

Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee



Forest Heath
District Council

Title of Report:	Annual Corporate Environmental Performance 2014-2015	
Report No:	PAS/FH/15/026	
Report to and date:	Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee	24 September 2015
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Lead officer:	Peter Gudde Service Manager (Environment and Regulation) Tel: 01284 757042 Email: peter.gudde@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
Purpose of report:	To report the work undertaken during 2014-2015 to improve the environmental performance in West Suffolk.	
Recommendation:	It is <u>RECOMMENDED</u> that the contents of the report be <u>noted</u>.	
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:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable 	
Alternative option(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable 	
Implications:		
<i>Are there any financial implications? If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Are there any staffing implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> •	
Are there any ICT implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> •	
Are there any legal and/or policy implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> •	
Are there any equality implications? <i>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)
Complying with environmental responsibilities	Medium *	Maintaining a managed approach to environmental compliance	Low
Improving performance	Medium	Maintaining a managed approach to drive improvement	Low
Ward(s) affected:		All Wards	
Background papers: <i>(all background papers are to be published on the website and a link included)</i>		None	
Documents attached:		Appendix A – West Suffolk Environmental Statement 2014-2015	

1. Key issues and reasons for recommendation

1.1 Outline

1.1.1 Set out in this report and the supporting **Appendix A** is the Annual Environmental Statement covering environmental performance in 2014-2015. The Statement covers the operations both of Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council and the leisure trusts in West Suffolk in respect of energy and water consumption and renewable energy generation.

1.1.2 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, and support for the shared strategic vision "*Working together, Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Councils will support communities to create the best possible future for people in West Suffolk.*"

1.2 Summary of key findings

1.2.1 Areas where progress was made across the two councils and associated leisure trusts during 2014-2015 include:

- Energy use has decreased by 7% since 2013 and by 15% compared to our 2010 baseline
- Water use across has reduced by 12% since last year and 27% compared to 2010
- Business passenger car travel reduced by 7% in Forest Heath compared to last year and 35% lower than our 2010 baseline
- Across both councils, our solar photovoltaic (PV) schemes continue to deliver around £118,000 of income/energy savings and 166 tonnes of CO₂ savings annually
- We installed a further 200kWp of solar capacity on our property
- We retained Green Flag status for four public parks.

1.2.2 In addition, our community focused environmental work includes:

- Working in partnership with all Suffolk local authorities, we successfully applied for £5.5 million to run an energy efficiency programme for Suffolk residents over 2014-2015
- We have helped 51 properties in West Suffolk secure external wall insulation at minimal cost to residents using Government eco-grants
- We have continued to support local businesses with grant funding for energy efficiency measures. To date, for a grant investment of £46,000 this programme is estimated to be saving local businesses over £50,000 and 210 tonnes CO₂ annually.

1.2.3 We faced challenges during the year. In particular, CO₂ emissions in Forest Heath increased by 3.6% compared to the previous year. Compared to our 2010 baseline, emissions have reduced generally by 12%. Much of the increase is despite energy use across both Councils in West Suffolk reducing by 7% since the previous year and can be explained by the increase in the amount of CO₂ emissions for each unit of electricity generated at power stations arising from the national grid electricity mix. This is outside of the

control of the councils.

- 1.2.4 There are ongoing resource implications to deliver this work. These continue to be reviewed and considered in the light of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 1.2.5 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.