

REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 10
DATE OF MEETING:	17th APRIL 2019	CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (SERVICE DELIVERY)	OPEN
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SUBJECT:	CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY GROUP	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS01

1. Recommendations

- 1.1. That the Committee notes the progress made in improving the Council's environmental performance further to this Committee establishing a Corporate Environmental Sustainability Group in August 2018.
- 1.2. That the Committee approves the development of a Staff Travel Plan and that the final version of the Plan be reported to this Committee at a later date.
- 1.3. That the Committee approves that the Corporate Environmental Sustainability Group develops key environmental performance indicators for inclusion within future versions of the Corporate Action Plan.

2. Purpose of the Report

- 2.1. To provide members with details on the progress made by the newly created Corporate Environmental Sustainability Group to co-ordinate the Council's work on improving its environmental credentials and performance.

3. Detail

Background

- 3.1. At a meeting of this Committee on 16 August 2018, approval was given to the establishment of a Corporate Environmental Sustainability Group (CESG). The purpose of the Group is to develop and implement measures that demonstrably improve the Council's environmental performance and support the delivery of the Council's strategic environmental objectives through a collaborative corporate approach.
- 3.2. Committee approved the terms of reference of the Group and agreed to receive a further report on the outcomes the forthcoming external recertification audit for ISO14001 and an update on the Group's work programme.

Corporate Environmental Sustainability Group Activity

3.3. The inaugural meeting of the Group was in November 2018. Based on the terms of reference approved by Committee the Group has been given six work streams to improve the Council's performance, namely:

- To address issues arising from the ISO140001 external accreditation process;
- To reduce the Council's Energy Consumption;
- To improve the Council's Water Management;
- To focus on reducing Staff Travel – core (miles driven by Council vehicles) and grey fleet miles (miles driven on Council business using employee's own transport);
- Internal Waste Management;
- Procurement.

ISO 14001 External Accreditation

3.4. On 24 October 2018, after a rigorous three-day audit, the Council's external auditors confirmed that the Council had been approved for recertification to the ISO14001 standard for the 10th successive year.

3.5. The auditors identified five 'minor' non-conformities and made a further seven observations all of which the Council must either address or show to the auditors how the relevant issues have been otherwise dealt with.

3.6. The main message from the audit team during the close-out meeting with senior managers was the importance of ensuring that environmental management is embedded into the day-to-day business of all Council activities. The commitment to develop the CESG and the clarity of the Group's direction was an important factor in achieving the recertification.

3.7. Shortly after being recertified, the Council recruited to its vacant Environmental Protection Officer post (November 2018). Since being appointed the post-holder has made significant progress in addressing the non-conformities and observations made by the auditors. The non-conformances highlighted minor failings of the management of the Environmental Systems, in particular:

- 3.7.1 better evidencing the Council's commitment to continual improvement
- 3.7.2 greater ownership of the Environmental Management System by all departments
- 3.7.3. embedding sustainability within procurement arrangements.

3.8. Following the review, a new online system "My Compliance" has been purchased to enable the Council to better record and capture all environmental actions on issues such as legal compliance, audit schedules, risks and opportunities, audit reports and overall understanding of trends. This will enable continual improvement and communication between all departments. The system is being rolled out to managers by end of April 2019.

3.9. In addition the following actions have been undertaken:

- 3.9.3. Previous audit actions have been reviewed (due date/ actual completion date) and are being tracked by the new system to ensure actions are completed with supporting evidence which all managers can access.

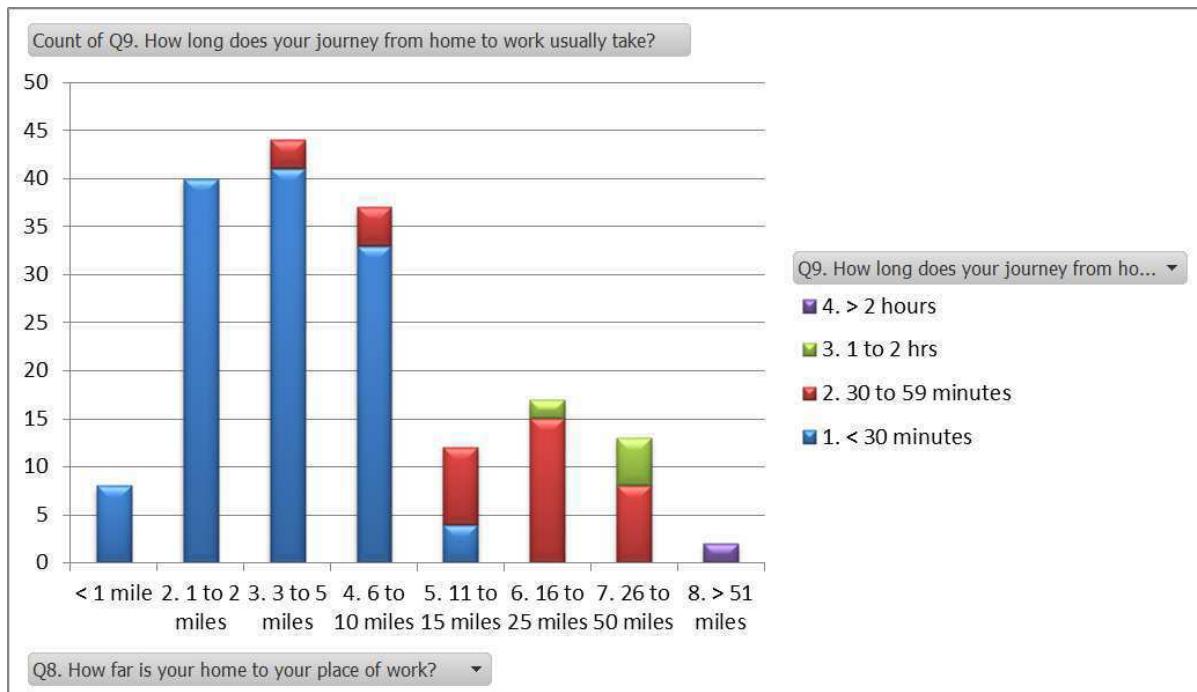
3.9.4. Procurement guidance on sustainability has been reviewed, with further work required to consider embedding environmental performance measures within future contracts.

Staff Travel

3.10. The CESG identified staff travel as the most pressing issue on which to concentrate, both in terms of travel associated with directly providing the Council's services but also how staff travel to and from work, known as grey fleet miles.

3.11. On the advice of sustainable transport experts from Derbyshire County Council, a staff travel survey was conducted in order to gather baseline data and provide an understanding of current travel behaviours and motivators. The survey produced responses from approximately 58% of the Council's entire workforce, which is an excellent response rate for a survey of this type as internal surveys nationally achieve around 20-30% response rates. The headline survey results are as follows:

- 50% of staff live within five miles of work;
- 90% of staff travel to work by car;
- 63% of staff do below two and half hours exercise a week;
- 60% indicated that they would utilise alternative options than a car with appropriate support



3.12. From this data, a task / finish Travel Plan Working Group has been formed, comprising staff from across the Council, to use the staff travel survey results to develop workable options to reduce the environmental impacts of travel and to improve the health of the Council's workforce.

3.13. The purpose of the working group is to understand current employee travel habits, what practices and policies are already in place to support improvements and to explore a range of measures to inform and implement a Travel Plan for the Council.

3.14. The Team's objective is to produce a travel plan for the Council that:

1. Supports a reduction in local air pollution;

2. Improves staff health and wellbeing;
 3. Reduces staff travel miles using own vehicles (grey travel) and miles travelled by Council vehicles;
 4. Improves access to Council sites for visitors;
 5. Reduces staff demand for on-site parking;
- 3.15. The Travel Plan Working Group is tasked with producing a briefing note for the Senior Leadership Team and thereafter to develop a Staff Travel Plan for adoption by the Council.
- 3.16. The Staff Travel Plan will include short and long-term key performance indicators which will be incorporated into the Corporate Action Plan to ensure that the momentum to deliver improvements continues. The final version of the Staff Travel Plan will be the subject of a further report to this Committee.

Energy and Waste

- 3.17. Energy consumption and waste production are the next two environmental aspects which the CESG will be focusing on. Work has started on obtaining baseline data for both and the Group anticipates developing a project with associated performance measures and targets for both in the near future.
- 3.18. These two environmental aspects have been established as being the most significant environmental impacts arising from the Council's activities. In order to ensure that the Council maintains its focus on these aspects, the performance measures developed for both will be proposed for potential future inclusion in the Corporate Plan.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.7. Beneficial. Improved environmental performance should lead to potential cost savings e.g. in reducing the cost of staff mileage claims and waste disposal. Any spend to save opportunities which are identified will need to be the subject of a business case and will need to meet the financial procedural rules of the Council.

5. Corporate Implications

Employment Implications

- 5.7. Beneficial. The proposals will expand the choices of travel options available to staff and make working for the Council even more desirable.

Legal Implications

- 5.8. None.

Corporate Plan Implications

- 5.9. The proposals align with the 'Outcomes' Corporate Plan theme and in particular Action O3 "Enhance environmental standards"; the 'People' Corporate Plan theme and in particular Action PE5 "Send less waste to landfill" and the 'Place' theme and in particular Action PL6 "Deliver services that keep the district clean and healthy".

Risk Impact

- 5.10. The proposals will have a beneficial mitigating action against the corporate risk of "Managing the environmental impact of incidents across the District".

6. Community Impact

Consultation

6.7. None.

Equality and Diversity Impact

6.8. None.

Social Value Impact

6.9. Beneficial.

Environmental Sustainability

6.10. Beneficial.

7. Conclusions

- 7.7. The retention of ISO14001 certification and the creation of the CESG has signalled the clear commitment of the Council to build and improve on its previous environmental performance.
- 7.8. Staff involvement with the staff travel survey showed that there is a high level of interest in sustainable transport. This will be translated into achievable actions through a Staff Travel Plan.
- 7.9. Additional actions and targets to help drive forward environmental improvements will be developed and be presented to members in future revisions of the Corporate Action Plan.

8. Background Papers

Environment and Development Services Committee, 16th August 2018,