

Wiltshire Council

Environment Select Committee

23 April 2019

ECO Board update

Purpose of Report

As resolved at [26 June 2018](#) Environment Select Committee (ESC), the Committee to receive an annual update from the ECO Board on their progress and future plans going forward. Additionally, as resolved at [12 March 2019](#) ESC, the update report to include detail on actions that have taken place over the past 12 months.

Background

Local authorities have a range of responsibilities relating to climate change, and require a framework for discharging these responsibilities in the form of a strategy. Wiltshire Council is a signatory of the Climate Local Initiative, successor to the Nottingham Declaration and 10:10 campaign. The initiative commits the council to continuing to identify ways of saving money on energy bills, reduce carbon emissions, reduce flood risks and managing the impacts of extreme weather. In February 2019 Wiltshire Council declared a 'Climate Emergency'.

Wiltshire Council has developed an Energy Change and Opportunity ("ECO") strategy, which sets out the council's ambition to reduce its carbon emissions and lead the county's low carbon transition, and prepare for unavoidable climate change.

The Strategy was consulted upon at Environment Select Committee, the Climate Change Board (the then name of the ECO Board), and Wiltshire Environmental Alliance, in 2010.

The Strategy was approved by Cabinet in January 2011, renaming the Climate Change Board to ECO Board and agreeing that it should oversee the delivery of the Strategy, and approve and monitor the delivery of the Action Plans listed below.

- Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- Carbon Management Plan
- Climate Local Initiative
- Energy Resilience Plan
- Environmental Policy
- WiltsCAN Wiltshire Declaration on Climate Change
- Greenhouse Gas emissions report
- Climate Change Adaptation Plan

It was recognised that much of the delivery work would be resourced and taken forward by the relevant service directorate. These service directorates would include:

- Waste
- Transport
- Environment
- Procurement
- Facilities Management
- Planning
- Communications

Wiltshire Council has produced a Core Strategy for the county which identifies addressing climate change as a key strategic objective; including policies which will deliver; sustainable growth, build resilient communities, provide a network of green infrastructure, ensure more sustainable transport and reduce the risk of flooding.

The action plans approved by the ECO Board are being taken forward and reviewed periodically by the lead service directorates as part of their implementation.

The ECO Board meets on an annual basis to oversee the council's strategy and implementation, monitor progress and performance. Brief updates on activity are provided by relevant service areas, and reviewed against the Energy Resilience Plan and the Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

The council is committed to work with partners through the Energy Resilience Plan to reduce Wiltshire's carbon footprint, and promote Low Carbon Developments through planning policy. Wiltshire currently generates 22% of its energy consumption from renewables, and in 2015/16 was the second top local authority area for commissioning the highest amount of new capacity.

Information about climate change and what the council is doing to tackle and prepare for it, is available for the council's website at:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/green-economy>

Main Considerations for the Council

The ECO Board met on 10th October 2018 with representation as follows

- Cllr Toby Sturgis (Chair)
- Waste
- Transport
- Environment
- Planning
- Communications
- Economic Regeneration
- Highways Assets & Commissioning

- Strategic Assets & Facilities Management
- Environmental Health
- Planning
- Sustainable Transport
- Public Health
- Waste Services
- Fleet Services
- Procurement

A mixture of written and verbal reports were provided on a number of themes.

Key points are:

Street Lighting

Energy savings in street lighting in recent years have mainly been achieved by the introduction of part night lighting. These measures were deployed across Wiltshire and a reduction of 2,830,450KWh on the total electrical consumption for street lighting has been achieved since 2013/14. This represents a £173,193 saving in energy costs based on the 2016/17 energy tariff, and a 20% reduction in consumption.

There are 20,729 (46%) units which are the older Low Pressure Sodium (SOX) type. A business case has been developed to replace most of the Council's street lighting with LED units. It is estimated that it would cost £12.4 million to replace 45,000 units. The scheme is expected to deliver savings of at least £1.312 million annually.

Energy consumption for converted units is expected to reduce by 62.4%. This would be an overall reduction of 57.4% for the highways lighting energy consumption from 12,977,500 kwh to 5,262,291 kwh. This equates to a reduction in CO2 of 1,770 tCO2 (from 4,950 tCO2 to 3,180 tCO2).

The conversion will take two to three years to complete, and is planned to start in 2019/20.

Strategic Assets

Lighting refurbishment has been carried out at Bourne Hill to install more energy efficient units.

Wood pellet boilers and a heating connection to the local school has been installed at the Pewsey campus.

Conversion of oil to wood pellet heating is being implemented at the Calne campus and projects a payback in under 10 years.

The Nadder campus has been switched to 100% renewable heating.

ISO 50001 is progressing to plan and SAFM meeting with Heads of Service is underway compiling an energy and cost saving action plan.

Sustainable Transport

The latest staff travel survey (2018) shows that the number of staff driving to work alone has increased overall by 8% since the last staff travel survey in 2013 from 77% to 85%. This may be attributed to an increase in the number of car parks spaces available at County Hall.

Financial support for CATGs has continued at its original level. Numerous walking schemes have been implemented by the CATGs in response to community issues that have been raised including pedestrian crossings, new or improved footways and 20mph speed limits. In addition, a number of cycling schemes have been delivered although this is often less of a priority for the CATGs.

We are working on developing town cycle networks however grant funding has decreased so this is now supported through s106 contributions, which makes it harder to take a holistic view.

The council's Passenger Transport Unit (PTU) continues to work with Community First who are delivering support to 47 Link Schemes, covering 97% of Wiltshire and 22 Community Transport Schemes. Both the Link and Community Transport schemes support the most vulnerable members of society. PTU meet with CATGs and local Air Quality Groups to discuss appropriate usage of Section 106 monies in order to improve air quality and public transport.

The Connecting Wiltshire website is now 5 years old and needs updating. This is currently under consideration.

Planning, Public Protection, Economic Development and Transport Planning Services all encourage developers to incorporate infrastructure designed so that Electric Vehicle (EV) and Ultra low emission vehicles (ULEV) can be accommodated.

This has resulted in a range of developments incorporating EV charging which includes to date:

- Greensquare Group RSL property - Calne
- Drive Thru Costa - Chippenham
- 52 House development - Westbury
- 11 House development – Crudwell

At present we have 33 charging points across Wiltshire which includes 24 twin fast charger points, 6 rapid charging points and 3 twin fast charging points.

We are developing advice for Town Councils on the process to follow when they have a view to invest in EV units within their areas. This should reduce the time it takes to put these projects in place.

Fleet

Over the last 18 months, we have been working alongside Kia and BMW to trial out their new demo hybrid and fully electric vehicles. These have been available for staff to use for business journeys and given Fleet the chance to trial out new vehicles with a view to purchase more hybrid/electric vehicles in the future.

We have recently acquired 75 new waste trucks which are 'Euro 6' specification - this should reduce the carbon emissions of the vehicles as they are more fuel efficient.

Fleet have encouraged staff to make use of the electric pool cars when doing shorter journeys. Each hub (Monkton Park, County Hall and Bourne Hill) has charging points for the electric pool cars.

We have also introduced pool bikes as an alternative to using the pool cars.

Waste

Wiltshire council agreed a new 8 year service contract with FCC Environment Ltd to operate nine council-owned household recycling centres. The transfer from the previous provider (Hills Waste Solutions) allowed for site layouts to be redesigned in order to facilitate easier access for site users, and therefore improve traffic flow at the sites.

Enhanced kerbside collection services have been launched to all Wiltshire households.

As a result of delays to the construction of a new Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) outside Calne the council agreed with its main waste contractor to put in place an interim solution for collecting recyclable material. When the new MRF becomes available it will facilitate a move to a co-mingled collection of dry recyclables in the blue-lidded bin, and at which point the black box will be used for the collection of glass only.

Hills Waste Solutions now have permission for the site at Sands Farm near Calne and the new co-mingled collections should be operable in the summer of 2019. This will also enable 35 aged kerbside collection vehicles to be taken out of use and replace with significantly more efficient models and an overall reduction in the number of vehicles required.

Co-mingled collections of recyclables are shown to increase higher capture rates reducing further the amount of waste we send to landfill. A recycling and composting rate of 50% is the target by 2020. (17/18 was 44.95%)

A new Household Waste Management Strategy "Forward thinking towards zero avoidable waste 2017-2027" was drafted in 2017/18, and has been subject of a public consultation in 2018.

The new strategy presents the council's aims, goals and priorities for the next 10 years of waste management services in Wiltshire, and will be supported by an annual performance review, and an annual action plan to document the goals

and priorities for the service to deliver for the coming year, both to be reported to Environment Select Committee for consideration and comment.

Public Health

During 2018 Wiltshire PH working in partnership with Wiltshire CCG promoted Cover Up, Mate (Sun protection) which is the NHS England campaign about safe sun exposure and reducing the risk of skin cancer. The campaign targets audiences such as manual workers (builders, farmers, gardeners), people with fair skin, people who play a lot of sport outside during the summer months. This was a social medical campaign promoting cancer data to highlight the dangers.

The Warm and Safe scheme has been targeting those with health conditions affected by living in a cold home. This includes working with discharge teams and GP practices and using the promotion of the Priority Services Register (PSR) administered by Scottish and Southern Energy to signpost into Warm and Safe.

BEIS released their 2016 sub-regional fuel poverty stats in June 2018 – the Low Income High Costs indicator, and Wiltshire's at 9% - a decrease on our 2015 figure of 11.8%. However there are some issues that still need to be ironed out regarding the consistency of this data as there have been changes to how fuel poverty is calculated.

The Warm and Safe scheme has continued to grow and as a result we have recently joined forces with Swindon Borough Council. Providing a joint service has meant we are better able to work with hospital discharge teams from Great Western Hospital and services that straddle the two authority boundaries.

In April 2018, Wiltshire Council, Swindon Borough Council and the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) bid to the Warm Homes Fund (WHF) (administered by National Grid) to enhance the Warm and Safe Wiltshire advice service which is currently funded by both councils. The bid was successful and work commenced at the end of May 2018 and will run for two years.
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/public-health-home-energy>

Across Wiltshire and Swindon there are an estimated 110,000 off-gas households, of which we estimate just over 20,000 are fuel poor, based on government statistics. Around 30% of off-gas properties (33,000) are occupied by someone aged over 75 and we therefore estimate there are over 6,000 fuel poor over 75s living in off-gas properties. This cohort, as well as those fuel poor, off-gas residents who are vulnerable due to disability or ill-health, are the people we will be targeting.

Planning

Wiltshire as a local authority area has the largest installed capacity of Photovoltaics in the whole of the country, at 581.1MW. It is also high up in the rankings for anaerobic and landfill gas generation, although at much lower scales. New schemes coming forward however are far fewer since the change in the Feed in Tariff (FIT – closed to new applicants from 1 April 2019), so this number will not continue to increase as dramatically as it used to.

Central Government has since the last edition of the Energy Resilience Plan, reduced the emphasis on improving energy performance in new homes, in an effort to increase the number of new homes being built. The requirements for energy performance that were previously expressed through the Code for Sustainable Homes are no longer enforced through planning decisions and are awaiting the government reform of the Building Regulations.

The revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2018) was published on the 24th July 2018 and now includes the specific need to 'ensure an adequate provision of spaces for charging plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles' (NPPF 2018 paragraph 105) making it easier to require this as part of any development.

The Wiltshire Council Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document (AQ SPD) is being refreshed so that it reflects the changing needs and aspirations of Wiltshire Council with more emphasis on ULEV infrastructure and the need for all development to contribute towards reducing emissions across Wiltshire; not just AQMA declared towns.

We are asking for emerging and developing Neighbourhood plans to include ULEV and opportunities to reduce vehicle emissions wherever possible within the text.

SWLEP

Wiltshire Council, in its role as part of the SWLEP, has been developing low carbon objectives through the Local Energy Strategy. The focus of this work is to overcome energy-related constraints to economic development and builds on the area's strengths to grow the low carbon economy.

1. Gathering a local energy evidence base covering power, heat and transport
2. Consultation with local stakeholders and interviews with energy sector experts
3. Setting local energy priorities and goals based on local strengths, the energy opportunities and challenges
4. A delivery plan and actions as basis for implementing the strategy

Wiltshire Council is also engaging with the South West Regional Energy Hub has been established in Bristol by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to provide funding and support across the South West. The Energy Hub is and governed by participating LEPs and will be tasked with supporting LEPs to implement their strategies.

On 26th September 2018 a new hydrogen refuelling facility was opened in Lydiard Fields, Swindon, which falls within Wiltshire Councils area. This is part of the growth of this alternative vehicle energy source for which the principle emission is water.

The SWLEP have met with members of BEIS confirmed they were looking at the economic benefit of investment in hydrogen. This is an area SWLEP is looking to focus on in their Local Industrial Strategy looking at the development and

installation of new-energy vehicle re-fuelling infrastructure along the M4 corridor, from London to South Wales and the Oxford to Cambridge expressway (including the A420), offering both hydrogen and electric vehicle charging points.

https://swlep.co.uk/docs/default-source/strategy/industrial-strategy/swlep-local-energy-strategy.pdf?sfvrsn=405570b0_2

ECO Board

The activity related to the ECO (Energy, Change and Opportunity) Strategy was embedded into the culture, processes and policies of service directorates to take forward. The Strategy is dated 2011 to 2020 and the related Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan was revised in 2016 and should also be considered for review by 2020. Consideration needs to be given as to how to review and update this as necessary given that there is no allocated capacity or budget within the organisation to do this.

The ECO Board at present only oversees the council's strategy, implementation and monitors progress and performance. There is an opportunity for the Council to undertake further works to drive this agenda forward.

Safeguarding Considerations

This report does not have any implications for safeguarding. The report is update on progress across the Council in delivering actions to support a suite of climate change action plans.

Public Health Implications

Public Health are represented on the ECO Board and their comments and update are included above.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

The report is an update on progress across the Council in delivering actions to support a suite of climate change action plans.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

There are no equalities impacts of this report.

Risk Assessment

This report is provided for information only.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

This report is provided for information only.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

This report is provided for information only.

Financial Implications

This report is provided for information only.

Legal Implications

This report is provided for information only.

Options Considered

This report is provided for information only.

Conclusions

This report is provided for information only.

***Proposal**

This report is provided for information only.

Alistair Cunningham
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Background Papers

The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report:

- ECO Board - Sustainable Transport update
- ECO Board – Fleet Services update
- ECO Board – Street Lighting update
- ECO Board – Public Protection update
- ECO Board – Planning update
- ECO Board – Public Health update
- ECO Board – Waste update
