

Report to Safer Cleaner Greener Standing Panel

Date of meeting: 2 April 2013

Subject: Sustainability Updates

Officer contact for further information: Sarah Creitzman

Committee Secretary: Adrian Hendry



Recommendation:

That the Panel note the work of the Environmental Co-ordinator on the matters set out in the report.

Report:

Office Waste Recycling

As mentioned in previous updates, the Green Corporate Working Party instigated a review of the Council's commercial waste disposal arrangements and it was found that all waste from the Civic Offices compactor is sent directly to landfill.

To ensure that Civic Offices' commercial waste is recycled in future, a temporary contract for a trial exercise has been entered into with SITA. The trial is due to begin before the end of March 2013, using specially designated bins that are for food waste only. Separating the food would decontaminate the Council's office waste and make it suitable for recycling by SITA. The four trial areas are: Planning, Benefits, Facilities Management and Democratic Services. The Environmental Co-ordinator will be sending out information to those involved, on what can go in the bins.

Carbon Strategy/Reporting and Climate Local Agreement

The initial draft of the corporate carbon reduction strategy was completed some time ago, covering the Council's energy use, greenhouse gas emissions and carbon reduction targets for the future. However, this has not been officially adopted yet because new requirements for local authorities to report under the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) might also need be included. The Environmental Co-ordinator is currently working to meet a tight deadline for collecting and publishing HECA information (March 31st 2013). Once this deadline has passed, the decision on whether to include HECA information in the corporate strategy or create a separate strategy just for fuel poverty will be discussed.

The carbon reduction strategy and the Climate Local Agreement should go hand in hand and it is hoped that the Agreement will be signed at the same time as the strategy is adopted.

Measuring and reporting the Council's greenhouse gas emissions under the government requirement is ongoing and the deadline for publishing the 2012-2013 report is the end of June.

Reason for decision:

Options considered and rejected:

Consultation undertaken:

Resource implications:

Budget provision:

Personnel:

Land:

Community Plan/BVPP reference:

Relevant statutory powers:

Background papers:

Environmental/Human Rights Act/Crime and Disorder Act Implications:

Key Decision reference: (if required)