



Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2009

Report from the Director of Policy and Regeneration

For Action

Wards Affected:
ALL

Report Title: Climate Change Final Task Group Report

1.0 Summary

1.1 The final report of the Climate Change task group

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree the recommendations set out in the task group report.

2.2 That the report is forwarded to the Executive

3.0 Detail

3.1 On the 10 October 2007 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to set up a task group to review the councils Carbon Management Strategy and Implementation Plan (CMS&IP). The CMS&IP contains 37 projects that need to be delivered by different services from across the council. It is solely focussed on the management of emissions of greenhouse gasses, specifically carbon dioxide and in particular how these can be reduced by each of the council services

3.2 The task group included the following members:

- Councillor Jackson
- Councillor H.B Patel (Chair)
- Councillor H Singh

3.3 The task group carried out the following activities:

- Met with the Deputy Head of Asset Management, Brent Council
- Met with Network Manager in the Information Technology Unit, Brent Council
- Met with Head of Asset Management within the Children and Families Department, Brent Council
- Met with Director of Planning, Brent Council

- Visited Welsh Harp Education Centre
- Met with the Director for Energy Solutions
- Met with the consultants who developed the climate change strategy
- Visited Wembley Park Primary School
- Visited Howe Dell Primary School, Hertfordshire

4.0 Key findings of the task group

- 4.1 Climate change has been deemed the biggest environmental threat facing the modern world. Brent council is taking firm action to deal with this challenge. In 2001 Brent signed up to the Nottingham declaration on climate change, sustainability is a strong theme running through the council's corporate strategy. The council also has a Carbon Management Strategy and Implementation Plan and recently agreed its first Climate Change Strategy.
- 4.2 During the course of this review, the councils plans to tackle climate change has been moving at a fast pace. Brent has agreed its first borough wide climate change strategy and developed a more appropriate way of measuring emissions through setting a new baseline using more accurate data. In this respect, this work becomes a review of our approach to carbon management thus far, highlighting lessons learned as we take agenda forward. Many of the early emerging findings of the task group have already been included in the Climate Change Strategy including such as developing sustainable schools forums and working with local builders to raise awareness about sustainability measures.
- 4.3 Overall the task group found that the council has made some headway in tackling climate change, however conflicting priorities and lack of resources has affected progress. In concluding the review the task group were concerned about the progress of our approach to reducing our carbon emissions but were cautiously optimistic about the range of measures in place to take this work forward.
- 4.4 The final recommendations of the task group can be found on page six of the task group report

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