

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Executive Decision Record**

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	26 July 2010
Title:	Carbon Strategy
Reference:	1152
Report From:	Director of Environment Director of Property, Business and Regulatory Services

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1. The decision:

- a) That it be agreed that the County Council's strategic response to the internal carbon reduction agenda should comprise three stages:
 - (i) a 20% carbon reduction from the 2010 baseline, over the next five years to 2015;
 - (ii) a 35% - 40% reduction target by 2025; and
 - (iii) becoming carbon neutral by 2050.
- b) That the principles of the initial five year carbon management plan set out in this report be agreed. That progress against the plan be reviewed annually and that the plan be implemented without the requirement for additional financial resources.
- c) That it be agreed that an energy strategy for the County Council be commissioned from the Directors of Property, Business and Regulatory Services and Environment this financial year.
- d) That it be agreed that a focussed and balanced approach to working internally and externally be developed to optimise the County Council's business, carbon reduction and reputational interests.
- e) That a second stage Carbon Management Plan, to take effect from 2015, be developed taking into account the outputs of the work proposed in recommendations c) and d) above.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. Reducing the environmental consequences of carbon levels is a key tool in the on-going fight against Climate Change. The previous Government introduced the Climate Change Act in 2008 and included within it legally binding carbon reductions of 80% by 2050.
- 2.2. Carbon levels are inextricably linked to non-renewable energy use. Given the rising price of energy, concerns about energy security and the recent introduction of a Carbon Reduction Commitment trading scheme, it is imperative that the County Council takes action on reducing its carbon footprint.
- 2.3. Climate Change is clearly one of the major global threats. Local Government has a key community leadership role to play in not only reducing its own carbon impacts but also in working with public sector partners, industry and local residents to effect real change, which aggregated together, will allow the United Kingdom to make a major and telling contribution to the Climate Change mitigation agenda.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Not to commit to a specific carbon reduction plan and thus accept the financial, environmental and reputational risks associated with carbon levels that would be uncontrolled and not prioritised in service led operational decisions.
- 3.2. To commit to lower carbon reduction targets based solely around known County Council major change projects, and thereby not set ambitious future carbon reduction targets in the context of an energy strategy and changes or developments in the external environment.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None.
- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None.

5. Dispensation granted by the Standards Committee: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

26 July 2010

**Chairman of the Cabinet
Councillor T K Thornber, CBE**