

<b>Title: Corporate Environmental Policy, EMS, and Carbon Target</b>	
<b>Ward:</b>	<b>Cabinet lead: Cllr Fi Hance</b>
<b>Author: Steve Ransom</b>	<b>Job title: Environmental Programme Manager</b>

<b>Revenue Cost: £ 0</b>	<b>Source of Revenue Funding: n/a</b>
<b>Capital Cost: £0</b>	<b>Source of Capital Funding: n/a</b>
<b>One off</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Saving</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Ongoing</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Income generation</b> <input type="checkbox"/>

**Finance narrative:** This proposal reviews and updates the Council's existing environmental performance policy and the corporate carbon reduction target; it recommends maintaining an externally-certified Environmental Management System and increasing the corporate carbon reduction target from 50% to 65% by 2020 compared to a 2005 baseline.

The Council has made significant reductions in carbon emissions in the past few years and accelerated the delivery of existing target from 2020 to 2016 along with the benefit of significant revenue savings. This was due to investment in Council's corporate buildings, street lighting, vehicles, and significant capital investments in renewable energy infrastructures such as wind turbines, solar panels / parks, biomass and Combined Heat and Power plants (CHPs). Recent mild winters also played a role.

There is unlikely to be any further significant carbon reduction and saving in the short-term due to a limited number of planned short-term live projects, however planned building closures and energy efficiency improvements, together with gradual reduction of the national grid's carbon intensity are likely to deliver further carbon savings in line with the target over the next few years. These will also result in some revenue savings. In the medium to long term, Heat Networks Infrastructure development will play an increasing role from 2020 and beyond.

**Finance Officer:** Tian Ze Hao – Finance Business Partner

**Summary of issue / proposal:** To maintain and improve the council's environmental performance and reputation, reducing our costs, prevent pollution, be legally compliant and reduce our operational risks

**Summary of proposal & options appraisal:**

**1. Environmental Policy**

- The existing corporate policy is fourteen years old, so there is a need to bring it up to date.
- ISO14001 has been revised (the standard for our corporate environmental management system) and requires new commitments in our policy
- The structure and nature of council services has changed significantly since 2003

**2. Environmental Management System**

- The council-wide EMS was switched from EMAS (EU Eco-Management & Audit Scheme) to a very similar standard (ISO14001:2004) in 2016. This was done because; a) our auditors no longer offer EMAS auditing, b) very few organisations in the UK use EMAS and c) there is no mechanism for maintaining EMAS once the UK leaves the EU.
- In 2015, the International Standard ISO14001:2015 was launched with the requirement that all certified organisations currently meeting the requirements of the ISO14001:2004 standard must transition to the new standard by September 2018.

**3. Carbon Target**

- The council has been highly successful in reducing carbon emissions from its operations, with the existing target of reducing carbon emissions by 50% by 2020 achieved in 2016. Consequently, there is a need to adopt a new target to support the Mayor's priority of Bristol being a carbon-neutral City by 2050. **The council's performance in 2016/17 was 60% below the baseline year of 2005.**
- Planned building closures and energy efficiency improvements, together with gradual reduction of the national grid's carbon intensity are likely to deliver further carbon savings over the next few years. Significant further cuts are unlikely in the short-term because there are no current projects planned that will deliver substantial decarbonisation of council buildings or construction of new renewable energy generation capacity. In the medium to long term, heat networks will play an increasing role both at a national and local level.
- Further detail on the proposed carbon target is attached at Appendix A(ii)

**Other Options:**

- 1). Maintain an uncertificated system: this would provide a small saving (c. £10k p.a. audit fees) but evidence from other local authorities confirms that regular external audits are an important driver for continual improvement and managing environmental risks:
- 2). Implement a more challenging carbon target: It is anticipated that in the longer term, heat networks will provide a further and significant reduction in corporate carbon emissions, but these will not be completed before 2020.

**Recommendation(s) / steer sought:**

1. Rescind the existing corporate Environmental Policy and replace it with the new policy attached as Appendix A(i).
3. Re-certify the externally-audited corporate environmental management system to the current international standard, ISO14001:2015
2. Increase the corporate carbon reduction target from a 50% cut by 2020 to a 65% cut by the same date against a 2005 baseline. Details are provided in Appendix A(ii).

**City Outcome: These proposals continue and enhance the council's ability to deliver the following priorities:**

- Achieving city-wide carbon neutrality by 2050,
- Delivering positive, environmental change for the people of our communities to their economic and social benefit, such as reducing their energy bills and cutting pollution, and
- Transition the council to be fuelled by renewable energy

**Health Outcome summary:** this proposal contributes to positive, environmental change for Bristol, for example through cutting pollution from council operations.

**Sustainability Outcome summary:** The Proposed Environmental policy proposes effective update to the wording of the policy to reflect changes in standards and circumstances. It maintains an effective level of protection and is consistent with good practice and International Environmental Management Standards. The adoption of the policy will have no significant adverse impacts on the environment. The Proposed carbon targets increase the target level for the City Council's Corporate emissions. This will help to reduce the environmental impacts of the city council and is a positive change. The level of the target seems to be the appropriate balance of stretching but achievable. Setting a higher target would not be appropriate. The City Council's target is higher than the wider city target and this provides appropriate leadership for the city. (Alex Minshull, Sustainable City & Climate Change Service Manager)

**Equalities Outcome summary:** this proposal has low impact for the public sector equality duty (Wanda Knight, Equality and Community Cohesion Officer).

**Impact / Involvement of partners:** The proposals strengthen the council's ability to meet its commitments (for example, the Covenant of Mayors carbon target) and reduce its operational risks, some of which are regulated by the Environment Agency.

**Consultation carried out:** consultation has been carried out with numerous other local authorities, North Bristol NHS Trust, Sustainable Procurement consultants, Environmental Consultants, and the council's Sustainable City & Climate Protection Service and Energy Service. Minor amendments to the proposed policy and carbon target were made as a result.

**Legal Issues:** This will be an executive decision. As per para 8 of the Local Choice Functions (pg 74): The discharge of any function relating to the control of pollution or the management of air quality (is) non exec. only to the extent that the activity is one of enforcement; otherwise, exec. Could be taken to full council for info after approval, but no legal requirement in that regard.

**Legal Officer:** Nicholas Mimmack: Lawyer

DLT sign-off	SLT sign-off	Cabinet Member sign-off
[Nicki Beardmore] [09/2017]	[Alison Comely] [26/09/2017]	[Cllr Fi Hance] [25/09/2017]

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	<b>YES</b>
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	<b>NO</b>
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	<b>NO</b>
Appendix D – Risk assessment	<b>YES</b>
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	<b>YES</b>
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	<b>NO</b>
Appendix G – Exempt Information	<b>NO</b>

Appendix A (i): Environmental Policy

Appendix A(ii): Corporate Carbon Target