

Decision maker: Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety

Date: 3 November 2010

Subject: Carbon Management Programme Monitoring Process

Report by: Head of Audit and Performance Improvement

Wards affected: All

Key decision (over £250k): No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to align the baseline years for the council's carbon reduction monitoring and reporting processes and to reframe the 30% carbon reduction target.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Note the success of the first project under the council's Carbon Management Plan which has substantially improved the quality of data on PCC's carbon emissions from energy and transport.
- 2.2 Agree that the baseline for the Carbon Management Plan (CMP) is adjusted from 2007/8 to 2010/11 in order to align with the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme (CRC) baseline
- 2.3 Agree that the delivery of the 30% reduction target for the CMP is extended from 2013/14 to 2016/17

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council's CMP (April 2009) was produced with the support of the Carbon Trust and was developed to set out how the Council could achieve significant carbon reductions. As part of the plan an ambitious target to reduce PCC's carbon emissions by 30% over 5 years (by 2013/14) was agreed. The baseline used to calculate the council's carbon footprint for the CMP was 2007/8. This was the best available data at the time, however, since the introduction of the CMP a lot of work has been carried out which has focused on improving the quality of our energy and transport data. This work has identified opportunities to reduce wastage and also provide savings through correcting inaccurate billing. In 2007/8 the majority of PCC's energy bills were based on estimated readings and fleet mileage was not actively managed.

3.2 PCC's current energy data now includes buildings that had not been identified in 2007/8 and also more complete and accurate energy data for the sites that had been identified. Since the recruitment of a Transport Manager PCC's fleet is now actively managed and information on staff business travel is much more robust. There would be a large resource implication to retrospectively bring the 2007/8 baseline data up to the levels of accuracy and completeness of subsequent years. Similarly to use a target based on the existing baseline would in effect be meaningless because we would not be looking at realistic reductions.

3.3 The CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme, which the Council registered for in September 2010, is a carbon trading scheme for organisations over a certain size. As part of this scheme PCC needs to keep an accurate Evidence Pack which includes an accurate carbon footprint using the baseline of 2010/11.

3.4 As reporting against a 30% reduction target based on an incomplete baseline would be misleading it is proposed to align the baseline for the CMP with the baseline for the CRC (2010/11) and extend the delivery date of the 30% target to 2016/17. Progress against this target is reported to the Carbon trust and this will continue despite a change in delivery date. The carbon reduction target is very much a PCC agreed target rather than a target set by the Carbon Trust and it is important that it is relevant and meaningful for the council.

4. Reasons for recommendations

4.1 The incompleteness of the 2007/8 baseline makes it very difficult to show progress against the 30% carbon reduction target as the scope of current energy data is much wider. The 2007/8 baseline also included elements which are not included for the CRC such as staff commuting which means that standard comparison reports cannot be used.

4.2 Aligning the baselines and extending the delivery date of the carbon reduction target will increase clarity and avoid any duplication of effort in the council's Carbon Management work.

5. Equality impact assessment (EIA)

This report is an amendment to an existing Programme and therefore an EIA does not need to be completed.

6. Head of legal services' comments

There are no significant legal issues arising from this report.

7. Head of finance's comments

The Head of Financial Services reports that there is no direct financial impact from adjusting the CMP baseline year to align with the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme.

Reporting the achievement of the 30% target reduction to the Carbon Trust does not give PCC access to any funds. For the CRC, 2010/11 will be the baseline year against which progress in reducing carbon emissions will be measured. The City Council's performance will influence the ultimate cost it pays for its carbon usage. Consequently, the City Council is currently evaluating various Spend to Save options which, when implemented, will generate energy and carbon savings in 2011/12 and beyond. Better management of the City Council's transport arrangements has already generated savings as reported to the Efficiencies Board.

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Signed by:

Appendices:

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
PCC's Carbon Management Plan	http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/living/15968.html

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: