

Report to Neighbourhoods Select Committee

Date of meeting: 27 June 2017

Subject: Corporate Green Working Party Updates

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Committee Secretary: Vivienne Messenger (01992 564243)



Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Select Committee notes the progress and updates from the Corporate Green Working Party.

Report:

1. The Corporate Green Working Party was originally set up in 2012 with a focus on the Council's internal functions. It continues to work across departments within EFDC. We have a Commitments & Action plan to both look at what we can and should do within EFDC, and also to record what has been done to measure how far we have come. The actions for the CGWP are divided between climate adaptation, tackling our greenhouse gas emissions, and other general sustainability projects. This can vary from looking at our energy use and how to reduce it, to finding ways we can reduce our paper usage through streamlining our systems and processes.

2. Some highlights from the commitments and actions plan include:

- A new round of Essex Energy Switch started in May, with people registering their interest. This is a scheme to help local residents purchase lower-cost electricity through a county-wide auction. In our District there are relatively low numbers who take this up each year. We will continue to promote the Switch, especially to those we feel would benefit.
- The roll out of Smart Meters across the country is gaining pace. EFDC are arranging training for the Private Sector Housing teams for any queries residents may have. The Smart Meters are being installed by individual energy companies, meaning that residents will have meters installed at different times depending on their company.
- EFDC, led by the CGWP, has completed their Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) report for 2017. This is a bi-annual report to the Government to update what each local authority has been doing to reduce the energy usage in their housing stock. There is an action plan each authority puts together of ambitions for the next two years, plus an update of their previous actions. The reports are signed by the local authority's Chief Executive and submitted to the Secretary of State.
- New waste and recycling points have been installed in all offices around the Civic Offices, and will shortly be installed in the Oakwood Hills Depot. This was needed for our new waste contractor, Biffa, to collect our waste and recycling separately. A six-monthly report of how well we are recycling will be out in late June.
- The Terms of Reference for the group have been reviewed. This is done bi-annually to ensure they are still fit for purpose. A few minor changes were made and have been discussed at Management Board.

- EFDC continues to be represented at many regional groups, including CO2RE (Carbon Reduction Essex), the Fuel Poverty Forum and Association of Local Energy Officers (ALEO).
- Lyndsay Swan has retired from EFDC and as such there is a vacancy as Chair for the CGWP. This will be filled by Kassandra Polyzoides, who is currently on maternity leave. Liz Ainslie will temporarily fill that post until Kassandra returns.

3. The next meeting of the CGWP will be held on 14 June, 2017. This meeting will see updates of any actions due. The meeting will also look at our Greenhouse Gas reporting for the 2016/17 year, which is due end July annually.

Reason for decision: Not applicable.

Options considered and rejected: Not applicable.

Consultation undertaken: Not applicable.

Resource implications: The Corporate Green Working Party is comprised of staff members across EFDC. There are no resource implications as it is only time allocated to the group.

Budget provision: None.

Personnel: Internally resourced.

Land: N/A

Community Plan/BVPP reference: N/A

Relevant statutory powers: N/A

Background papers: Previous Neighbourhoods Select Committee reports, November 2015.

Environmental/Human Rights Act/Crime and Disorder Act Implications: N/A

Key Decision reference: (if required) N/A