

Title: Energy Reduction Manager Update
Contains Confidential or Exempt Information?: <i>NO - Part I</i>
Member reporting: Councillor Coppinger, Lead Member for Sustainability
Meeting and Date: Sustainability Panel - 9 th May 2017
Responsible Officer(s): Andy Jeffs, Interim Strategic Director of Communities Craig Miller, Head of Community Protection & Enforcement Services
Wards affected: All

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REPORT SUMMARY

1. This report provides an overview of the progress being made to deliver the Council's energy and water reduction strategy.
2. This update report recommends that Members note progress and comment on the proposed work plan for the next period. It is also recommended that the panel approves the 2017/18 Sustainability Strategy action plan and that the next Energy Switch to Save auction is held in October 2017.
3. Recommendations are being made because it is important that Members provide comment and direction on the work being carried out and that the sustainability strategy targets are met.

1. DETAILS OF RECOMMENDATION(S)

RECOMMENDATION: That the Sustainability Panel notes the report, the progress made and comments on the proposed work plan over the next period as detailed in paragraph 11.18.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Sustainability Panel approves the 2017/18 Sustainability Strategy action plan.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Sustainability Panel agrees to the next Energy Switch to Save auction being held in October 2017.

2. REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) AND OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 The Council is currently working towards a four year Sustainability Strategy running from April 2014 to March 2018. The strategy focuses on 6 workstreams including: Sustainability, Energy, Water, Waste, Transport and Renewable Generation. The strategy has three key targets over the four year period which are:

1. Reduce energy use in the Council building estate by 15% in 2017/18 compared to a 2013/2014 baseline.
2. Reduce water usage in the Council's corporate office buildings by 3% in 2017/18 compared to a 2013/2014 baseline.
3. Recycling rates increased to 55% in 2017/18.

2.2 Each year an action plan is drawn up to enable the Council to meet these targets as well as other goals presented in the strategy documents. This update provides a progress report for the energy workstream.

2.3 After the first two years of the strategy the 2013/2014 energy baseline has been reduced by 12.5%. This equates to the Council avoiding just under £130,000 of energy costs over these two years.

2.4 Table 1: Report options

Option	Comments
(a) The Council does not work towards the sustainability strategy. This is not recommended	(a) Failing to work towards the sustainability strategy would mean the Council would not be able to meet its legislative commitments, would not be able to continually drive down energy costs and therefore would not be offering value for money for its residents.
(b) The Council works according to the current and any future sustainability strategy. This is the recommended option	(b) The Council will be able to meet all its legal requirements whilst improving the local environment and providing value for money for its residents.

3. KEY IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Table 2: Target outcome following report

Outcome	Unmet	Met	Exceeded	Significantly Exceeded	Date of delivery
Overall reduction of annual gas and electricity consumption in Council buildings in 2017/18 compared to the 2013/14 baseline.	<15%	15 – 15.5%	15.5-16%	>16%	31 st March 2018

4. FINANCIAL DETAILS / VALUE FOR MONEY

4.1 No new funds are being sought through this paper.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 Table 4: Risks for Sustainability Strategy actions.

Risks	Uncontrolled Risk	Controls	Controlled Risk
Targets for overall energy and water reduction are not met.	High	By providing updates at each panel meeting, Members are able to keep track of overall progress to ensure the Council meets its annual projected reductions and savings commitments.	Low
Increasing energy and water costs for the council puts additional pressures on budgets.	High	By providing updates at Panel meetings on progress to reduce energy and water usage and progress on securing the best	Low

Risks	Uncontrolled Risk	Controls	Controlled Risk
		available energy contracts, Members will be able to assess the work that is taking place to ensure that cost increases are minimised as far as possible.	

7. **POTENTIAL IMPACTS**

7.1 This update contains content relating to the sustainable improvement of the Council's buildings and the information collated about them.

7.2 No equality impact assessment has been carried out.

8. **CONSULTATION**

8.1 None

9. **TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

9.1 **Table 5: Timetable**

Date	Details
31/03/2018	Completion of current annual plan.

10. **APPENDICES**

10.1 Appendix 1 – 2017/18 Annual Action Plan

11. **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Annual plan 2017/18

11.1. The new financial year brings the final year of the current Sustainability Strategy 2014-2018. The new action plan continues to expand the work from the previous year, proposes the final targets for the year and looks at some new areas of work. The annual plan can be found in appendix 1.

11.2. The key projects for the year are the Town Hall BMS upgrade, the phase 2 LED lighting upgrade and the water saving projects.

Town Hall water reduction project update

11.3. The Town Hall has recently had all of its urinal controls replaced and upgraded. The flow to the taps in the gents public toilet were also adjusted to see the effect. Further to this a general water survey was carried out. This survey highlighted a piece of equipment that was using water unnecessarily.

- 11.4. The urinal controls appear to be working as expected at this stage. They only flush the individual urinal bowl after use. The trial of reducing the tap pressures did not have any significant effect. It was found that when reducing the pressure on a percussion tap that the length of time the tap was on increased. This therefore meant that the same amount of water was used after each push of the button. The walk around of the building highlighted that a water softening device was using water when the dishwasher it was connected to was not being used. The flow of water to the device was switched off.
- 11.5. The automatic meter reading (AMR) data for the Town Hall water meter was analysed to determine how well the project has performed. It took a number of days for the full effect to take place but changes in the water consumption were noticed immediately. The difference in weekly consumption before the changes were made compared to after were quite startling. Over the two weeks before the changes were made the consumption was on average 216m³ a week. Over the following two weeks the average consumption was 71m³ per week. This is a drop of 145m³/£305 per week. As a percentage this is a 67% reduction.
- 11.6. Unfortunately the reduction didn't last for long. After two weeks the water AMR was showing increasing water usage. A further survey was carried out and it was found that a toilet was continuously flushing. This matter has now been corrected.
- 11.7. The final amount for the works was £3200 and so this means the work will be paid off in under a year.

Energy Switch to Save Scheme

- 11.8. The February auction saw 157 registrations in total (pre auction and post auction combined). This is an increase of 43 registrations when compared to the October auction. In total 17 people accepted the offer this time which is a switching rate of 11%. The last auction saw a switching rate of 27%. On average switchers saw a saving of £149 during this auction (£280 in November auction). In total the switchers are anticipated to save £2391 over the next year.
- 11.9. It is positive that the auction showed an increase in registrants. The increase in registrations seems to be due to an increased awareness of the scheme. Distribution of fliers and the use of pop up banners may well have helped this. The key ways that residents stated they found out about the auction were through the Council website, social media and word of mouth. The word of mouth element has more than doubled this auction whilst the Council website and social media played an important role during the last auction. There were many less registrations from people seeing the Around the Royal Borough article this time around. This is probably due to the paper going out later on in the auction cycle.
- 11.10. The reduction in switching rate is likely due to increased prices in the energy markets. The offered price is compared to the rate currently being paid by the resident and so in an increasing market the savings being made will be less.

The February auction saw the average saving roughly halving for the switchers. Further to this slightly more people couldn't make a saving against their current tariff (6 people) compared to the last auction.

- 11.11. The next ichoosr auction is on the 23rd May. Since the last auction has only just ended it is recommended that the Council takes part in the next auction which is in October.

Building Management System & LED lighting phase 2 projects

- 11.12. The Building Management System contractor is in the process of being appointed. The legal contract and a timetable of works is being discussed with all the relevant parties. It is envisioned that the works will be complete by the end of the summer.

- 11.13. The LED Lighting phase 2 installation has been slightly delayed due to the contracts taking a little longer to complete than expected. The works programme is being revised and discussions are taking place regarding working on site with other contractors at Maidenhead Library during the current rewiring works.

Schools RE:FIT programme

- 11.14. Following the agreement of the Sustainability Panel to make further investigations into the Schools RE:FIT programme it has been found that the partnership approach is not going to be feasible. This is due to the timescales that Slough Borough Council are working towards to take their project to tender. The timescales will not allow sufficient time for the Council to gain Cabinet approval and to organise the partnership working arrangements. Furthermore the Procurement Team are concerned about the approach that Slough Borough Council are taking even if Cabinet approval was gained.

- 11.15. Whilst it is a shame that the partnership approach is not going to be possible, as it would have saved time and money, it does not mean that the project should be cancelled at this stage. The Schools RE:FIT programme is still possible if the Council tender the project directly on behalf of the schools. This route will require significant school interest and commitment before the Council can proceed with a tendering exercise though.

- 11.16. It is suggested, as was agreed at the March Sustainability Panel, that the interest of schools is gauged before proceeding any further.

Proposed work plan over the next period

- 11.17. The work being carried out between now and the next Sustainability Panel will be:
- LED lighting upgrade programming
 - Building Management System upgrade programming
 - Investigating the Schools RE:FIT project further including seeking initial interests from schools.

12. CONSULTATION (MANDATORY)

Name of consultee	Post held	Date sent	Commented & returned
Cllr Coppinger	Lead Member for Sustainability	25/04/17	
Cllr Mills	Chairman of the Sustainability Panel	25/04/17	26/04/17
Lisa Pigeon	Environmental Health Lead	21/04/17	25/04/17

REPORT HISTORY

Decision type: Non-key decision	Urgency item? No
Report Author: Michael Potter, Energy Reduction Manager, 01628 682949	