

Committee: ENVIRONMENT

Agenda Item

Date: November 10, 2009

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Title: USE OF FLEET DIESEL AND HEATING OIL

Author: Diane Burrige, Director of Operations (01799 510580) Item for decision

Summary

- 1 This report was requested at the last meeting of Environment Committee in response to a note tabled by the Energy Efficiency Officer. The note was provided to update Members internal carbon management and correct the figures provided in the agenda papers and raised some key concerns and areas for improvement. It also alluded to fuel losses from council premises.

Recommendation

- 2 That Members note this report

Impact

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| Communication/Consultation | None |
| Community Safety | None |
| Equalities | None |
| Finance | None |
| Human Rights | None |
| Legal implications | None |
| Sustainability | None |
| Ward-specific impacts | None |
| Workforce/Workplace | None |

Situation

- 4 A note was tabled at the September meeting of the Environment Committee by the Energy Efficiency Officer (EEO). This was to replace the figures provided in a section of the lead officers report regarding internal carbon management. Additionally the Energy Efficiency Officer raised some key concerns and areas for improvement. Members asked that this was investigated this in respect of Diesel usage and Heating oil usage.

Diesel usage

- 5 It was reported that “a large amount of diesel was unallocated – in 2008-9 this was 26,317 litres or 6% of the total, worth approximately £24,900”
- 6 This information was drawn from the end of year financial fuel stock report that shows stock adjustments of 26,317 litres. This was erroneously interpreted to be reporting a loss of this sum rather than a collective figure reporting a number of necessary adjustments.
- 7 The stock adjustment on this account encompasses all manual adjustments made as follows:
 - There was a period last year when 17,000 litres were recorded through the pumps which is half the average we would have expected in any other month. The data report showed incomplete information but we were able to verify that neither the expected vehicle activity or fuel purchased had deviated. A manual adjustment was required to correct this based on the expected average use.
 - Plant key allocations - this key allows fuel to be dispensed to vehicles that do not have their allocated driver, this is dealt with separately in our accounts and built in by manual adjustment. Just under 2,000 litres.
 - We are aware that there were thefts in this period of 2,660 litres.
- 8 The use of averages to cover the period where the pumps did not collect the required information will not accurately substitute for the recorded information but the unallocated fuel for that year can be estimated at 5,454 litres or 1.5%.

Heating oil usage

- 9 The EEO reported that usage of Leaden Roding Sheltered Accommodation site had reduced significantly but use of fuel remained high at approx £26,800 in the last year.
- 10 This information sets some context around the fuel usage. Whilst the 12 units in the sheltered block have progressively been vacated the boiler in the block is still otherwise fully functional and continues to provide heating and hot water to the communal area, kitchen, toilets and office accommodation in the block as well sufficient heat to maintain the fabric of the building. The same boiler also supplies heat and hot water to the nearby 5 bungalows and 19 flats.
- 11 This Sheltered block site is being considered by Community Committee for redevelopment, once this decision is reached then the next step in provision for those properties that receive services from its boilers can be taken.