

Informal Joint Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Title of Report:	Annual Corporate Environmental Performance 2017-2018	
Report No:	PAS/SE/18/027	
Report to and date:	Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee	27 September 2018
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Purpose of report:	To report the work undertaken during 2017-2018 to improve the West Suffolk council's environmental performance.	
Recommendation:	Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: It is recommended that, the Committee is asked to <u>note</u> the report's contents.	

Key Decision: <i>(Check the appropriate box and delete all those that do not apply.)</i>		<i>Is this a Key Decision and, if so, under which definition?</i> Yes, it is a Key Decision - <input type="checkbox"/> No, it is not a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Consultation:		Portfolio Holders have had the opportunity to feed into this report.	
Alternative option(s):		Not Applicable	
Implications:			
<i>Are there any financial implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None as a direct result of this update report however the report refers to the environmental performance of assets which form part of the councils' investment programme as part of the West Suffolk Energy Framework. Separate reports will be presented setting out any business case for investing in other opportunities as appropriate.	
<i>Are there any staffing implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> •	
<i>Are there any ICT implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> •	
<i>Are there any legal and/or policy implications? If yes, please give details</i>		More detail is set out in paragraphs 1.4 to 1.6 below	
<i>Are there any equality implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> •	
Risk/opportunity assessment:		<i>(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)</i>	
Risk area	Inherent level of risk (before controls)	Controls	Residual risk (after controls)
	Low/Medium/ High*		Low/Medium/ High*
Complying with environmental responsibilities	High	Maintaining a managed approach to environmental compliance	Medium
Improving performance	Medium	Maintaining a managed approach to drive improvement	Low
Ward(s) affected:		All Wards	
Background papers:		Report CAB/JT/18/007 to Joint Executive (Cabinet) Committee on 25 June 2018	
Documents attached:		Appendix A – West Suffolk Environmental Statement 2017-2018	

1. Key issues and reasons for recommendation(s)

- 1.1 The Annual Environmental Statement is presented at **Appendix A**. The statement covers environmental performance in 2017-2018 including the West Suffolk councils' operations and that of Abbeycroft Leisure in West Suffolk in respect of energy and water consumption and renewable energy generation.
- 1.2 By delivering improved environmental performance across West Suffolk, the councils continue to fulfil both their statutory and policy responsibilities set out in the West Suffolk Sustainability Strategy.
- 1.3 The West Suffolk Sustainability Strategy 2013-2018, which incorporates our vision and objectives, is available on our website www.westsuffolk.gov.uk . The Strategy lapses in December 2018. During the reporting period, UK Government published its Clean Growth Strategy and 25 Year Environment Plan; both call upon devolved administrations and local government to play their part in improving the environment through their own business operations.
- 1.4 The councils continue to work with other Suffolk organisations, including all local authorities, to deliver improvement in energy efficiency, carbon reduction and climate adaptation as part of the Suffolk – Creating the Greenest County's delivery arrangement, the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership. Our current Greenhouse Gas emissions reduction target, a 60% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 against a 2010 baseline, was generally aligned with the CO2 reduction target adopted by partners in 2010.
- 1.5 Since that time, international climate agreement at the Paris Accord has been translated into national legislation and local target setting; a new county-wide target has been adopted which accords generally with national carbon budgeting required under the Climate Change Act 2008:
 - *"To facilitate a reduction in absolute carbon emissions in Suffolk of 35% on 2010 levels by 2025 and 75% by 2050, in line with the UK Climate Change Act 2008."*

This target represents an appropriate UK contribution to global emission reductions consistent with limiting global temperature rise to as little as possible above 2°C, the agreed international scientific and policy consensus level to avoid dangerous climate change.

Furthermore, in June 2018 the West Suffolk councils endorsed a new regional energy strategy developed by the three Local Enterprise Partnerships in the East of England, which reflects this development.
- 1.6 Given these developments, work will continue and any further proposals will be considered by the Single Council after its establishment. In the meantime, it is proposed that the Annual Statement will act as means of communicating the organisations' approach to environmental performance.

This uses 2010 as the baseline year instead of 1990 as the Climate Change Act does, as the Partnership does not have access to figures for Suffolk prior to this time, but the reduction trajectory from 2010 is consistent with the Act.

2. Key Highlights

2.1 Areas of performance are presented in the summary page of the Environmental Statement with links to more detail. As a snapshot, key highlights are set out below:

- CO₂ emissions associated with the councils grid electricity consumption has decreased by 11% compared to 2016-2017. This has been assisted by the “greening” or decarbonisation of the electrical grid.
- These reductions have managed to override increased gas energy consumption from the council’s main buildings.
- Our solar photovoltaic (PV) schemes continue to generally deliver in line with projections and the councils continue exploring the benefits that other renewable energy technologies may bring, such as renewable heat.
- CO₂ emissions from commercial fleet transport use has increased by 2%, which is due in part to the increased commercial service provision.
- Staff mileage reduced by 3% from 435,067 miles to 420,780 miles.
- Water use across the councils and the Abbeycroft leisure centres managed decreased by 9% compared to 2016-2017.
- We retained Green Flag status for four of our public parks and have improved the biodiversity status of a number of green spaces.
- A number of waste initiatives were launched in 2017-2018 to improve office waste recycling performance based on audits.

2.2 Investment in energy and water efficiency and cutting waste is now standard practice across all business sectors and also plays a part in demonstrating a wider corporate social responsibility.

2.3 There are ongoing resource implications to deliver this work (within existing budgets), with environmental improvement generally delivering financial returns through reduced resource use. These continue to be reviewed and considered in light of the Council’s Medium Term Financial Strategy, with appropriate business cases being developed where needed.