

A budget for a sustainable council

Environment Committee, item 17

Committee: Environment

Date: 26th September 2006

Title: A Budget for a Sustainable Council

Author: John Mitchell, Executive Manager,
Development Services

Agenda Item

17

Item for
decision

Summary

One of the areas of Corporate Focus in the Council's Corporate Plan is a commitment to developing an action plan following its signing of the Nottingham Declaration. There is also has longstanding policy to promote sustainable organisational practice. During 2006-2007, the council will focus on becoming a more sustainable organisation through active energy management, reviewing policies relating to travel and working practices, a sustainable procurement policy and a paper-usage reduction programme. Externally, we will be considering how the effects of climate change may be ameliorated by exploring ways of using /conserving resources such as water. We will also be addressing the opportunities that exist within the planning system to promote or require more sustainable building practices.

The project Team, Championed by Cllr Pedder, has identified that there is presently no budget for the promotion of carbon reduction and sustainable living in general, and it is unlikely that any action plan will be successful if the Council is unable to communicate its message. It is proposed to use Planning Delivery Grant for the remainder of this financial year, and to bid for a budget in the next financial year and beyond. Such a budget could be self financing if savings accrue.

Recommendations

That a sum of £15,000 for the promotion of sustainable living and carbon reduction in the District be made available from Planning Delivery Grant for the remainder of this financial year, that the Committee agree an appropriate annual budget for this purpose and that permanent funding be sought thereafter as part of the budget setting for 2007/8 and beyond.

Background Papers

Corporate Plan 2006-2009

Impact

Communication/Consultation	The Project Team would work with our own
----------------------------	---

A budget for a sustainable council

Environment Committee, item 17

	in-house communications team
Community Safety	None
Equalities	The promotion of sustainable living and energy saving would contribute to the Council's equalities policy
Finance	See Report
Human Rights	None
Legal implications	None
Ward-specific impacts	All
Workforce/Workplace	Implications for staff working practices, building management and office procedure and procurement

Situation

- 1 The Council is committed to reduction in carbon emissions and has an energy saving target of 20% by the end of 2006/7 when compared with the position in 2004/5. The Energy Efficiency Surveyor has been making excellent progress in meeting this target as well as increasing public awareness of the need to reduce carbon emissions through seminars, public meetings, attendance at various public events, articles in Uttlesford Life etc. All of these contribute to individuals being aware of how they can reduce energy consumption, reduce carbon emissions and thus reduce their own contributions to climate change.
- 2 In addition the provisions of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 require the Council to decrease carbon emissions in the existing housing stock. A Sustainable Council is one of the areas of corporate focus in the Corporate Plan, and the Project Team, championed by Cllr Pedder, meets to develop this project. Amongst the many initiatives developed by the team are to set a sustainable example by reducing the environmental impact of the Council's operations including waste, water and paper, influencing behaviour of residents by communicating the benefits of sustainable living and implementing the Carbon Trust measures for Council premises
- 3 The Project Team has identified a need for a budget in the short term for the publication of a sustainability checklist for residents to tie in with work being done by LA21, and in the longer term to support and "pump prime" various initiatives. It is intended that so far as possible the initiatives would lead to savings for the Council and where possible be self financing.
- 4 It is considered that Planning Delivery Grant should be used for this financial year, and that a budget should be identified for future years.

Risk Analysis

A budget for a sustainable council

Environment Committee, item 17

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
No revenue budget for 2007/8 and beyond	High	Medium	Possible use of planning delivery grant for 2007/8 and resubmission for revenue budget in 2008/9

Budget breakdown

<u>Community facing</u>	Approximate cost	Payback (years)
Display campaign registration – energy certification posters for our public buildings	£660	N/A
Support for ‘Green Homes’ guidebook and website for residents	£2,000	N/A
Adaptation of Green Homes guidebook material as planning guidance for developers	£1,000	N/A
<u>Council facing</u>		
Staff awareness-raising campaign for energy and paper saving, including modest rewards for departments that make good progress	£1,540	0.5
Simple timers installed on communal equipment to switch off at night	£300	1
Advanced metering for London Road office building, daily report on intranet	£1,000	0.67
Controls review and upgrade, re-commissioning of heating systems in council operated buildings	£6,000	1
Upgrade all lighting in offices to energy efficient lamps	£2,000	2
Insulation of museum roof	£500	2.5
Total	£15,000	