

GREEN AUDIT DRAFT IMPROVEMENT PLANS

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report sets out three of the improvement plans coming out of the Green Audit.

1.2 These plans relate to the following themes:

- The way households are run
- The way we work with businesses
- The way communities are run

1.3 As part of the Green Audit process Cabinet asked to approve these plans.

2 THE WAY HOUSEHOLDS ARE RUN

2.1 This theme looks at the Council's approach to domestic waste management - reduction, re-use and recycling of material – and home energy conservation.

2.2 A copy of the draft improvement plan is attached at Appendix 1.

3 THE WAY WE WORK WITH BUSINESSES

3.1 This theme looks at the issue of commercial waste management and energy management.

3.2 A copy of the draft improvement plan is attached at Appendix 2.

4 THE WAY COMMUNITIES ARE RUN

4.1 This theme focuses on traffic management and street scene issues.

4.2 A copy of the draft improvement plan is attached at Appendix 3.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the approval of these plans. Any cost savings will be identified as a result of monitoring the implementation of the plans. Any requirement for funding would form part of any future expenditure planning process. Any savings in carbon from April 2010 will reduce the cost of the carbon budget that is likely to be in place as a result of the Government's Carbon Reduction Commitment although it is still not yet clear whether the Council will be included in the first tranche of this.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The approval and implementation of all plans coming out of the Green Audit should make important contributions towards the environment, in particular reducing the Council's and the District's carbon footprint and making best use of non renewable natural resources.

7 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The contents of the improvement plans do not have any specific equality and diversity implications. Any development or review of strategies coming out of the Audit will be subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment.

8 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no Crime and Disorder implications arising from this report.

9 PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS

- 9.1 The Green Audit continues to produce good ideas for environmental improvement in an inclusive and structured way. These improvement plans will help the Council focus on improvement activities that will get us to where we want to be environmentally as well as seeing these improvements as part of our approach to efficiency. The Audit has now reached its conclusion in the review and improvement planning stages. Implementation, monitoring and reporting will be key stages to ensure the plans deliver what they are designed for. I will be working with the officers and with the Environment Review Panel to make sure the Council does not lose the impetus created by the good work carried out as part of the Green Audit.

10 RECOMMENDATION

- 10.1 That the three improvement plans be approved.

For further information please contact:

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GREEN AUDIT – THE WAY HOUSEHOLDS ARE RUN ACTION PLAN

PROPOSED ACTION	PERSONS RESPONSIBLE	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	COMPLETION DATE
RECYCLING			
Review recycling promotional activities in order to boost recycling.	RS/JM	Possible additional cost	June 2009
Work with Project Integra to increase the range of materials that can be collected for recycling.	RS/CR	None	September 2009
Encourage more people to join the garden waste collection scheme.	RS/TH	Possible additional cost	On-going
Introduce mixed glass containers at recycling centre sites.	RS/CR/TH	Possible cost savings ?	September 2009
Consider the introduction of neighbourhood mixed glass containers at flats and sheltered housing schemes.	RS/TH	Possible additional cost	December 2009
Review system of glass recycling and study the feasibility of introducing a glass collection scheme following the introduction of mixed glass scheme.	RS/CR/TH	Possible additional cost	April 2011
Develop strategy to achieve recycling targets.	RS/CR/TH	Possible additional cost	June 2009
Improve communication to staff about recycling to develop good practice at home and to spread that practice in the community.	RS/TH	None	June 2009
Update Council's waste management strategy.	RS/CR	None	June 2009

WASTE REDUCTION			
Encourage more people to purchase home composters and food digesters.	RS/CR/TH	Potential cost saving	On-going
Give households more advice on waste minimisation.	RS/JM	Small increase in costs	On-going
Promote waste exchange schemes, freecycle, skip busters and charity shops.	RS/JM	Small increase in costs	On-going
POLLUTION			
Promotional activities to discourage domestic bonfires	EV	Small increase in costs	On-going
Review implementation of Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act with respect to pollution.	CG/EV	None	June 2009
Work with householders to encourage reduction in food miles	MR	Possible small additional cost	On-going
HOME ENERGY			
Promote the Government funded Warm Front grant	MR/EEAC	Existing budgets	On-going
Investigate opportunities for CERT funding for solar hot water in Council housing	MR	Possible additional cost	April 2010
Consider opportunities to help tenants who don't have a mains gas supply	MR/KG	Possible additional cost	April 2010
Work with partners to encourage local households to make carbon savings	MR	Existing budgets	On-going
Provide energy efficiency updates for Hometalk, tenants handbook etc.	MR/JL	None	On-going
Inform landlords of opportunities to improve warmth and comfort for tenants in rented properties.	MR/AT/PS	None	On-going
Investigate schemes to help encourage reduction in wasted energy	MR	None	On-going

GREEN AUDIT – THE WAY WE WORK WITH BUSINESSES DRAFT ACTION PLAN

PROPOSED ACTION	PERSONS RESPONSIBLE	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	COMPLETION DATE
COMMERCIAL WASTE			
Review method of collection for commercial recyclables to increase customer base.	RS/TH	Possible additional cost	September 2009
Improve publicity in order to encourage more businesses to use the Council's commercial waste services.	RS/JM	Additional publicity cost	On-going
Introduce mixed glass recycling collection for commercial customers eg: pubs, clubs and restaurants.	RS/DD/TH	Additional cost of bins	September 2009
Expand collection of bulky commercial waste.	RS/DD/TH	Staff cost	On-going
Introduce recycling collection for Lymington Market to market to recover cardboard for recycling.	RS/DD/TH	Potential cost saving	June 2009
Review collection system for other street markets in the District, looking for opportunities for recycling.	RS/DD/TH	Potential cost saving	December 2009
Work with Project Integra to secure recycling facilities for shredded paper.	RS	None	December 2009
INFLUENCING PRIVATE SECTOR			
Work with Project Integra to lobby the Government about packaging and excess waste.	RS	None	On-going

APPENDIX 2

Set up waste helpline for local businesses.	RS/JM	Publicity cost	June 2009
Update waste directory for local businesses.	RS/JM	None	June 2009
ENERGY EFFICIENCY			
Share good practice between the local business community and ourselves.	MR/PF	Existing budgets	On-going
Improve communication between Council and small businesses with regard to energy efficiency and carbon savings.	MR	Possible additional cost	April 2010
Inform landlords of opportunities to improve warmth and comfort for tenants in rented properties.	MR/AT/PS	None	On-going
Encourage local tourist businesses to adopt green practices	MR/PF	Existing budgets	April 2010
Work with partners to encourage local businesses to make carbon savings.	MR	Existing budgets	On-going

GREEN AUDIT - MANAGING OUR COMMUNITIES ACTION PLAN

PROPOSED ACTION	PERSONS RESPONSIBLE	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	COMPLETION DATE
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT			
Car Sharing			
Work with partners to encourage car sharing in the community including promoting opportunities on council's website	NH	No additional cost	March 2011
Cycling			
Promote Government cycle schemes (internally and externally)	NH		
Liaise with partners to promote cycle ways, cycle efficiency and improve surfaces	NH	No additional cost	On-going
Car Parking			
Include green issues fully in reports when reviewing parking charges	GM/JB	No additional cost	On-going
Include green issues in Lymington Parking Project	GM	No additional cost	December 2009
Consider green issues when reviewing residential parking (e.g. low fee for low emissions)	NH/JB	Potentially less income	December 2010
Consider the use of car park income for environmental improvement / sustainable transport schemes in the town the income was generated	GM		On-going
Operation of the NFDC Car Parking Service			
Review starting point for Council's parking fleet	JB/JT	Potential small saving	March 2010
Review number and type of vehicles for parking fleet	JB/JT	Not known yet	March 2011
Consider introducing vehicle management system into parking fleet	JB/JT	Possible additional cost	March 2010
Reduce mileage of parking fleet by 10% to reduce carbon footprint	JT	Small saving	March 2010
Community Transport			
Work with neighbourhood schemes to extend volunteer drivers for elderly and infirm	NH/GM	None	March 2011
Liaise with partners and aim to develop CANGO for rural areas	NH	Additional cost	March 2011
Work with partners to achieve shared taxi schemes as one alternative to travel by car	NH/GM	Additional cost	March 2011
Improve bus provision in the district, particularly in rural areas through closer working with HCC and the bus companies	NH	Additional cost	On-going
Include green issues fully in reports when reviewing discretionary concessionary travel	GM/NH	No additional cost	March 2011
Support any nationally funded initiative to extend concessionary travel scheme to include younger people	GM/NH		On-going

APPENDIX 3

Promote green elements of bus travel when reprinting concessionary travel leaflets	GM/AC	Minimal additional cost	March 2011
Work with others to investigate the environmental implications of any future opening of local branch railway lines	NH	None	On-going
New Forest Bus Tours			
Include green issues fully in reports when reviewing New Forest tour bus	NH/AC	No additional cost	March 2011
Park and Ride Schemes			
Work with partners to consider park and ride schemes	NH/GM	Additional cost	On-going
NFDC as an Employer			
Consider ways to reduce pollution arising from commuting to and from work.	NH/MS	Additional income	March 2012
Consider allowing employees to work at nearest location where practicable	HOS/HR	None	March 2010
Investigate bus provision for council's main sites	NH	Additional cost	March 2012
School Travel Plans			
Work with partners to ensure potential opportunities are available at the time of enrolment for parents / students to register for car sharing	NH	None	March 2011
Work with partners to strengthen links between school travel plans & town/village plan	PV	None	On-going
Promote Walking Buses at schools	NH	None	On-going
Walking			
Continue to promote more walking initiatives, working with partners	AC	None	On-going
STREET SCENE			
Materials Used			
Use recycled / environmentally friendly / locally sourced materials whenever it is practical to do so and where they are used say so on the item to promote good practice	MC	Possible additional cost	On-going
Education, Enforcement and Promotion			
Litter			
Develop a campaign that targets young people	RS	Possible additional cost	September 2009
Target drive through / fast food outlets and supply bags	RS	Additional cost	December 2009
Report the cost of collecting litter to the public as part of future campaigns	RS	None	September 2009
Promote the concept of picking up other people's litter in any future campaign	RS	None	September 2009

APPENDIX 3

Bulky Waste			
Inform householders about their liability for ensuring trade operators are registered	RS	Possible additional cost	December 2009
General			
Encourage community champion concept including "Adopt a Street"	KS/RS	None	December 2009
Investigate ways of awarding / giving recognition to communities that demonstrate sustainable practice / improvement over the previous year	KS	None	December 2009
Promote "The Big Lunch" 19/7/09 through NF Transition and other mechanisms	P Fulford	None	July 2009
Operation of NFDC Services			
Support the focus of the street cleansing review	MC	Potential cost saving	On-going
Continue to seek opportunities for partnership working eg grass cutting / parish councils that achieve reduced pollution	MC	None	On-going
Ensure the environmental implications are considered when making decisions on acquisition of machinery	JS	Possible additional cost	On-going
Consider the use of slower growth grass seed to reduce the need to cut as frequently	SJ	Potential cost saving	On-going
Identify areas that lend themselves to encourage biodiversity and manage accordingly	SJ	Possible additional cost	On-going
Energy Use			
Take opportunities to reduce energy consumption through the use of automatic lighting systems eg car parks, public conveniences etc	P Freeman	Potential invest to save	On-going
Where appropriate, work with partners to reduce energy consumption arising from street lighting	AE	Potential invest to save	On-going
Review how we work with businesses on energy management	PF / MR	None	December 2009
Water Usage			
Ensure water consumption is taken into account when operating services and designing schemes eg street cleansing and public conveniences	PF/RG/LN	Potential invest to save	On-going
Waste Management			
Ensure all green waste arising from the council's street scene operations is composted	SJ/RS	Potential cost saving	September 2009
Investigate the extension of the mobile mulching service	SJ/RS	Potential cost saving	December 2009
Investigate Community Composting Schemes	SJ/RS	TBA	On-going
Trade Waste			
Work with partners and businesses to achieve a reduction in the number of trade operators working in each town centre	RS/DD	Potential additional income	April 2010
Review how we work with businesses on waste management	RS/DD	None	April 2010