

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	29 October 2012
Title:	Energy Strategy
Reference:	4202
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services Director of Corporate Resources, Corporate Services

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1. Executive Summary

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to seek Cabinet approval for a long term Energy Strategy. The strategy sets out the County Council's leadership role on energy both as a large employer and purchaser of goods and services but also as a community leader.

1.2. The aim of the Energy Strategy is to provide community leadership for resilience against the risks of energy security, affordability and carbon emissions, and to contribute innovative solutions for the creation of a sustainable and low carbon economy in Hampshire.

1.3. Towards that aim, the Energy Strategy has the following objectives:

- To reduce energy consumption and increase the efficiency of energy use in the County Council and in the community of Hampshire.
- To invest in local energy projects which collectively support the key principles behind the Energy Strategy.
- To integrate energy generation and infrastructure into place shaping.
- To facilitate community access to secure, affordable and/or low-carbon/renewable energy and energy services.

1.4. This paper seeks to:

- outline the context for a long term Energy Strategy, as requested by Cabinet in February 2012, that will replace the interim Energy Strategy approach;
- outline the key issues that the Energy Strategy will address;
- recommend actions to deliver the energy strategy; and
- outline the initial projects being proposed under the Energy Strategy.

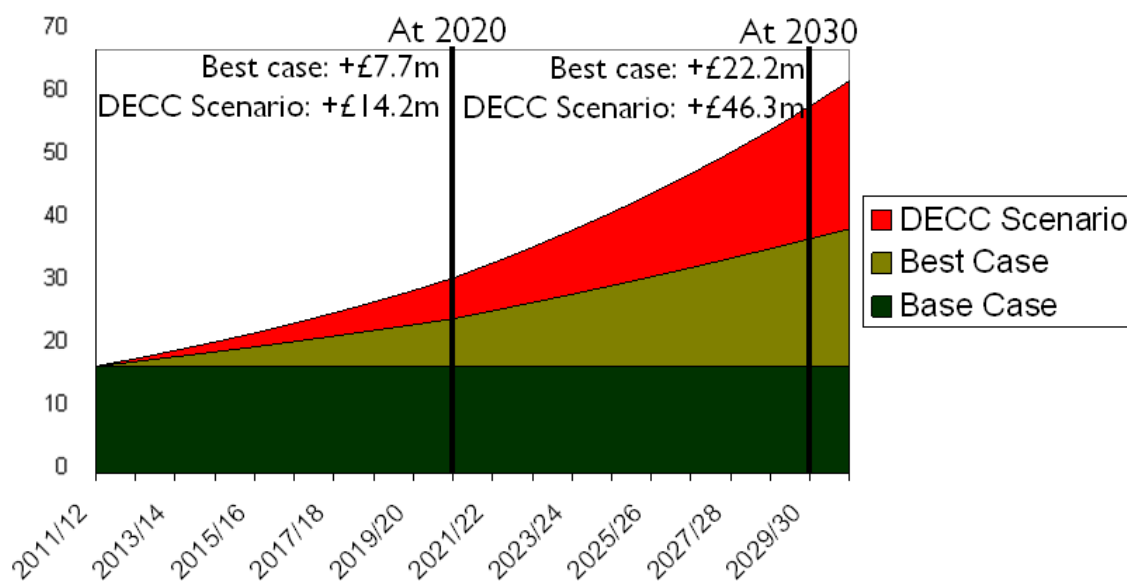
2. Context of Energy in Hampshire

2.1. Cabinet approved an interim Energy Strategy in February 2012. When this interim Strategy was approved, Cabinet expressed concern at its short-term nature and requested the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment to progress a longer term Energy Strategy as soon as possible to ensure the County Council had a robust forward plan in place.

2.2. Energy is a key issue for the County Council:

- In 2011, the County Council spent in the region of £15.7 million on energy in its varied portfolio of buildings (£11.5 million of this within the school estate), which is about 342.4 GWh of energy (261.2 GWh in schools). Of the 670 sites that the County Council owns, 178 have an energy bill of over £20k p.a. This includes schools, residential care homes, museums and libraries as well as offices. The County Council's Carbon Reduction Commitment bill alone for 2011/12 is approximately £1.4 million.
- Ofgem estimates that without market intervention, energy prices are likely to rise by 50% over inflation by 2030.
- Based on government price data combined with estimates of carbon taxes, County Council expenditure on non-schools energy could rise from the current £4.2 million to nearly £8 million by 2020 and £16 million by 2030. This potential cost increase alone represents a real threat to the County Council's capacity to deliver its services.

Hampshire County Council Future Buildings-Related Energy Bill + CRC Tax (£m per annum)



- With its partners, the County Council already controls a significant energy asset – Hampshire’s waste provides fuel for three Energy Recovery Facilities, which generate some 38MW of electricity, enough to supply up to 53,000 homes.

3. Key Issues for the Energy Strategy

- 3.1 Against this background, the Cabinet paper of February 2012 outlined the key energy risks and opportunities to the County Council and the wider community. The three key strategic risks of security of supply, affordability, and carbon emissions pose a serious threat to the County Council’s aspirations to reduce costs, increase efficiencies, and maintain quality service delivery. Furthermore, in the absence of a local response, these risks could have a significant detrimental impact on residents and businesses across Hampshire.
- 3.2 The County Council is well placed to act in this regard. As well as being a significant consumer of energy, a large employer, and a landowner, as a Waste Authority, and as a provider of services which are essential to the local economy and community, the Council is well placed to provide strategic leadership for the community on this issue.
- 3.3 The Council’s role as a Waste Disposal Authority and its past investment in Energy Recovery Facilities provides the Council with a particular opportunity to align its waste and energy strategies in the future. As a Waste Disposal Authority the County Council has a contract with Veolia Environmental Services (VES) to manage waste infrastructure. The existing contract with VES commenced in 1996 and is currently scheduled to terminate between 2023 – 2025. It will therefore be important to review the County Council’s long

term approach to waste to ensure that it recognises the importance of local energy generation, and that the County Council manages Hampshire's waste and infrastructure to maximise opportunities and minimise risks.

- 3.4 National policy on energy has been to reform the energy market, promote the use of renewable sources and improve the efficiency of the built stock. Successive governments have placed obligations on energy providers to support initiatives such as feed-in tariffs and home insulation. It is worth noting that many of these initiatives are not always appropriate for Hampshire, a large county with a significant rural population. One example of this is onshore wind. Another is the focus on fuel poverty, where this seems to impact upon areas with significant concentrations of older, poorly insulated housing stock. Therefore it is important that the County Council has a local energy policy that can translate national policy for the Hampshire context and maximise access to national incentives.
- 3.5 In addition to delivering community benefits, taking a strategic role on energy will also present the County Council with opportunities to generate new revenue streams, reduce overheads and increase efficiencies. There is a variety of ways in which these opportunities can be realised, and the proposed Energy Strategy will ensure that a coordinated approach is taken.
- 3.6 Key to the development of the longer term strategy has been the preparation and implementation of a programme of pilot projects and feasibility studies. The successful 'Insulate Hampshire' project is a current example of how the County Council together with its public sector partners can deliver these benefits to the Hampshire community. Other opportunities could include investing in community energy generation, or developing projects which improve the way Hampshire uses energy.
- 3.7 The first energy projects being progressed under the interim Energy Strategy, Winchester District Energy and an Energy Performance Programme (EPP), will be brought forward for consideration by the Executive Member for Environment and Transport and the Executive Member for Policy and Resources respectively at subsequent decision days.
- 3.8 Energy projects cut across organisational boundaries and there is much to be gained from investigating the potential for partnership working, both with local authorities and the private sector. Organisations such as energy companies already have technical knowledge in many areas which could help the County Council maximise its understanding of the key opportunities for local government. It would therefore be advantageous for the County Council to explore and assess opportunities for such partnership working.

4. Financial protocol

- 4.1 It is clear that some projects which could come forward as part of the energy programme would have major financial implications for the County Council. This will require careful consideration, as the financial issues, both in terms of

scale and how to take proper account of the long term benefits of any proposed investment, will need the County Council to develop a careful financial strategy. The County Council has applied a similar approach to the future funding of Extra Care Schemes, as well as the original decision to invest in Energy Recovery Facilities in Hampshire. A financial strategy will be produced which sets out clear guidance for how the financial aspects of projects proposed under the Energy Strategy should be assessed.

5. Next steps

- 5.1 As recommended by Cabinet in February 2012, the County Council will benefit from taking a longer-term strategic approach to the energy agenda. This will minimise the risks posed to business continuity and service delivery, and maximise the potential benefits.
- 5.2 The proposed Strategy sets out how the Council will deliver a leadership response to energy including developing the most appropriate technologies and delivery mechanisms, potential partnerships and financial arrangements, to enable it to fully capitalise on the opportunities presented by the energy agenda.
- 5.3 If approved, it is proposed that the Strategy be delivered through four-yearly Action Plans, to deliver on the objectives set out in Section 1.2. These Action Plans will be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that the aims of the Strategy are being met.
- 5.4 In the first instance, projects on District Energy and an Energy Performance Programme for County Council buildings developed under the interim Energy Strategy will be taken to the Executive Members for Environment and Transport and Policy and Resources respectively for approval.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 That the long term corporate Energy Strategy, as set out in Appendix C of the report, be approved.
- 6.2 That authority be given for the next steps in the implementation of the Energy Strategy, as set out in Section 5.
- 6.3 That authority be given to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment to explore with potential public and private sector partners the appetite for future joint working on energy issues.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Carbon Strategy	1152	26 July 2010
Interim Energy Strategy	3548	27 February 2012
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>		<u>Date</u>
Climate Change Act		2008
CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme		2010

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 1.1 The proposals in this report have been developed with due regard to the requirements of the Equality Act 2010, including the Public Sector Equality Duty and the Council's equality objectives. The assessment of the impacts for the *Ensuring that Hampshire is Energy and Climate Change Resilient* service area can be found at:

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/equality/equality-impact-assessments/cx-pu-eqimpact-envi.htm>

It is considered that the issues covered by this report will not have impacts requiring further specific actions by the Council above those already established in its existing policies and working procedures.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

- 2.1. It is not considered that the Energy Strategy will have any adverse crime and disorder impacts.
- 2.2. However, having a safe and secure local energy supply may help to ensure that, for example, street lighting, operates efficiently and effectively, with associated positive effects on levels of crime and disorder.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

Adoption of the Energy Strategy will potentially lead to a reduction in our carbon footprint and levels of energy consumption. Projects are likely to increase energy efficiency, reduce energy usage, and decrease carbon emissions. There will also be possible opportunities to generate our own renewable, low-carbon energy.

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

Hampshire County Council is heavily reliant on grid-based fossil fuel imports for its energy. Climate change has the potential to significantly impact upon the energy sector. Changes to climate and severe weather events may affect the UK's capacity to generate energy and distribute power and may alter patterns of energy consumption and use. Because energy markets operate in a global context, climate change impacts elsewhere in the world that significantly impact global energy supply may also have the potential to indirectly affect Hampshire.

By taking action to increase security of local energy supply, and reducing our reliance on national infrastructure, Hampshire will be better placed should climate change lead to interruptions of energy supply.

It will also help to ensure business continuity and the maintenance of service delivery in the case of extreme weather events.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S ENERGY STRATEGY

1 Introduction - Hampshire County Council and Energy

- 1.1 The energy landscape is changing rapidly. At a national level, Government is implementing a range of policies designed to transition the UK to a low carbon economy. With fossil fuel reserves declining, the UK is increasingly looking to renewable and low carbon sources of energy to meet an ever-growing demand for electricity. As a result of this, energy costs and environmental taxes are increasing and security of supply is becoming increasingly vulnerable.
- 1.2 In 2011 the County Council spent in the region of £15.7m on energy in its buildings (£11.5m of this was within the school estate). Of the 670 sites that the County Council owns 178 of them had an energy bill in excess of £20k p.a. This property portfolio includes schools, residential care homes, museums and libraries as well as offices.
- 1.3 The County Council's current (2011) pattern of energy consumption is unsustainable. Based on 2011 Government price data and combined with estimates of future carbon taxes, County Council expenditure on non-schools' energy could rise from the 2011 figure of £4.2m to nearly £8m by 2020 and £16m by 2030. This cost increase alone represents a real threat to the ability of the County Council to continue to deliver high quality services.
- 1.4 As a result of the rapidly changing energy landscape, there are a number of risks to the County Council. At a strategic level these risks can be broadly categorised under the following headings:
- Security of supply
 - Affordability
 - Carbon

2 Key Risk 1: Security of Supply

- 2.1 *"In recent years Britain was [energy] self-sufficient; today we are net importers of over 25 per cent of our annual demand; and by 2020 this proportion will be considerably higher. Estimates of import dependence by 2020 range from 45 per cent to much higher, 70 percent or more"*¹.
- 2.2 Being energy secure means having a consistent, reliable, and affordable energy supply. There is an increasing threat to the security of the UK's energy supply which is caused by a number of key factors² including:

¹ Energy Security: A National Challenge in a Changing World (Department of Energy and Climate Change, 2009)

² Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics 2011 (Office for National Statistics, 2011)

- Higher levels of global energy consumption;
 - Increasing demand for electricity;
 - Political instability and conflict in energy producing countries;
 - Limits on production; and,
 - Inadequate energy infrastructure systems.
- 2.3 It is estimated that £110 billion investment will be needed in UK energy infrastructure – primarily power stations and the electricity grid – before 2020 if security of supply is to be guaranteed³.
- 2.4 The electricity grid is the nation-wide infrastructure that transports power from where it is generated to the end user (typically in the UK this is from the north to the south). This ‘centralised’ grid has evolved to channel electricity from a small number of big power stations to a large number of final users. The distribution networks in particular have been designed for a one-way flow of electricity.
- 2.5 To support the transition to a low carbon future – which will bring with it an increase in distributed and intermittent generation, principally from renewables- a modernised electricity grid is needed with greater capacity and the ability to manage greater fluctuations in supply and demand, while maintaining security of supply. Investment in grid infrastructure and new technologies that can efficiently store electrical energy will also be needed.

Relevance to Hampshire County Council

- 2.6 Local authorities are responsible for the provision of vital public services as their primary duty. To deliver these duties effectively, facilities such as schools, care homes, street lighting and housing require a reliable supply of power.
- 2.7 Twenty-one per cent (19 gigawatts) of existing generating capacity in the UK is scheduled to close during the next decade³. Without significant investment at both a national and local level, this could lead to disruptions in power supply and result in power cuts.

Relevance to Hampshire County Council as a Community Leader

- 2.8 Approximately 40% of the UK’s electricity comes from gas-fired power stations, and 60% of the world’s proven gas reserves are in Russia and the Middle East⁴. National investment in energy infrastructure does not take into account local energy requirements and does little to create local resilience to the increasing threat to energy security.

³ The government’s long term plans to deliver secure, low carbon and affordable electricity (National Audit Office, 2012)

⁴ Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics 2011 (Office for National Statistics, 2011)

- 2.9 Increasing pressure from the public for the County Council to demonstrate “responsible procurement” of energy (i.e. secure, non polluting, low carbon, supporting local jobs) could become a significant political issue in the future.
- 2.10 Rural communities in Hampshire are particularly vulnerable to supply disruptions as a result of two key factors: (1) rural properties tend to be ‘off grid’ and therefore rely on primary fuels for heat and power, e.g. Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) or fuel oil, rather than the electricity grid; and, (2) because localised fuel delivery networks are particularly vulnerable to extreme weather events, e.g. heavy snow.

3 Key Risk 2: Affordability of Energy

- 3.1 The affordability of energy is a key component of wellbeing and economic growth. Over the next decade energy prices are likely to rise due to:
- increases in wholesale electricity and gas costs as a result of increasing fossil fuel prices and an increase in the deployment of renewables;
 - government policies aimed at reducing carbon emissions, including taxation; and
 - the investment in infrastructure that is required.

In addition to this, energy prices are increasingly volatile due to the direct influence of a number of factors including:

- declining indigenous energy production in the UK;
- an increased reliance on international markets;
- increased global demand;
- index links between oil and gas markets; and,
- actions of some energy-supplying countries.

- 3.2 Domestic energy bills tend to reflect global commodity prices. For energy consumers in the UK, this tends to mean that when wholesale gas and oil prices rise, so does the cost of living. Ofgem – the energy market regulator has estimated that if the market was left as it is today, annual average household electricity bills could rise by more than 50% by 2030⁵.
- 3.3 Government is putting in place a range of energy policies designed to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and encourage the development and uptake of low carbon energy technologies. The introduction of these policies, whilst supporting the growth of the renewable energy industry, distorts the traditional energy market and drives an increase in the cost of energy.

⁵ Project Discovery: Options for delivering secure and sustainable energy supplies (Ofgem, 2010)

Relevance to Hampshire County Council

- 3.4 The increasing cost and volatility of energy prices will impact on the cost of delivering services, and therefore increase the proportion of the County Council's budget apportioned to energy.
- 3.5 Over time as energy prices increase the County Council could be using a higher percentage of its total budget to pay for energy (particularly if budget pressures remain). This will impact on the available budget for delivering other key service areas.
- 3.6 Carbon taxes will also have a significant impact on the cost of energy. As Government's energy policy leads to high carbon energy becoming more expensive, the County Council will need to undertake long term financial projections and develop strategies to generate and procure low carbon energy, and reduce energy consumption, to help reduce the impact to the County Council from future price rises.

Relevance to Hampshire County Council as a Community Leader

- 3.7 *Increased impact on communities (e.g. fuel poverty)*

Household energy bills have increased substantially in recent years, tracking sharp increases in energy tariffs, particularly since 2010. Should energy costs continue to rise as expected, the level of fuel poverty in Hampshire will increase. The County Council will also need to consider how to provide affordable energy for rural communities and businesses who are not connected to the grid and reliant on LPG or fuel oil.

Increasing energy costs will have a significant impact on the viability of many Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Hampshire.

4 Key Risk 3: Carbon Emissions

- 4.1 Since the turn of the century there has been a widespread global agenda to reduce carbon emissions. In the UK, successive Governments have introduced legislation designed to drive the transition from a carbon intensive energy regime towards a low carbon economy. Such legislation includes the Climate Change Act 2008, the Energy Act 2011, and the recent Energy Bill 2012. In parallel, policies have been introduced to incentivise low carbon energy generation and reduce energy consumption from fossil fuels, e.g. environmental taxes linked with carbon emissions such as the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) and Climate Change Levy (CCL).
- 4.2 In the White Paper for Secure, Affordable and Low-Carbon Electricity (2011), Government set out a pathway to decarbonise electricity generation. It recognised that action needs to be taken if the UK is to

successfully transition to a low-carbon economy and meet the legally-binding 15% renewable energy target by 2020 and the 80% carbon reduction target by 2050. If these targets are to be achieved, emissions from the power sector will need to be largely decarbonised by 2030.

- 4.3 Electricity Market Reform is intended to put in place the institutional and market arrangements to deliver the scale of change needed in the power sector, but local action will also be needed to meet the UK's carbon budgets and renewable energy targets. It is at the sub-regional and local level that the County Council could work to support renewable energy uptake and decarbonisation.

Relevance to Hampshire County Council

- 4.4 In 2011, energy consumption for the County Council (including the schools estate) resulted in a £1.4 million CRC tax bill. As the national drive to decarbonise energy gathers pace, the County Council will need to take into account the additional cost of carbon taxes alongside increasing energy prices when budgeting for future energy consumption.
- 4.5 Higher rates for existing carbon taxes and additional taxes could be introduced in the future to further disincentivise the use of high carbon energy and support the carbon reduction agenda.

Relevance to Hampshire County Council as a Community Leader

- 4.6 *Reputational risk*

The County Council is seen as “community” leader and can therefore come under scrutiny from pressure groups who support the shift towards a low carbon economy. At the national level, league tables have been used to encourage local authorities to take action on reducing carbon (e.g. National Indicator 186). Similar measures to rank performance could impact on the County Council's reputation both locally and with central Government.

Increasing pressure from the public for the County Council to take action to reduce its carbon emissions could become a significant political issue in the future.

- 4.7 *Role as implementers of national policy*

National Government are increasingly requiring local authorities to support the transition to a low carbon economy through new legislation and policy. Examples of this include through the Localism Act 2011 and recent changes to the Local Government Act 1976 which have enabled local authorities to generate and sell electricity from renewable sources.

There are currently no legally binding obligations on local authorities to meet national carbon reduction targets, however this could change in the future.

5 Why Energy? The Key Principles behind the Energy Strategy

5.1 The Energy Strategy has been developed in response to the risks of security of supply, affordability and carbon. It aims to provide an approach that can not only mitigate against and limit the future risks, but also maximise any potential opportunity for the benefit of the County Council and the wider Hampshire community.

5.2 The Strategy is based on 8 key principles:

Leadership

There is an opportunity for the County Council to use its expertise on energy to represent the Hampshire community and influence the national energy agenda. Ultimately, this could lead to a better quality of life for Hampshire residents.

Wellbeing

Energy projects in the community can help to improve wellbeing in Hampshire. This could include reducing fuel poverty and building closer relationships with communities.

Maximising business opportunities

For the County Council, some energy projects will generate enough income to payback the initial investment and could potentially create new sources of income in the longer term. Other business opportunities could include selling expertise on energy to other public bodies.

Sustainable economic development

Energy projects present an opportunity for communities to generate their own energy, stimulate growth and create local jobs. Localised energy networks, such as District Energy schemes, provide valuable infrastructure and can support local, and sustainable, economic development.

Enhancing quality of place

This Strategy represents an opportunity to proactively plan for the energy needs of Hampshire in the future. Community power schemes – where communities invest in renewable energy – can increase energy security and improve wellbeing, particularly in rural ‘off-grid’ communities, enhancing the quality of place.

Increasing energy security

Being energy secure means having a consistent, reliable, and affordable energy supply. Currently, Hampshire largely relies on imported fossil fuels and national grid infrastructure. This approach is not sustainable in the

longer term and leaves rural, 'off-grid' communities particularly vulnerable to oil price volatility.

Reducing consumption and increasing energy efficiency

For the County Council, reducing our energy consumption could lead to a lower cost base, increased energy security and lower environmental impact. Improving energy efficiency is one way of reducing consumption and is therefore an important topic for both the County Council and the wider community.

Reducing carbon liabilities

A combination of national legislation and policy is driving an increase in environmental and carbon taxes. Reducing the amount of energy we consume from fossil fuels can reduce carbon emissions and therefore carbon tax bills.

6 The Strategy

- 6.1. Hampshire County Council is a top performing authority that responds to risks proactively by taking challenging decisions and implementing innovative solutions. It is committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of its community.
- 6.2. It is accepted that the key risks outlined in this Strategy are significant and as such, in the longer term, the lack of a coherent Strategy on energy would be unsustainable. The issues of security of supply, affordability and other costs associated with using fossil/carbon-based fuels (e.g. the CRC) are strategically important and require some level of response.
- 6.3. This Strategy sets out the response that the County Council will be taking to minimise the energy risks of security of supply, affordability and carbon emissions, and to take advantage of the opportunities to support the development of a low carbon economy in Hampshire.
- 6.4. The response in this Strategy lies between the parameters of a basic response limited to good housekeeping of the County Council's corporate (non-schools) estate and a fully-integrated and ambitious response delivering a low carbon energy Hampshire.
- 6.5. The Strategy will be delivered through 4-yearly Action Plans. Each Action Plan will be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that the aims of the Strategy are being met.
- 6.6. Each Action Plan will contain:
 - a) A phased programme of actions to achieve the objectives of the Energy Strategy;
 - b) Qualitative and quantitative targets to measure the effectiveness of actions; and,

- c) A suggested programme of actions to build on current projects and carry forward into the next Action Plan period.
- 6.7. As part of the Energy Strategy, the County Council will need to consider how it maximises energy opportunities across its estate, including using its freehold, tenanted and leased buildings in innovative ways, for example, using land and buildings to house energy centres that would otherwise be disposed of or remain vacant.
- 6.8. The County Council will need to consider the opportunity to establish and utilise innovative legal and financial structures such as Energy Services Companies (ESCOs) to deliver energy projects. This will include investigating how such structures could help to mitigate risk and maximise project specific-opportunities such as investing in energy infrastructure.

7 Aim and Objectives

Aim:

For Hampshire County Council to provide community leadership for resilience against the risks of energy security, affordability and carbon emissions, and to contribute innovative solutions for the creation of a sustainable low carbon economy in Hampshire.

Objectives:

- 1. To reduce energy consumption and increase the efficiency of energy use in the County Council and in the community of Hampshire by:**
 - (a) Delivering energy reduction and efficiency programmes for the County Council's corporate estate;
 - (b) Developing and supporting energy efficiency programmes for the community of Hampshire including partners and schools;
 - (c) Leading the development of and supporting initiatives which help improve the way Hampshire uses energy; and
 - (d) Working in partnership with the public and private sector.
- 2. To invest in local energy projects which collectively support the key principles behind the Energy Strategy, including initiatives which:**
 - (a) Safeguard the health and wellbeing of Hampshire residents;
 - (b) Foster economic development through sustainable local energy generation;

- (c) Increase energy security, improve local resilience, reduce Hampshire's reliance on imported fossil fuels;
- (d) Reduce the County Council's exposure to carbon tax liabilities; and
- (e) Maximise business opportunities for the County Council and increase revenue.

3. To integrate energy generation and infrastructure into place shaping by:

- (a) Supporting the development of common Local Plans approaches and interpretation of these policies across Hampshire local planning authorities;
- (b) Recognising the importance of local energy generation in future decisions on waste management; and
- (c) Considering the role of Hampshire County Council-owned land in energy generation.

4. To facilitate community access to secure, affordable and/or low-carbon/renewable energy and energy services by:

- (a) Developing and supporting initiatives which could reduce the cost of energy to domestic and non-domestic consumers;
- (b) Increasing the energy options available to urban and rural communities, recognising specific issues, such as, reducing dependence on high-cost, high carbon fuels such as LPG and fuel oil; and
- (c) Providing an information hub to support private and community initiatives on energy.