



Climate and environment emergency executive panel

16:00 to 17:30

19 October 2021

Present: Councillors Hampton (chair), Stonard (vice chair), Carlo, Lubbock, Oliver, Osborn and Thomas (Va)

1. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 31 August 2021.

3. Climate Footprint report 2020-21

The environmental strategy officer, presented the report. She referred to the further reduction in carbon emissions during the year 2020-21, the impact of the Covid pandemic on the statistics due to the inability of contractors to complete work and the closure of venues such as the Riverside Leisure Centre during this period. She then commented on the statistics in the context of the 5 year average data and the steps that would need to be taken to meet the target of zero carbon emissions by 2030. She reiterated that 2021 was an exceptional year and it was likely that an increase in carbon emissions would be seen in the immediate future.

The environmental strategy manager, then gave details of the various energy saving projects in which the council was involved and, in particular the grant received for an air sourced energy heating project at City Hall. He referred specifically to the problems in retrofitting new energy saving technology into a listed building. Other projects including installation of LED light fittings in City Hall.

During discussion members referred to the significant achievement on reducing the energy rating in City Hall. They asked about the scope for reducing the energy ratings at community centres and it was confirmed that these did not form part of the council's carbon footprint. They referred to the need to reduce the emissions from vehicles and, in particular, from contractors' vehicles and taxis.

The environmental strategy manager said that the best way to reduce contractors' vehicles emissions would be through replacement of vehicles at the appropriate time. In terms of pool cars/ contractor fleet, issues need to be addressed including how staff would be able to charge the electric vehicles when at home. He

understood that the council's taxi contractor used hybrid vehicles rather than fully electric vehicles. He said that community centres were responsible for paying their own energy bills.

Members said that it would be useful to see a breakdown in energy usage in various types of council buildings. They asked whether the council would always be dependent on offsetting to reduce emissions. The environmental strategy manager said that embedded emissions did not form part of our carbon footprint.

A member asked whether there was a possibility of retrofitting energy saving devices in the Halls. The environmental strategy manager referred to the considerable funding of 1 - 1.5 million pounds required for these projects. Another member suggested that vehicles needed to be replaced before refresh points were reached. Richard Willson said that the council could try to coordinate refresh points with provision of additional electrical charging points in the city.

Members recognised that embedded carbon would be inherent in the council's energy use over a significant period which would impact on the council's zero emissions target.

The chair thanked officers for the report and welcomed the impressive progress that had been made in reducing carbon emissions during this period.

RESOLVED to note the outcomes of the carbon footprint exercise as detailed in the report.

4. Retrofitting Work in Norwich

The fuel poverty and energy officer, presented the report. She said that retrofitting was one of the keyways in which to reduce carbon emissions in the city.

A member asked about the timescale for the retrofitting strategy. The environmental strategy manager said it was important for the council to identify the most efficient way to improve heating sources in council properties. Members considered that it was important to identify resources for this work.

A member said that there would need to be discussion and debate on the allocation of financial resources for this part of the council's work.

Another member suggested that the council should adopt a whole home retrofitting approach and there were funds available for which the council could apply. A pilot scheme in council sheltered housing could be used to establish whether this approach could be applied to all council housing. She also suggested that pension funds could be used to help with costs of retrofitting.

The fuel poverty and energy officer noted that the council has put in a bid to the social housing decarbonisation fund for 45 properties and are aware of other funding streams to which the council could apply. The environmental strategy manager also said that the council along with others was looking at the potential for district heating

and how this could be applied in the city's properties to assist with the overall objective to reduce carbon emissions in the Council's properties.

A member asked whether NRL would seek to be involved in the retrofitting process. Councillor Stonard (chair, NRL Board) said that there are lots of areas that the company could get into. The company had spent time on stabilising its finances and the company would need to be careful in considering the risks involved in areas in which it was not familiar.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) note the report;
- (2) welcome the progress made by the council on retrofitting projects to date;
- (3) recommend the cabinet to contact the New Anglia LEP to enquire about the work they were doing on retrofitting including training.

CHAIR