

**CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
CABINET 1 JULY 2014**

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*Background Papers, if any, are specified at the end of the Report*

**CHILTERN GREEN HOUSE GAS (GHG) REPORT 2013/14**

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- To note the 3% reduction in carbon emissions for the year 2013/14, and in doing so, achieving the Council's reduction target.
- To approve the Chiltern GHG Report detailed in *Appendix 2* for submission to the Department of Energy & Climate Change.

**Relationship to Council Objectives**

*3(C) Reduce Chiltern's carbon emissions and improve energy efficiency through local mitigation, adaptation and promote the sustainable use of resources*

**Implications**

*(i) This matter is not a key decision.*

*(ii) This matter is within the policy and budgetary framework.*

**Financial Implications**

*A critical aspect of reducing carbon emissions is the associated financial benefits that they also deliver. **Financial benefits will be reported in the 'annual energy spending report' later in the year, when the full set of financial data has been received.***

**Risk Implications**

*As the performance of the Council is publicly reported and the Council's achievements assessed nationally, it is important that the Council continues to innovate in its reductions of carbon emissions and spend on energy.*

*Failure to reduce the costs associated with energy use will adversely impact on the Medium Term Financial Strategy. Climate Change and Sustainability were previously identified as a corporate risk, this report advises on how that risk is being mitigated and minimised.*

**Equalities Implications - None**

## Sustainability Implications

*For the sixth year in a row, the positive GHG report demonstrates the hard work undertaken across the Council and by partners on reducing its carbon footprint , demonstrating positive action and leadership to our communities.*

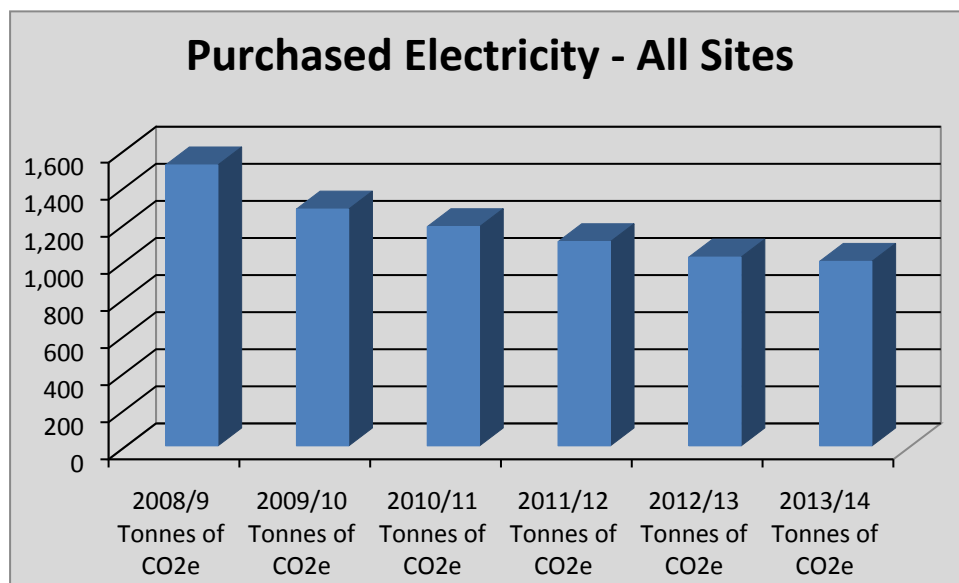
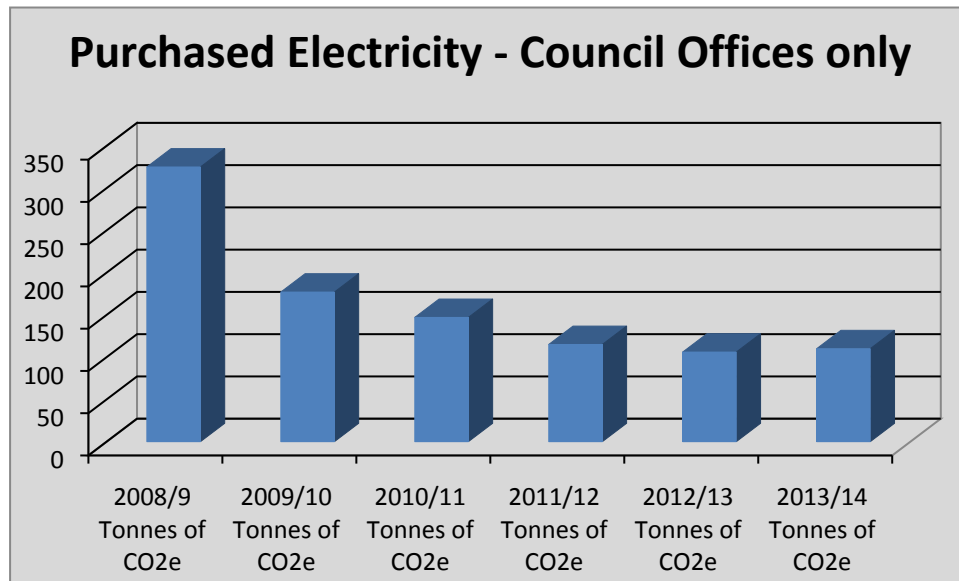
## Background

- 1 As in previous years, The Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) have formally requested the sharing of information on greenhouse gas emissions from local authorities own estate and operations. DECC requires each local authority to publish its own GHG report locally on its own website. They consider this is essential to support the localism agenda by ensuring local authorities are accountable to their local communities for their greenhouse gas emissions.
- 2 DECC formally requested that each local authority publish its GHG report by the end of July 2014 for 2013/14 (**Appendix 1**). DECC then collate the total figures for each local authority covering all greenhouse gas emissions – so the total figures for all LAs are nationally available and in one place. The GHG reporting mechanism forms part of the DCLG single data list.
- 3 The Council has an on-going commitment to reducing its own carbon emissions and has signed the climate change declaration. Each Cabinet decision also includes the consideration of sustainability. The Climate Change Strategy provides a number of key themes and actions to help Chiltern deliver on its promises. Delivery plans take the form of business cases, developed following prioritisation and suitability assessments. These occur through multiple channels including CAMG, contract monitoring and direct improvement initiatives.
- 4 In 2012, Cabinet agreed cumulative targets moving forward of a 4% reduction (1.3% each year) over each '3 year period' against the 2008/9 baseline year.

## Results

- 5 Since the last GHG report, DECC has released new guidance with updated emission factors. This has resulted in the need to revise previous reports to ensure consistency moving forward. The updated figures for previous years are therefore now presented in this and subsequent GHG Reports.
- 6 The completed GHG report can be found as **Appendix 2**. The report shows a further 3% reduction in 2013/14 which equates to an overall running total of 22% reduction in emissions from the base year in 2008/9.
- 7 The main focus for the Council continues to be sustaining existing reductions in indirect energy use (Scope 2), which includes the use of electricity at the council offices, leisure centres, car parks and public conveniences. This has

seen the largest continued decrease and represents a cumulative 6 year reduction of approximately 65%.



- 8 In addition, a cautionary approach has been used in relation to electricity consumption for the vacant part of CDC offices. Past reports have split the energy consumption in the offices based upon floor areas (BCC 42%, Bucks PCT 6.8%, ATC 4.1% Amersham Accountancy 1.85% CDC 45.25%) however, BCC vacated their offices on 31/8/13. Although these vacant offices have been partially utilised for shared service reviews and the HS2 team, the energy usage will have reduced and therefore to ensure that the energy figures will not be adversely affected in next year's report (when the 1st floor will be fully occupied again) the percentage split has been estimated and amended for the period 1/9/13 to 31/3/14 to BCC 22% and CDC 65.25%. Bucks Learning Trust have now replaced ATC on the 2nd floor and are due to occupy the 1st floor from 1/8/14 (as BCC's tenant) and therefore we would

expect energy usage in the vacant area to increase again in line with the original split.

- 9 The action to tackle direct emissions (scope 1) includes optimising and reducing gas consumption at the Council Offices. However, it is clear that the late arrival of the summer weather required the continued use of additional resources to heat buildings and has resulted in a very small increase in scope 1 emissions over the previous year.
- 10 Chiltern considers in its calculations, the carbon management performance of its contractors such as; GLL, TBS (Hygiene) and waste contractor (Serco for 2013/14) under scope 3 (other indirect). Although this is more challenging, it is important for those undertaking work on our behalf to also work towards meeting targets.
- 11 The new joint waste contract commenced during 2013/14. This has resulted in an initial increase (10% HGV) in emissions from last year due to the rolling out of the new contract (additional mileage for delivery of new bins etc.) Requirements on Serco to work towards minimising carbon emissions were included in the new contract and completion of the roll out phase should see a reduction in overall emissions in the 2014/15 report. Officers are working closely with Serco to monitor and seek improvements.

### **Internal Reporting & Discussion**

- 12 Cabinet is provided with GHG reports annually. In addition, the Chiltern LSP received sustainability updates under its work programme. On-going strategic direction and monitoring of the climate change strategy is undertaken by the Health & Housing Division.
- 13 This enables a corporate review of activities delivered by each of the service areas. Advising where there may be underperformance or the opportunity to invest in climate change measures. For example,
  - Opportunities to ensure energy and resource reduction measures/ mitigation are included in 'engineering' projects at the conception stage is now the default position for the Council. (POSITIVE)
  - It has been identified that the mileage for CDC owned vehicles which falls under Scope 1 has increased this year due to another diesel vehicle being added to the fleet for the employee who opens and closes, cleans and reads the meters for the 8 public conveniences in the district. This vehicle was previously included in the waste contract (formerly with Biffa) which fell under Scope 3 but is not included in the new joint contract with Serco. (NEGATIVE)
  - Increased use of the CDC electric vehicle (in preference to non-electric) by parking attendants. (POSITIVE)
  - Portable air conditioning units being extensively and widely used to reduce office temperatures (NEGATIVE)
  - Increased travel between Chiltern and South Bucks offices added approximately 10% to CDC vehicle emissions. (NEGATIVE)

- 14 Once identified the relevant division or contractor is responsible for resolving the matter or seeking options that will enable continuous improvement

### **How were the reductions achieved?**

- 15 In addition to complying with the requirements of environmental legislation and demonstrating community leadership, the benefits of reducing energy use directly contributes to achieving savings targets in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 16 Based on the greenhouse gas management hierarchy, the Council also has a rolling program of projects with the following schemes undertaken in the 2013/14 GHG reporting year:
- The council is now benefiting from its investment in its own renewable energy using solar photovoltaic (PV). This is the second year that has captured the benefits in terms of volume of generation.
  - PC base unit renewal – rolling program with reducing energy use.
  - Reduction in standalone printers by a further 5 units across CDC.
  - New card accessed photocopiers resulted in 76,854 unwanted pages sent to the copier, not being printed for the period 1/9/13 to 12/6/14 resulting in significant paper savings and resulting carbon emissions.
  - Work with GLL Nexus and Principal Leisure Officer to implement energy measures
  - Installation of insulation scheme in CDC underground car park roof
  - Commitment of Chiltern staff to play their part in reducing on-going energy use and undertaking simple energy reduction measures on a departmental basis.
  - Depot improvements including LED lighting
  - Albany car park external lighting improvements.
  - Snells Wood – external LED lighting
  - Voltage optimisation at Amersham multi storey car park

### **Moving Forward**

- 17 A number of further projects have already commenced or are planned for 2014/15 and onwards:
- Proposals to install additional solar panels at AMSCP. This would see an increase in electricity generated from the 8,238 kWhs in 2013/14 to approximately 48,000 kWh for a 55 kilowatt system or 96,000 kWh for the 110 kilowatt system.
  - Improved atrium structure with more efficient passive cooling built into the design (this would reduce/ remove the need for portable air conditioning).
  - CDC network servers and associated air conditioning. Move from IT server room to BCC basement room will allow significant reductions in energy associated with systems cooling.

- Updated telephony system project will utilise existing base units and therefore reduce overall energy requirements.
- 18 Based on the current performance in relation to carbon management and the opportunities to deliver further improvements by the council and its partners, although the current three year target has already been achieved, Officers will strive to maintain existing reductions and indeed seek further reductions over the remaining year with a continuing view to being carbon neutral by 2050.
- 19 It is however worth re-iterating that a number of matters are making the achievement of on-going savings more challenging and these include additional travel as a result of shared services, additional office cooling and the supplementary activities involved with rolling out the waste contracts. Each of these is however subject to potential future improvement projects.
- 20 Due to the timing and need to submit this data response to Government, the supplementary 'annual energy financial performance update' and 'solar panel' reports, are provided to Cabinet as separate items later in the year.
- 21 In conclusion, based on the overall performance to date and projects undertaken under the climate change strategy, the GHG report provides a continuing positive reflection of the Councils commitment to reduce both its total carbon emissions and its on-going energy spend.

*Background Information:* [www.chiltern.gov.uk/sustainable](http://www.chiltern.gov.uk/sustainable)