

## Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Resources Policy, Development and Scrutiny Panel
MEETING DATE:	18 March 2013
TITLE:	Bath and North East Somerset Carbon Reduction – progress report
WARD:	ALL
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>	

### 1. INTRODUCTION TO SCOPE AND ISSUES

1. This report provides an update on carbon reduction work taking place under the auspices of the the B&NES Environmental Sustainability Partnership (ESP), including work by our partners in the community and operational carbon reduction activity.
2. The Council and its partners in the ESP have a commitment to “lead Bath and North East Somerset to an environmentally sustainable, low carbon and climate resilient future” and to help to achieve the carbon reduction target of 45% by 2026, agreed in the Sustainable Community Strategy 2011 – 2026. (This target is in line with the national carbon budget targets.)
3. Carbon reduction, and the consequent reduction of energy use and costs, is important locally in terms of fuel poverty, energy resilience and future economic prosperity.
4. The ESP’s [Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy 2012-15](#) was recently adopted by Cabinet in 2012. The Partnership now oversees active work streams in nine areas, with tackling climate change and carbon reduction the priority for all work streams. The ESP collaborates with the Health & Well Being Board on its strategy development in order to maximise the health benefits of carbon reduction work and vice versa.
5. Please refer to Appendix 1 for details on area-wide carbon emissions, Council carbon emissions and other relevant data.
6. Please see Appendix 2 for further detail on activities and successes in community facing work, service delivery and operational carbon management.
7. Highlights to note include:
  - a. Community carbon emissions, reported to us annually, with an 18 month time- lag, by the Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC), show a slight increase (emissions from the domestic sector is the largest sector in B&NES – See Appendix 1);

- b. Research into home energy efficiency retrofitting and the Green Deal has completed and has led to the formation of the new B&NES 'Home Energy Community Partnership' (*name not yet finalised*) and an emerging Retrofitting Strategy, designed to increase the installation of energy efficiency measures across all house types, income bands and tenures, but particularly targeting the vulnerable and those in fuel poverty and ensuring that the new business generated benefits the local SMEs and the local economy;
- c. High quality and user-friendly guidance for the public on how to make homes energy efficient and low carbon, in the form of the Sustainable Construction and Retrofitting Supplementary Planning Document, was adopted in February 2012;
- d. Partnership work on promoting energy efficiency in the home will receive a big push in March and April, culminating in a Green Living Fair on 24 March and the second Bath Green Homes Open Homes Weekend, on 13 & 14 April;
- e. Council carbon emissions have reduced for the latest reported year (2011-12), an improvement on the previous year;
- f. Schools' energy use produces the largest part of the Council's carbon footprint and dedicated staffing and a concerted effort over the last nine months has resulted in a project that will provide detailed data on each school later this year, which will inform a comprehensive action plan and enable more cost-effective, coordinated energy efficiency projects.
- g. There has been progress in carbon reduction activity across several areas including: street-lighting, Workplaces and corporate travel.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

For the panel to note the progress in carbon reduction activity and to support upcoming activities targeting domestic energy efficiency and carbon emissions, such as the emerging B&NES Home Energy Community Partnership (7 (b)) and Bath Green Homes events (7 (d)).

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<b>Background papers</b>	
<p><b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b></p>	