

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Item: 11

24 July 2013

Energy Efficiency and Carbon Management

Report by the Chief Officer

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1 Summary

1.1 This paper updates the Authority on progress in delivering the Carbon Management Plan.

2 Recommendations

2.1 The committee is invited to:

- a) Note the progress to date on delivering the carbon management plan projects
- b) Nominate a new member Environmental Champion to be part of the Carbon Management Programme Board

3 Carbon Management Plan summary and governance

3.1 The Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Carbon Management Plan was approved by this committee at its meeting on 31 July 2012. Our Carbon Management Plan, developed with the support of the Carbon Trust, is a five year plan which includes projects and initiatives aimed at delivering a substantial cut in the Service's carbon footprint. The plan contains the target that "Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service will reduce the carbon emissions from its buildings and business travel by 30%, from a 2010-2011 baseline of 4670 tonnes CO₂, by the end of March 2016".

3.2 The Carbon Management Plan is being implemented and governed through the Carbon Management Programme via a Programme Board. The governance was reviewed as part of an internal audit of 'sustainability' which was reported on 5 July 2013 to the Authority's Standards and Governance Committee.

3.3 The current governance of the programme has been updated to fit with the Service's new approach to programme and project management and the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Plan 2013 to 2018. This is described in the management actions for the 'sustainability' audit.

- 3.4 The Programme Board membership includes the elected member Environmental Champion. The Environmental Champion post is currently vacant due to changes in Authority membership at the last elections. Recommendation 2.1b) asks the Committee to nominate a new champion; and for them to be part of the Programme Board.
- 3.5 In line with previous commitments the Carbon Management Plan document is currently being reviewed and an updated version will be made available on our website. The review will take into account the new governance arrangements as well as providing a progress update on the delivery of the plan.

4 Energy efficiency projects

- 4.1 The majority of projects identified in the plan were based on information taken from an “Invest to save in energy efficiency” report produced by Hampshire County Council (HCC) Property Services for the Hampshire Fire and Rescue estate. This used a whole life cost model of energy efficiency measures based on the survey of a sample of our estate.
- 4.2 Since the plan was approved we have focused on commissioning the planned energy efficiency projects with support from Hampshire County Council Property Services. This has involved the surveying of all our sites (in five phases) to identify which energy efficiency measures are suitable. The last surveys were completed in June 2013.
- 4.3 Hampshire County Council Property Services have used the surveys to prepare site specific calculations with expected costs and savings. These calculations have followed the approach used in the original model. Only measures which give both financial and carbon returns have been selected by the Programme Board for delivery.
- 4.4 Since approval of the Carbon Management Plan to current time energy efficiency projects to the value of £566,000 have been commissioned. The remaining £612,000 of investment is due to be commissioned by the end of March 2014.
- 4.5 It is too early to observe actual energy savings from the projects completed in 2012-2013 and those underway for the 2013-2014 year. The full savings of most measures are not seen until a full year after implementation. The Programme Board will keep evidence of project savings under review at its quarterly meetings.
- 4.6 Some projects which were originally expected to be investable – based on the original model – have not been progressed as following detailed assessment they did not have sufficiently high returns. This is partly due to the unexpected introduction of standing charges on our gas supplies; meaning the financial saving from heating measures has reduced significantly. In the original model 3.5 pence could be saved for each kWh of gas used; following the standing charge introduction only 2.5 pence is saved. This cautious approach ensures investment is prioritised.

- 4.7 All proposed efficiency works are discussed with representatives from the site (often including Environmental Champions) to ensure that the details are suitable; this is also taken as an opportunity for staff to offer suggestions for consideration.
- 4.8 With support from Hampshire County Council Property Services, the delivery of measures funded under the Carbon Management Programme is being carefully managed alongside the planned maintenance programme. This ensures disruption for sites is minimised. In some cases planned efficiency works have been delayed so that maintenance can take place which would have impacted on the designs.

5 Impact of sharing of sites with partner organisations

- 5.1 The introduction of sharing of our sites with partner organisations such as Hampshire Constabulary means occupancy levels and hours will be much greater on some sites. This will lead to significant increases in energy/water consumption on shared sites, increasing their carbon footprint. The increased occupancy hours on shared sites are being accounted for when calculating whether energy efficiency measures are a suitable investment. The impact of increasing sharing of sites on our energy and water use will be kept under review and forms part of the annual review of facilities licence agreements. While we recover suitable running costs as part of licence/lease agreements (so there is no financial impact) the increased use does increase our carbon footprint. However we anticipate the carbon footprint across the partners will be reduced overall.

6 Travel and transport

- 6.1 The Service is putting considerable effort into a number of areas of work that relate to travel and transport. This includes the development of working with Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service for fleet maintenance services; work to provide vehicles to staff in place of lease and essential car user arrangements; a pilot of vehicle tracking, route planning and driver feedback; and an existing travel efficiency project (which is due to end in May 2014). There have also been recent reductions in the nationally approved mileage rates for some staff.
- 6.2 As a result of the recent changes and significant ongoing work the Programme Board has proposed that in April 2014 the main focus of work of the programme shifts to travel and transport. This allows time for the effects of previous projects and changes to be understood and preparations made for work to embed systems and a culture of travel which are sustainable (both financially and environmentally).

7 Supporting our corporate aims and objectives

- 7.1 The work on reducing our energy consumption and carbon footprint directly supports our 'Making our Service stronger' priority in the Service Plan and the previous corporate objective "We will use energy more efficiently at our buildings".

8 Risk analysis

- 8.1 The predicted savings in the CMP are based on assumptions about fuel price inflation. These have been researched from Hampshire County Council Property Services, Carbon Trust publications, and guidance provided through the Service's participation in the Carbon Trust's Public Sector Carbon Management Programme. They are considered robust but the risk of projects failing to deliver full savings cannot be completely removed. Changes in the energy supply market such as the introduction of standing charges for gas are outside of our control – the financial risk from that change has been controlled by using the new price in all calculations. It is still considered that the risk of failing to invest in energy efficiency projects is much greater; with the Service fully exposed to rising energy and transport costs.

9 People Impact Assessment

- 9.1 The proposals in this report are considered compatible with the provisions of equality and human rights legislation.

11 Background papers

- 11.1 The following documents disclose the facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and has been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of the report:

Note: The list excludes: (1) published works; and (2) documents that disclose exempt or confidential information defined in the Act.