

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: New Communities Portfolio Holder

25th January 2011

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NEW COMMUNITIES PERFORMANCE REPORT END OF THIRD QUARTER 2010/11

Purpose

1. This report outlines the progress made by the New Communities and Policy teams for the third quarter; it is not a key decision.

Recommendations and Reasons

2. This is the third monitoring report that will be reported to the Portfolio Holder over this current year to ensure that good progress is being made, and remedial action taken, if necessary.
3. It is recommended that the Portfolio Holder notes progress made in the third quarter.

Background and considerations.

4. Appendix A summaries progress to date in relation to Council Actions, programmes set out in the service plan and The Local Development Scheme.

Council Actions

5. Three of the council's actions fall within this Portfolio:
 - ***We will achieve a 10% reduction in CO2 emissions from Council's operations and publicise the outcome in order to set an example to other organisations.***

Current indications from 3rd qtr data suggest that the Council may struggle to achieve the 10% target reduction in CO₂ emissions.

The two principal actions for this year do not appear to be delivering the levels of reduction anticipated. These are the ongoing 'virtualisation' of ICT servers in South Cambs Hall, and the reorganisation of the waste collection recycling rounds following the introduction of the new blue wheelie bins. Work is currently underway to identify precise figures and whether additional savings from these actions will come on line during the final quarter of the year.

Some reduction was anticipated as a consequence of contractions in the Council staffing levels, following restructuring earlier this year, but there has not been a significant reduction in energy use in the building.

In addition two actions are not likely to be implemented until late in this last quarter or during the first quarter of 2011/12, namely the installation of photovoltaic panels on

the roof of South Cambs. Hall, and the proposed installation of voltage optimisation equipment, also at South Cambs. Hall. Both of these will generate tangible carbon savings, but even if installed in the final quarter would not significantly alter the cumulative total for the current year.

An action plan is in place and work to meet this target is being overseen by the Internal Sustainability Delivery Group and Executive Management Team (EMT). These steps also aim to address the Level 1 assessment (inadequate) made by the Audit Commission's 2009/10 round of Corporate Area Assessments, in relation to how South Cambridgeshire District Council makes effective use of natural resources.

- ***We will work with Parish Councils to complete at least 6 local projects to contribute to the County target for the reduction of CO2 emissions.***

The Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership (SPEP) exceeded its initial target, and now includes 23 parishes, with several more considering membership. Parishes, which have recently joined the Partnership, include Kingston, Rampton, Fulbourn, Eltisley, Bourn and Waterbeach. It is anticipate coverage of 25% of parishes by year-end.

Officers continue to supporting a range of projects with parishes, including thermal imaging, car sharing, developing a parish energy booklet, the loan of energy monitors, and modelling CO2 emissions.

Between October-December, in addition to the Village Energy Show, 5 workshops were held on a range of subjects including heat pumps, choosing an eco-friendly heating system, insulation, and developing a parish energy booklet. Forthcoming topics include community renewables and garden share.

We will increase the number of teenagers taking part in positive activities by 500.

SCDC Young People's Plan sets out how SCDC will help young people to become involved and have a say in things that affect them, and to understand how they can influence change. It will assist in focussing SCDC resources in a way that is more useful and helpful to children and young people living in our district. The draft plan, which has been prepared by young people, was considered by Scrutiny Committee on 6th January and is also a separate item on this agenda.

A programme of activities has been identified to date provide opportunities for increased participation in positive activities (refer appendix B).

Red Indicators

6. The principal area where there have been some delays this quarter remains the preparation of policy or supplementary guidance. Guidance is emerging from the new government about changes to the planning system.

Two Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) are also behind schedule. Papworth West Central SPD is subject to on-going discussions stakeholders including with the landowners and Parish Council and awaiting the completion of the Conservation Area review. For the Orchard Park Design SPD, Officers are currently reviewing comments with consultees and partners and it will now be considered at the March Portfolio holder meeting.

Other Areas of work

7. With regard to the growth sites, achievements in the last quarter include the approval of schemes addressing pre-commencement planning conditions. at Trumpington Meadows, as well as the permission for the first phase of Infrastructure and the country park. In December SCDC Planning committee resolved to grant outline consent for the Cambourne 950 application. Work continues on the relating S106 agreement.

Pre-application discussions continue on Orchard Park in respect of the remaining undeveloped parcels of land, and on NW Cambridge (University Site). The next NW forum has now been successfully launched, it next meets on 26th January to consider drainage.

8. A number of the growth sites (NIAB1, NIAB 2, The University and Northstowe) have been affected by the Government's announcement to cancel the A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton improvement scheme. Discussions are underway to understand what alternative plans may be put in place to allow development to proceed. These discussions, however, are at an initial stage.

Implications

9. Financial	None.
Legal	None
Staffing	The restructure is now complete. The Parish Energy Project Officer post is to be renewed for a further year until March 2012 to support the Sustainable Energy Project. The post of S106 Officer is to be made permanent, funded by fee/charging income.
Risk Management	A separate risk register is maintained for the Service and reviewed quarterly by the service's management team and EMT.
Equality and Diversity	None arising directly from this report and recommendation.
Equality Impact Assessment completed	Equality Impact assessments are currently being drafted for the Climate Change Action Plan, Economic Development Strategy and Sports Development.
Climate Change	The service plays a key role in overseeing carbon reduction within the Council and across the District.

Effect on Strategic Aims

10. Ensuring that the service performs well and its programmes remain on target will help to ensure that the Council meets its strategic aims.

Conclusions / Summary

11. The team continues to make good progress across a number of areas. The implications of the Localism Bill will need to be given careful consideration.

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