

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<i>2014/15 Greenhouse Gas Report and Future Target</i>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<i>Councillor Trevor Egleton Portfolio Holder Healthy Communities</i>
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	<i>Martin Holt Head of Healthy Communities</i>
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<b>WARD/S AFFECTED</b>	<i>All</i>

## 1. Purpose of Report

*To present to the Portfolio Holder the Annual Greenhouse Gas Report and its outcomes; and to seek approval to upload the revised report onto the Council's website.*

*For the Portfolio Holder to consider reducing the Council's year on year carbon reduction saving from 5% to 2% for 2015/16.*

### RECOMMENDATION

*The Portfolio Holder approves the uploading of the revised Greenhouse Gas report onto the Council's website.*

*The Portfolio Holder approves a year on year carbon emissions saving target of no more than 2% for 2015/16, within the revised Greenhouse Gas report.*

## 2. Executive Summary

*The Council prepares a Greenhouse Gas report on an annual basis, which is uploaded onto the Council's website and is also sent to the Department for Energy and Climate Change for their website and comparison against other Councils.*

*The report sets out if the Council has reduced its carbon emissions one year in arrears, together with a carbon reduction target for the following year.*

*The Council did not meet its annual emissions reduction target for 2014/15, therefore, the report requests that the reduction target is reduced from 5% to 2% for 2015/16.*

*This PAG report, together with attached Greenhouse Gas report as attached in Appendix A, explains the carbon performance for the Council for 2014/15.*

*The PAG report also sets out the savings for the Council for 2014/15, some £28,582, which is due to energy efficiency measures being undertaken on the Council's estate.*

### 3. Reasons for Recommendations

*Every Council has been requested by central government to upload their annual Greenhouse Gas Reports onto their website since 2010/11.*

*The Council did not meet its year on year carbon emissions saving target of 5% for 2014/15. As few energy saving measures have been installed during 2014/15, it is unlikely that the Council will meet the 5% target for 2015/16.*

### 4. Content of Report

- 4.1 *A legally binding framework to mitigate future climate change through the Climate Change Act 2008 was established. As such, the UK is legally bound to reduce its carbon emissions by 34% by 2020 below 1990 levels, and by 80% by 2050.*
- 4.2 *As part of these measures, and through various carbon trading schemes, all sectors have been targeted to reduce carbon emissions.*
- 4.3 *South Bucks District Council has therefore measured its energy use and carbon emissions since 2008/09 through the former National Indicator Programme, and since (2010/11 onward via the Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs /Department of Energy and Climate Change (DEFRA / DECC) Greenhouse Gas Emissions reporting process.<sup>1</sup>*
- 4.4 *The Greenhouse Gas Report is produced annually in arrears, and follows a prescribed format. It must be submitted to DECC by 31st July and posted on the Councils website. A DRAFT Greenhouse Gas Report for 2014-15 has been uploaded for the purposes of DECC. Four previous reports have also been compiled and submitted. They can be found on the SBDC website.<sup>2</sup>*
- 4.5 *The DRAFT annual Greenhouse Gas Report is attached as Appendix A.*
- 4.6 *The DRAFT report advises that there has been an increase of 40.3 tonnes (6.9%) of CO<sub>2</sub> on last year's emissions. Overall, however, the Council to date, has still managed to lower its emissions by 131.95 tonnes (17.34%) of CO<sub>2</sub> over its baseline established 2008.*
- 4.7 *The attached Greenhouse Gas report advises that the Council has not met its rolling 5% energy reduction target due to the following factors: -*
  - *More diesel used by contract services this year due to 2 additional vehicles from January 2014 to support the Council's new Waste Service. Increases in diesel use were reported in the previous Greenhouse Gas report, which also advised that energy increases would be reflected in this current report*
  - *An air conditioning leak occurrence of 19 kilogrammes during 2014 - 15*

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/206392/pb13944-env-reporting-guidance.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/206392/pb13944-env-reporting-guidance.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.southbucks.gov.uk/carbonemissionsreporting>

- *There has been very little of the planned energy efficiency work undertaken*
- *In addition, the new Green Keepers compound is consuming more electrical energy than previously, due to increased equipment and use*

4.8 *Please see Table 1 ‘South Bucks District Council Annual Emissions’ below for carbon emissions reductions by Scope<sup>3</sup>.*

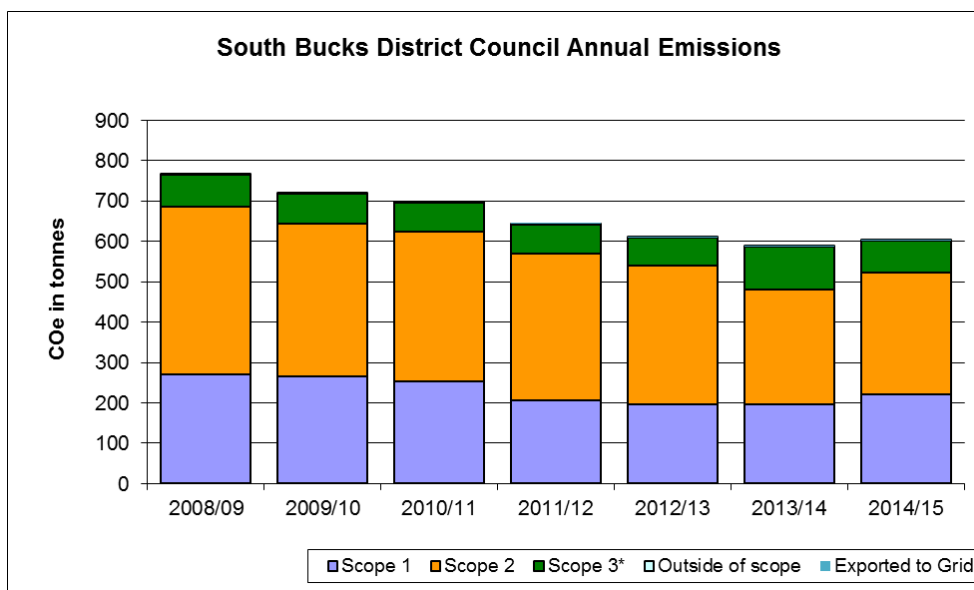


Table 1

### Savings

4.9 *The total energy bill (gas and electricity) for 2014/15 was £99,812, 2.58% lower than the energy bill for 2013/14. Even so, there have been incremental increases in energy costs over time and this is likely to continue until the issue of energy security nationally is fully addressed.*

4.10 *Savings to the Council have incrementally increased over the years since energy saving measures have been deployed. Last year alone, measures saved £23,277 off the Councils energy bill.*

4.11 *In addition, further financial benefits annually accrue to the Council from the Feed in Tariff (FiT) which is paid for the installation of the photovoltaic array (solar*

<sup>3</sup> There are three Scopes from which greenhouse gases are calculated. These are: - Scope 1 (Direct emissions): Activities owned or controlled by an organisation that release emissions straight into the atmosphere. Scope 2 (Energy indirect): Emissions being released into the atmosphere associated with the consumption of purchased electricity, heat, steam and cooling by an organisation. Scope 3 (Other indirect): Indirect emissions from Scope 1 and 2 activities only which fall under Scope 3 in the case of South Bucks. Otherwise, Scope 3 emissions are those that are a consequence of actions which occur at sources over which the Council does not own or control and which are not classed as Scope 2 emissions, e.g. contractors. See also page three of the attached Appendix A to see what has been included in the Scopes from across the Council’s estate.

panels) on Capswood 2. This amounted to £4,307 during 2014/15. In addition to this, and because the solar array is below 5 megawatt capacity, the Council receives an annual sum from its energy supplier of £1,000 for any excess energy produced and exported to the national grid.

- 4.12 A total of £28,582 has therefore accrued to the Council during 2014/15 through the deployment of energy saving measures and renewable energy opportunities.
- 4.13 Cabinet on 19 November 2013 agreed to install ‘invest to save’ energy saving measures worth up to £17,617 across the Council’s estate during 2013/14. The anticipated continuous annual cost savings to the Council would be approximately £16,824, depending on energy saving measures undertaken. These would be in addition to the cost savings set out above in paragraph 4.10 above. The ‘invest to save’ programme is due to restart winter 2015 onwards.

**Year on Year Reductions Targets**

- 4.14 Each year a target is set for annual carbon emissions reductions which comprise part of the Greenhouse Gas report. Cabinet on 16 July 2013 agreed to set a 5% year on year energy saving target following advice from the June 2013 Health and Housing PAG. The Council has been unable to meet this target for 2013/14 and 2014/15. This year’s target, therefore, has yet to be considered and set. Given the slow progress to date in delivering energy efficiency saving measures, the Council would be prudent in dropping the target to one which is meaningful and deliverable. This is not to say that in subsequent years the target could not be raised back up to 5%.
- 4.15 As you can see from the table below carbon emissions have increased due to the factors set out in paragraph 4.7 (above), together with 29 tonnes of fugitive emissions, previously zero, and the 2014 emissions factor for 2014 increasing for electricity from 0.45kg per kWh to 0.49kg.<sup>4</sup>

Year on year comparison	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15*
Percentage variance	-3.96%	-3.54%	-10.91%	-5.05%	-1.71%	6.88%
C02e variance in tonnes	-30.13	-25.89	-76.95	-31.74	-10.20	40.30

Table 2

Note: Where red reads as a negative

- 4.16 A suggested target, therefore, would be to reduce emissions by no more than 2% over the 2008/09 baseline for 2015/16.

**5.0 Consultation**

<sup>4</sup> Emissions factors are determined nationally by DEFRA/Carbon Smart. All emissions are calculated from <http://www.ukconversionfactorscarbonsmart.co.uk/>

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*Consultation has been with the Policy Officer and Facilities Manager.*

## **6.0 Options**

- 6.1 *The Council could take the approach of not reducing carbon emissions, or taking corrective actions over its energy use. This would mean that carbon emissions would increase over time, along with costs. In addition, the Greenhouse Gas reports are available on the Councils website and also on the DECC website. The Council would be compared against other similar Councils. Not reducing carbon emissions would therefore have financial and reputational implications for the Council. Doing nothing is likely to achieve negative results for the Council.*
- 6.2 *By continuing with a high target at 5% the Council may not be able to meet that target, which may also cause reputational implications for the Council.*
- 6.3 *An achievable target of 2% would mean that the Council:-*
- Is likely to meet the target set*
  - Will achieve a positive outcome for reputation*
  - It would help reduce energy costs over the medium term for the Council*
  - It would continue to contribute to improving air quality for the local environment and residents*

## **7.0 Corporate Implications**

- 7.1 *The funding for this year's energy saving measures will be delivered through the 'invest to save' approach. Resulting energy savings will be dependent on the measures installed.*
- 7.2 *There are no foreseeable legal implications.*
- 7.3 *The Greenhouse Gas report addresses Sustainability head on in that the work behind the report actively tackles carbon reduction / mitigation. Monitoring energy use had led to cheaper energy bills and cheaper energy procurement for the Council.*

## **8.0 Links to Council Policy Objectives**

- 8.1 *Strive to conserve the environment and promote sustainability - Promote energy efficiency in the Council's operations*

## **9.0 Next Steps**

*The next steps will be to implement energy saving measures from the list from the agreed 'invest to save' measures. Energy and carbon measurements will be undertaken quarterly throughout the year, and any anomalies in energy use identified, challenged, and where possible, rectified.*

<b>Background Papers:</b>	All background papers can be found at the report footnotes
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