

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<i>CHILTERN GREEN HOUSE GAS (GHG) REPORT 2014/15</i>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<i>Councillor Michael Smith (Cabinet Member – Environment)</i>
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	<i>Bob Smith (Acting Chief Executive)</i>
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	<i>Ben Coakley (Principal Strategic Environment Officer)</i>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED</b>	<i>All</i>

## 1. Purpose of Report

This report provides an overview and summary of the Chiltern DC Green House Gas (GHG) Report for 2014/15.

### RECOMMENDATION

- To note that the ongoing reduction in carbon emissions have been maintained for the year 2014/15, and in doing so, continue to meet the Council's reduction target.
- To note the risks **and** opportunities for GHG emissions in relation to the shared service agenda moving forward.
- To note the Chiltern GHG Report detailed in Appendix 1 as submitted to the Department of Energy & Climate Change by the deadline of 31st July 2015.

## 2 Discussion:

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 DECC formally requested that each local authority publish its GHG report by the end of July 2015 for 2014/15. 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.
- 2.3 Due to the final data only becoming available at the beginning of July, the formal GHG report (appendix 1) has now been submitted. As a factual report detailing actual performance, this is not subject to further amendment.
- 2.4 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

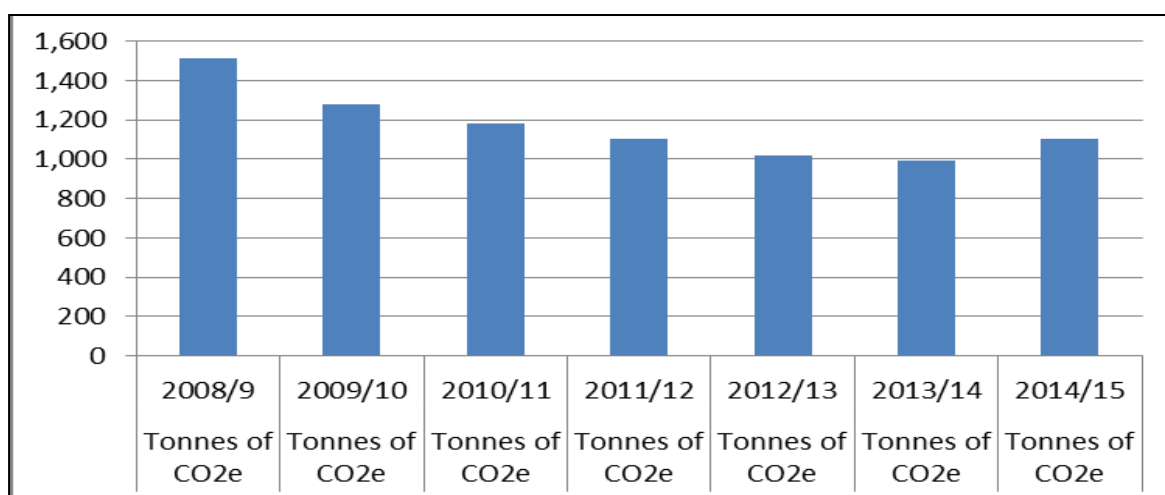
consideration of sustainability. The Climate Change Strategy provides a number of key themes and actions to help Chiltern deliver on its promises. Delivery plans take the form of business cases, developed following prioritisation and suitability assessments. These occur through multiple channels including CAMG, contract monitoring and direct improvement initiatives.

- 2.5 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. **Whilst no further reductions have been possible in 2014/15, the 4% reduction target has already been achieved and maintained.**

### Results

- 2.6 The completed GHG report can be found as **Appendix 1**. The report shows a stabilisation of reductions in 2014/15 but maintains the overall running total of 22% reduction in emissions from the base year in 2008/9.
- 2.7 It is therefore clear that further reductions to take the Council and partners beyond the 22% is (as indicated in the previous GHG Report) extremely challenging, especially at a time of significant change and sharing of services. Officers will however indeed try to meet this challenge by looking for further opportunities and innovation.
- 2.8 The main focus for the Council continues to be sustaining these 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.

### SCOPE 2: PURCHASED ELECTRICITY - ALL SITES (IN CO<sub>2</sub>e)



- 2.9 Until 2014/15, this has seen the largest continued decrease. However, it would appear from the graph that scope 2 emissions have slightly increased in 2014/15.

---

2.10 Upon investigation it became clear as to why this has occurred. GHG report figures must be measured and presented in units of CO<sub>2</sub>e (which means carbon dioxide

equivalent). The figures therefore contain correction factors, set by DEFRA to account for the carbon emissions of the sourcing of the fuel before it reaches the end user. This correction factor is not within the control of the Council and therefore has the ability to skew the apparent performance for this set of emissions.

The reasons for this 'perceived increase' therefore are attributed to:

- The Conversion Factor published by DEFRA for calculating the emissions for electricity consumption has increased this year from 0.44548 p/kWh to 0.49426. Given the total annual consumption for the all sites for the year was 2,239,437 kWh, this small increase in the conversion factor of 0.04878 equates to 109,239 KG or 109 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e.

**This change by Government of the correction factor therefore accounts for almost the entire 111 tonnes increase in emissions compared to last year and therefore does not represent a significant increase in consumption by the Council.**

2.11 Other issues that may impact upon emissions moving forward include:

- Relocation of teams and staff to either Chiltern Offices or South Bucks Offices.
- Additional space (and PC's) for hot-desking to allow staff to work from the Chiltern offices even if they are primarily based at South Bucks.
- Some functions such as parking , directly relevant to the reporting, are now based at Chiltern rather than South Bucks and therefore will contribute to additional mileage emissions for Chiltern (corresponding reductions to South Bucks GHG report)
- Increasing use of dual monitors and the need for monitors/ IT at both sites for shared service staff that work at both sites.
- Continued use of air conditioning at Chiltern Offices
- Increase in electricity use at Amersham Multi Storey Carpark where additional security lighting has been installed.

2.12 Bucks Learning Trust have also now replaced ATC on the 2nd floor and since 1/8/14 are now occupying the 1st floor (as BCC's tenant). This has also been taken account of in reporting.

2.13 **The action to tackle direct emissions (scope 1) includes optimising and reducing gas consumption at the Council Offices. This has resulted in a decrease in scope 1 emissions over the previous year** and has to some extent compensated for the increase to scope 2 emissions and impact of revised correction factor as described above.

2.14 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. Both gas use and water use in the leisure centres has decreased significantly on last year, which is very positive.

- 2.15 CDC business mileage maintains the general trend of being elevated since 2013/14 (as a result of shared services and travel between CDC and SBDC), but has decreased slightly against last year. This is an area for improvement that will be considered further when the current phase of shared services is complete and operational concerns have been given a chance to stabilise.
- 2.16 The new joint waste contract commenced during 2013/14. This resulted in an initial increase (10% HGV) in emissions 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 has now seen a return to 2009/10 levels which is again very positive.

### **Internal Reporting & Discussion**

- 2.17 Cabinet is provided with GHG reports annually. On-going strategic direction and monitoring of the climate change strategy is undertaken by the Healthy Communities Division.
- 2.18 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. Whilst the shared services are continuing to develop, teams across both Councils are rightly concentrating on operational proficiency and ensuring that there are no visible impacts on customers. Once shared services are fully in place, work will resume on identifying (and implementing) new opportunities.
- 2.19 Once identified the relevant division or contractor is responsible for resolving the matter or seeking options that will support continuous improvement

### **Moving Forward**

- 2.20 Officers will actively seek out further opportunities. A number of further projects have commenced or are planned for 2015/16 and onwards:
- **At the request of CAMG, the consideration of additional new solar PV sites within the District to maximise energy generation.**
  - Consideration of opportunities for multi-council energy generation
  - Proposals to install additional solar panels at AMSCP. This was subject to planning approval but is currently on hold (pending a consideration of options for site improvements by the Environment Team)
  - 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.

- 
- 2.21 A small identified risk (and opportunity) for 2015/16 is that within Scope 1, the use by parking attendants of Council vehicles is also included. There is therefore the potential for increased emissions as a result of the purchase of two further vehicles to cover the South Bucks area whilst having them stationed at Chiltern. These additional increases therefore represent a 'previously unaccounted mileage' to cover the South Bucks work but will be attributed to Chiltern. As a new shared service, mitigation opportunities will be discussed and considered by the new parking manager.
- 2.22 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 continue to strive to maintain existing reductions with a continuing view to being carbon neutral by 2050.
- 2.23 Shared services may currently be considered a minor risk in relation to GHG emissions. However, it is expected that these will change to opportunities as further improvements are made to the new shared operations and staff become more familiar with new ways of working. It is also hoped that additional joint schemes between Chiltern and South Bucks will be developed that will contribute positively to both councils.
- 2.24 Due to the timing and need to submit this data response to Government, the supplementary 'annual energy financial performance update' and 'solar panel' report, are provided to Cabinet as a separate item later in the year.
- 2.25 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 maintain and where possible reduce both its total carbon emissions and its on-going energy spend

### 3. Corporate Implications

#### Financial Implications

A critical aspect of reducing carbon emissions is the associated financial benefits that they also deliver. **Financial benefits including solar pv energy generation 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 seventh year in a row, the GHG report demonstrates the hard work undertaken across the Council and by partners on working towards reduction of its carbon footprint, demonstrating positive action and leadership to our communities.

**4 Links to Council Policy Objectives**

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

**5 Next Step**

To submit the Chiltern GHG Report to the Department of Energy & Climate Change

<b>Background Papers:</b>	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-greenhouse-gas-emissions-statistics-user-guidance">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-greenhouse-gas-emissions-statistics-user-guidance</a> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics</a>
---------------------------	--