed to reflect on this progress and in particular, the interim 3 year target for a 9.7% reduction in emissions. Members are asked to note that this has been achieved but only after altering the Council's approach towards the accounting for emissions relating to the management of waste. The approach now advocated within the update is as suggested by the Carbon Trust and provides the Council with more measurable data. It is understood that this approach is also now being adopted by most other Scottish local authorities.
- 3.4 The update also modernises the governance arrangements for Carbon Management activities within the Council, thereby embedding them to a greater extent in service based activities. This is facilitated in part through a clearer linkage with the Strategic Asset Management Board and the Business Case Gateway process for Capital Planning. This latter development alone will assist the Council to more effectively appraise the impact of

potential projects as this information is now required as a key component under the business case assessment process.

- 3.5 Working towards the 2014 target for a 20% reduction in carbon emissions, the update highlights an ambitious work plan which is being informed by a Renewable Sourcing Strategy. This is currently being developed with the assistance of the Carbon Trust. Interim direction emerging from this work has recommended that the principal focus of the Council's property based activities should remain on the conversion of fuel sources to biomass where technically feasible together with the implementation of a programme of photo voltaic system installations. Further specialist advice is being sought on the latter to inform the development of the programme. Specialist advice is also being sought to support the development of business cases for wind turbine provision at 3 of the Council's waste disposal sites.
- 3.6 In moving forward, the Council will continue to work closely with the Carbon Trust in order to optimise opportunities for the implementation of renewable energy projects to enhance carbon reductions and maximise the benefit associated with the Government's feed in incentives.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 In common with most other Scottish local authorities, Argyll and Bute Council set an ambitious target for a reduction in carbon emissions by 2014. Work carried out by the Carbon Trust and Council officers has ascertained that the Council remains on track to achieve the interim 3 year target of a 9.7% reduction in emissions.
- 4.2 Notwithstanding the progress achieved to date, the 2014 target for a 20% reduction remains challenging and will only be achievable if all services participate in full towards its delivery.
- 4.3 The 2011 Carbon Management Plan Update revises the governance arrangements for Carbon Management within the Council and also recommends measures to further embed the process across all Council services.
- 4.4 Work will continue with the Carbon Trust in order to maximise opportunities for carbon reduction and the development of renewable energy projects.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy - Energy efficiency, carbon reduction and reducing the reliance on fossil fuels are all consistent with national priorities, the Council's Corporate Plan and Corporate Improvement objectives.

- 5.2 Financial - Funding bids will be made, supported by appropriate business cases.
- 5.3 Legal – Nil.
- 5.4 HR – There will be a requirement to embed carbon management actions across the Council via a Communications Strategy.
- 5.5 Equalities – Nil.
- 5.6 Risk – The Council will only be in a position to deliver upon the previously agreed target for the reduction in carbon emissions following the delivery of appropriate projects.

6.0 APPENDICES

Carbon Management Plan Update 2011

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