

**Report to: Safer, Cleaner,
Greener Scrutiny Panel**

Date: 6 January 2015

**Portfolio: Safer, Greener and Transport – Cllr
Gary Waller**



Subject: Green Working Party - Progress Report

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Committee Secretary: A Hendry (01992 564246)**

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Housing Scrutiny Panel considers and endorses the Green Corporate Working Party (GCWP) Terms of Reference and Action Plan, attached as an appendix, and provides any comments to the Safer, Greener and Transport Portfolio Holder for incorporation.

Report:

1. The GCWP was originally set up in March 2012. At that time the Chief Executive's Forum agreed that it should focus on 'the Council's internal functions' and that wider District issues should be addressed through the relevant sub-group of the LSP (the Sustainable Communities Theme Group).
2. Membership of the Working Party, including the Chair, has changed in the recent restructure and the LSP theme groups that currently exist, on younger people, food and tourism may not address all of the relevant subject areas.
3. The Working Party reviewed its terms of reference and revised terms, attached at Appendix 1, were agreed by Management Board on 17 September 2014.
4. The new Chair of the GCWP attended the Scrutiny Panel on 7 October 2014 to provide a progress report. As a result of this it was agreed to amend the Panel's Terms of Reference where it related to specific projects with which the Working Party had been involved but were no longer relevant (such as the 'Climate Local Agreement'). The Panel agreed to remove these items from its Terms of Reference and replace it with 'to receive updates from the GCWP'
5. The GCWP produced a Work Plan (Appendix 2) which was also agreed by Management Board and has subsequently been updated by the GCWP on 1 December 2014. While the individual Directorates identified in the work plan have ownership of each action, working in partnership where appropriate, the Environmental Co-ordinator in the Neighbourhoods Directorate is responsible for project managing the actions, including being responsible for their timetable, facilitating and supporting council officers via the GCWP.

6. As agreed by the Management Board, the Action Plan reflects the Council's role as an employer and provider of services but not as a community leader which, it was agreed, was outside of the scope of the Working Party and the resources available.
7. It is recommended that the Scrutiny Panel considers and endorses the GCWP Terms of Reference and Work Plan, attached at the appendices, and provide any comments to the Safer, Greener and Transport Portfolio Holder for incorporation.

Options considered and rejected:

For the Terms of Reference not to be updated and/or for the Group not to have Terms of Reference.

Consultation undertaken:

Management Board were consulted at their meeting on 17 September 2014

Resource implications:

Budget provision: Some of the actions may reduce costs to the Council, businesses within the District and/or service users

Personnel: All actions may be completed within current resources

Land: N/A

Community Plan/BVPP reference: N/A

Relevant statutory powers: Home Energy Conservation Act 1995

Background papers: N/A

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

Key Decision reference: (if required) N/A

Appendix 1

Green Working Party - Terms of Reference

1. The role and purpose of the Group is to:

- a) To bring together existing services within the Council that are involved in environmental, sustainable and/or greenhouse gas emission reduction issues to provide a coordinated informed approach to any relevant green issues that arise.
- b) To liaise with relevant local and national groups with an interest in the subject area in order to acquire information and pursue common goals.
- c) To comprehensively review arrangements about these matters at the Civic Offices and other work locations to:
 - Develop a consistent corporate policy for all Council premises.
 - Examine ways of reducing carbon footprint, reducing CO² emissions, increasing energy efficiency, and achieving other “green” or sustainable schemes at the Civic Offices and other locations and produce proposals with costs.
 - Consider and examine any other options not specifically mentioned elsewhere in these terms of reference with appropriate proposals with costs.

2. Membership of the Group will be as follows:

- The Group will be chaired by the Assistant Director (Private Sector Housing and Communities Support);
- Member representation will be provided by the Safer, Greener and Transport Portfolio Holder
- At least one representative of each of the four Directorates of the Council as nominated by their Director at Management Board (representatives who cannot attend should give their best efforts to providing, and briefing, a substitute);
- Such other individuals as from time to time can assist in the work of the Group.

3. Representatives of the Group should give their best endeavours to fully represent their Directorate/service area, collating information from and cascading information to colleagues within their Directorate.

4. The Working Party will meet four times a year with additional *ad hoc* meetings arranged as necessary.

5. The Working Party will provide reports to the Management Board and LSP Board as appropriate.