

**AGENDA ITEM: 14** Pages: 99- 134

---

**Meeting** **Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Date** **29<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

**Subject** **Carbon Footprint Task and Finish Group**

**Report of** **Scrutiny Office**

**Summary** This report presents the findings of the Carbon Footprint Task and Finish Group.

---

Officer Contributors Melissa James, Scrutiny Officer

Status (public or exempt) Public

Wards affected All

Enclosures Annex –Report of the Task and Finish Group on Carbon Footprint

Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in Not applicable

Key decision No

Contact for further information: Melissa James, Scrutiny Officer, 020 8359 ext 7034.

## **1. RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.1 Members of the Committee consider the findings of the Carbon Footprint Task and Finish Group, as set out in the report attached at Annex 1.**
- 1.2 Members of the Committee discuss and agree the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group.**
- 1.3 That agreed findings and recommendations of the Task and Finish Group are forwarded to the Executive for their consideration.**

## **2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

- 2.1 Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 16 December 2010, Decision 12 (Overview & Scrutiny Appointments) – the Committee agreed to establish a Task and Finish Group on Carbon Footprint
- 2.2 Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee, 24th January 2011, Decision 12 (Task and Finish Group / Scrutiny Panel Update) – the Sub-Committee received an update on the work of the Task and Finish Group.
- 2.3 Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee, 28th February 2011, Decision 12 (Task and Finish Group / Scrutiny Panel Update) – the Sub-Committee received an update on the work of the Task and Finish Group.
- 2.4 Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2011, Decision 12 (Task and Finish Group / Scrutiny Panel Update) – the Sub-Committee received an update on the work of the Task and Finish Group
- 2.5 Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2011, Decision 12 (Task and Finish Group / Scrutiny Panel Update) – the Committee received an update on the work of the Task and Finish Group
- 2.6 Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2011 Decision 12 (Task and Finish Group / Scrutiny Panel Update) – the Committee received an update on the work of the Task and Finish Group
- 2.7 Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2011 Decision 12 (Task and Finish Group / Scrutiny Panel Update) – the Committee received an update on the work of the Task and Finish Group
- 2.8 Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2011 Decision 12 (Task and Finish Group / Scrutiny Panel Update) – the Committee received an update on the work of the Task and Finish Group

## **3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Panels and Task and Finish Groups must ensure that the work of Scrutiny is reflective of the Council's priorities.
- 3.2 The three priority outcomes set out in the 2011/13 Corporate Plan are: –
  - Better services with less money
  - Sharing opportunities, sharing responsibilities

- A successful London suburb

3.3 The proposals contained within the report of the Task and Finish Group contribute to the 2011/13 Corporate Plan priorities of:

**Sharing Opportunities, Sharing Responsibilities**, the following strategic objectives and top performance targets are applicable:

- Decrease overall levels of household waste whilst increasing the proportion of waste being recycled
- 710 Kilograms of residual average household waste per household
- 34% of household waste that is recycled composed and reused
- Work with residents to reduce carbon emissions in Barnet
- 50 private sector homes with improved thermal comfort through enforcement action and grant (provisional baseline 40)
- 50% of new homes for major planning applications to meet Level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes

**A successful London suburb:**

- Ensure a planning framework is in place to protect, enhance and deliver consolidated growth in Barnet.

## 4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

4.1 None saved those referred to in the report

## 5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

5.1 The most vulnerable groups in our society, such as older people and families with children under five, who may be vulnerable to cold related illnesses would benefit from access to information relating to affordable warmth issues. As with all policies aimed at mitigating impacts of climate change through successful abatement of carbon emissions, benefits can be expected to be focused on those most at risk of climate change, including those with health conditions which make them vulnerable to more frequent and prolonged heat waves in summer, and those living in difficult living conditions with limited thermal comfort or capacity to undertake energy efficiency adaptations to their homes.

## 6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

6.1 Two recommendations contained within this report have financial implications and the cost implications are explored below:

6.2 Recommendation 1 of the Task and Finish Group (TFG) report states that the Council should consider providing further training in energy efficiency awareness to ensure that all staff who visit residents in their homes are able to offer advice and signposting on energy efficiency. If Cabinet accepts this recommendation there would be a cost implication in providing energy efficiency training for staff. Details are set out below:

- 6.2.1 Information on previous training costs from the Energy Saving Trust for energy efficiency showed that in 2010 there was no cost to the Council in providing two training sessions for a total of 50 staff. The Council were not billed for this training as it was being delivered as part of a wider support programme that was taking place at that time.
- 6.2.2 The Waste and Sustainability Team Manager has suggested that further training could cost around £200- £300 per half day session (which could be for up to 50 staff).
- 6.2 Recommendation 6 of the TFG report states that the Council should consider commissioning a desk study to assess where possible the viability of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy installations in Schools across the borough. If Cabinet accepts this recommendation there would be a cost implication in commissioning a desk study. Details are set out below:
- 6.3. Information obtained by Climate Consulting (formerly CEN) who undertook a survey of 67 Schools in Peterborough on behalf of the City Council has provided the TFG with a budget cost of £6k to undertake a similar desk top solar survey on the Council's schools portfolio.
- 6.4 Recommendations one, two, three, four, five and seven proposed by the Task and Finish Group are anticipated to be contained within the existing approved budgets.

## **7. LEGAL ISSUES**

- 7.1 Relating legislation should be borne in mind especially where duties may be imposed upon local authorities pertaining to the subject matter of this report.

## **8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS**

- 8.1 The scope of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees is contained within Part 2, Article 6 of the Council's Constitution.
- 8.2 The Terms of Reference of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees are set out in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Part 4 of the Constitution).
- 8.3 Item 6 of Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference states that:

"To coordinate and monitor the work of scrutiny panels and task and finish groups, including considering reports and recommendations and referring to the relevant decision-making body."

## **9 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 9.1 The Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee established a TFG on Carbon Footprint at their meeting on 16 December 2010. Membership of the TFG was confirmed at the Sub-Committee meeting held on 24 January 2011.
- 9.2 The membership of the Carbon Footprint (TFG) was approved at the Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee on 13 September 2010. The members were: Councillors Brian Salinger, Julie Johnson, Alex Brodtkin, Tom Davey and David Longstaff. In May 2011, Councillors Tom Davey and David Longstaff were

- 9.3 Since being established The TFG have met on five occasions. The first meeting took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2011 to discuss and agree their terms of reference. Councillor Brian Salinger was appointed as Chairman. The TFG received evidence from the Waste and Sustainability Team Manager, and the Energy Resource Manager on the initiatives that had been undertaken by the Council to reduce Carbon emissions and promote energy efficiency.
- 9.4 The TFG met on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2011 and received a presentation from Climate Consulting on Photovoltaic (PV) and Feed in Tariffs (FIT). The TFG also held discussions with the Assistant Director for Strategic Planning and Regeneration on the internal audit on sustainability. The Group were provided with an overview of the key findings of the internal audit on sustainability and how the Council planned to take forward these findings/ recommendations.
- 9.5 On the 16 June 2011 the Group met with a representative from Energise Barnet and received a presentation on the work of this group. The TFG also met with a representative from Climate Consulting who provided an overview of its work with other London Boroughs. An officer from the Council's Planning Policy Team attended the meeting and provided Members with further details on the Planning Policy approach to sustainability and Code Levels.
- 9.6 The TFG sought to engage with the Cabinet Member for Environment to discuss its draft recommendations and findings. The Cabinet Member for Environment informed the group that he was not able to attend any of the proposed meeting dates of the Group.
- 9.7 In July 2011, the Chairman of the TFG wrote to all Members of the Cabinet to find out what measures had been put in place within their respective portfolios to address the issue of Carbon emission reduction. The Chairman received a response from all Members of the Cabinet, except for the Cabinet Member for the Environment.
- 9.8 In November 2011, the TFG invited the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Planning and the Council's Senior Building Control Manager to its final meeting. The Cabinet Member for Planning was unable to attend due to being unwell, and sent a representative, the Assistant Director of Strategic Planning and Regeneration. The Group discussed the use of the Council's media resources to promote energy efficiency and current planning and building control regulations regarding sustainability.
- 9.4 The report of the TFG is set out in **Annex 1**. The Committee are requested to discuss and consider the recommendations of the TFG, and for these to be forwarded for consideration at the next possible meeting of Cabinet.

## **10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 10.1 None.

**Legal: JH**

**CFO: JH/MC**



**Draft Report**  
**Task and Finish Group**  
**Carbon Footprint**

## **Draft Recommendations**

- 1. That the Council considers providing further training in energy efficiency awareness to ensure that all staff who visit residents in their homes are able to offer advice and signposting on energy efficiency.**
- 2. The Communications Team devises a publicity campaign to promote energy efficiency and carbon emissions reduction, including links with national and other publicity opportunities, articles in Barnet First, and improved access to energy efficiency information on the council website.**
- 3. Building Control be recommended to prioritise and promote the delivery of higher standards of insulation when inspecting buildings to encourage homeowners to improve the energy efficiency of their homes and that the Cabinet Member for Planning lobby government to raise the building control standards for energy efficiency measures.**
- 4. The Cabinet Member for Planning considers a timetable for moving towards Level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes as part of the review of the Supplementary Planning Document on Sustainable Design and Construction.**
- 5. The Environment, Planning and Regeneration directorate establish an Officer Group by end of the financial year (2011/12) within the Council to develop a strategy for Carbon emission reduction and to provide to the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee a progress report in six months time.**
- 6. The Council be recommended to commission a desk study to assess where possible the viability of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy installations in Schools across the borough.**
- 7. The Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee set up a Task and Finish Group to look at Fuel Poverty in Barnet within the next six months, focusing on the prevalence of fuel poverty in the borough and the assistance available to support residents at risk.**



## **1. Background**

- 1.1 In March 2011, a Task and Finish Group commenced a review into Carbon Footprint in Barnet. The Task and Finish Group comprised the following Councillors:

Councillor Brian Salinger (Chairman)  
Councillor Alex Brodtkin  
Councillor Julie Johnson  
Councillor David Longstaff  
Councillor Tom Davey

- 1.2 In May 2011, Councillors David Longstaff and Tom Davey were appointed to the Council's Cabinet and no longer participated in the work of group.

- 1.3 Following consultation with officers from Environment, Planning and Regeneration and Commercial Directorate, the following scope and purpose of the review was agreed:

- What actions have been taken by the Council to reduce Carbon emissions in Barnet and what impact have these had?
- How does the Council plan to use the findings of the recent (January 2011) internal audit on Sustainability (Carbon Emission Reduction)?

## **2. Review Format**

- 2.1 During the course of the review, the Task and Finish Group undertook a series of evidence gathering meetings with key stakeholders in energy efficiency and carbon emission reduction in Barnet. They included meetings with the following internal and external representatives

- Waste and Sustainability Team Manager - Michael Lai
- Energy Resource Manager - Nigel Bell
- Planning Policy Manager - Nick Lynch
- Assistant Director for Strategic Planning and Regeneration - Lucy Shomali
- Energise Barnet CIC - Nigel Farren
- Climate Consulting - Tristan Heath and Jon Galton
- Leader of Barnet Council - Cllr Richard Cornelius
- Building Control Manager - Nick Lennox

- 2.2 The evidence gathering sessions were supported by:

- An analysis of the legislative framework and government policy; and
- Consideration of Barnet's Planning and Environment Policies

### 3. Legislative Framework

- 3.1 In 2006, in recognition of the need to tackle climate change, the Government commissioned a number of energy reviews to address the long-term challenges facing the UK's energy policy. An energy White Paper entitled 'Meeting the Energy Challenge' (2007) set out the UK's international and domestic energy strategy. The strategy, underpinned by four key policies, set targets for reducing emissions, maintaining the reliability of energy supplies, promoting competitive markets and ensuring that every home was adequately heated.
- 3.2 Further legislation demonstrated the government's commitment and long term approach to managing and responding to climate change. The Climate Change Act (2008) introduced to improve carbon management set the following targets:
- a legally binding target of reducing the UK's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050 and by 34% by 2020;
  - developing a carbon budgeting system;
  - the creation of the Committee on Climate Change, as well as further guidance and measures to reduce emissions.
- 3.3 The publication of the government's *Low Carbon Transition Plan* (2009) and *Carbon Reduction Delivery Plan* (March 2010) set out how these targets could be met. More recently the draft *Energy Bill* (2010-2011) provided a step change in the provision of energy efficiency measures to homes and businesses, and emphasised the need for organisations to tackle the barriers to investment in energy efficiency.
- 3.4 Locally, tackling climate change had become an important part of the work of many local authorities. The introduction of climate change indicators within Local Area Agreements and piloting of Local Carbon Frameworks led to many local authorities developing action plans to reduce carbon emissions, working with individuals and local community groups.
- 3.5 In Barnet, the Council adopted a Three Strands Approach to planning policy, seeking to protect and enhance the natural environment, and encourage growth of appropriate and well connected developments. The Three Strands approach was central to the Council's approach to sustainable development and underpinned a number of important policies including: Barnet's Sustainable Community Strategy; the Unitary Development Plan; and the Housing Strategy.
- 3.6 The Three Strands Approach and the concept of sustainable development has been central to all planning policies within the borough. The Council's Environmental Policy (2008/2012) made a number of commitments to tackle climate change. They included the following:

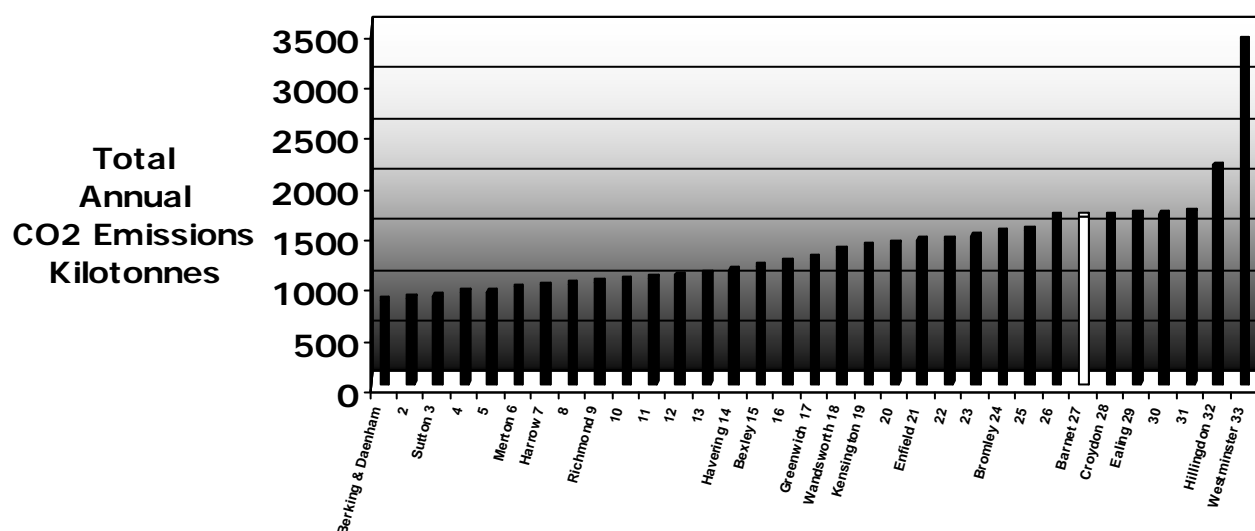
- To take the lead on encouraging Barnet's communities to help achieve a sustainable future
- To reduce the amount of waste the council produces and increase the proportion of waste it reuses and recycles
- To tackle climate change we need to ensure that the council as a significant supplier of services to the community and purchases of goods and services makes the most efficient use of resources such as energy and materials.
- To increase the number of people travelling to work and school in a sustainable way
- To consider the environmental impacts when decisions are taken on the purchasing of goods and services and engage with suppliers and contractors to encourage them to adopt environmentally responsible business practice.

3.7 As part of this review the TFG examined the Council's environmental policies and action plans and considered how effective they had been. This report provides a summary of the key findings of the Group.

#### 4. What actions have been taken by the Council to reduce Carbon emissions in Barnet and what impact have these had?

- 4.1 The TFG met with officers from several Council departments to learn what actions the council had taken to reduce carbon emissions. The TFG met with the Energy Resource Manager and the Waste and Sustainability Team Manager and were informed that the Council had undertaken a number of initiatives and programmes to tackle climate change and make efficient use of resources. These ranged from Community Initiatives, Business Outreach, Operational Estate/ School projects, and strategy and planning activities.
- 4.2 The TFG heard that Barnet had the third highest emissions in London and had been ranked sixth out of the 33 boroughs for having the highest total of annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2008/09. The high level of emissions reflected the size of the borough and its population, and required plans to be put in place to reduce both operational and community emissions.
- 4.3 Figure 1 provides a summary of the Council position based on the National Indicator 186- the Local Area Agreement target to reduce Carbon Emissions by 11% by 2010/11.

**Figure 1 Total Annual Co2 Emissions by London Councils**



- 4.4 The TFG were informed that the Council was required to participate in the UK's first mandatory carbon trading scheme for non energy-intensive organisations in the public and private sector ( the Carbon Reduction Commitment). This scheme was a mandatory carbon emissions reporting and pricing scheme to cover all organisations using more than 6,000MWh per year of electricity (equivalent to an annual electricity bill of about £500,000) and was set up to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>). The intention is to encourage business and the public sector to measure, monitor and reduce their carbon emission.
- 4.5 The TFG were informed by Officers that since the Comprehensive Spending Review in October 2010 the scheme had been simplified and carbon emissions "credits" for carbon reduction works were no longer recyclable. The scheme, therefore now functions as a straightforward tax only, where the Council has to declare emissions in the operation of all its buildings and Schools and non transport use.

## **Carbon Emissions Reduction Action Plan**

- 4.6 The TFG were informed by Officers that in 2009 the Council had worked in partnership with the Energy Saving Trust to develop and implement a Sustainable Energy Action Plan. The Action Plan aimed to develop a practical approach to energy reduction across all Council activities and a number of measures had been proposed. These included engagement with local communities, signposting to external grants and support schemes, travel plans and environmental appraisal of all committee reports. Although at that time no specific budget allocation had been made for this work, many of these initiatives pertained to the wider community, even though the impact of these initiatives were difficult to measure.

## **Community Initiatives**

- 4.7 The TFG reviewed some of the community initiatives that had been supported by the Council and their findings are set out below:

### **(i) Business Outreach**

- 4.8 The TFG were informed that the Council had undertaken business outreach work involving visits to town centre businesses where advice and signposting on waste reduction and energy saving was offered. Businesses were offered general and specific advice on waste reduction from Envirowise, and energy saving measures from the Energy Saving Trust. In a very few cases, some businesses took up the offer of free energy audits.
- 4.9 The TFG were informed by Officers that the uptake for this initiative had

been low, particularly amongst the larger businesses and the response of small businesses had varied. In March 2010 a project worker from EcoVate had accompanied Council officers on visits to businesses in West Hendon. During these visits only one business (the Boat Centre) expressed an interest in further free support. This included free site visits, audits, an action plan and ongoing support to reduce waste and energy use. Following this initial contact the business did not progress the offer of support any further.

- 4.10 Further contact had been made with businesses that had shown some interest in environmental improvements in March. Visits took place in November 2010. Only two businesses (a newsagent and a car garage) expressed an interest in free support via Climate Consulting again involving site visits, audits, action plans and support with implementation totalling up to 12 hours.
- 4.11 Climate Consulting reported that they successfully delivered support for the car garage. No quantified improvements were observed at that stage. However, Climate Consulting as part of their offer were monitoring the business until the completion of the project in December 2011.
- 4.12 Given the offer of free support, and the offer of advice and information that would not only reduce environmental impact, but also save businesses money, the TFG were informed that the level of interest amongst businesses was very low. No further visits had been arranged since that time. Climate Consulting were unable to deliver support to the newsagent who had initially expressed an interest as their team could not contact the owner.
- 4.13 The TFG noted that although Business Outreach activities had not yielded any savings for the Council, the initiative had been undertaken as part of the Council's commitment to reduce Carbon emissions outside its own estate, in line with the then national indicator NI186 LAA target. Following the low uptake of Business Outreach activities, the TFG were informed that no further visits had been arranged.

#### **(ii) High Barnet Green Home Zone**

- 4.14 The TFG were also given information on the High Barnet Green Home Zone, a low carbon initiative run by local people for local people. The initiative involved a number of volunteers trained in conducting energy assessments in homes and advising residents of energy saving measures across a small geographical area of Barnet. The zone encompassed all the streets behind The Spires, the Meadway and adjacent roads covering some 2,250 properties in High Barnet.
- 4.15 The TFG learnt that the Green Home Zone had been developed to encourage every household to reduce the energy they used, and the

water they consumed. Residents had also been encouraged to recycle more and waste less, and use the car as little as possible locally.

- 4.16 The High Barnet Green Home Zone had been supported by the Council and the Energy Saving Trust. It was selected by the Energy Saving Trust as one of five enterprises for support under its Green Communities Enterprise. The TFG learnt that the organisers of the Zone were seeking funding to continue and expand its work and had set up a website to increase local awareness and take up of their services. Members were informed that the project was currently preparing two educational events and preparing an allotment to promote a Grower's Club in the spring.

### **(iii) Eco Teams**

- 4.17 The TFG also noted that the Council had supported the launch of Eco Teams in October 2010, led by Global Action Plan. Eco Teams aimed to get volunteers from the local community interested in energy, waste, transport and shopping issues and initiatives. Through home based meetings Eco Teams set up informal groups and provided mutual support and information to their members. The TFG were informed that although 16 people had been trained through Eco Teams, no Eco Team groups had been established, which was a disappointing outcome.

### **(iv) Futerra Project**

- 4.18 The Council had also been involved in a project with Futerra Sustainability Communications. The Futerra project was well resourced and included input from an expert organisation that provided advice on targeted communications. The project was undertaken in partnership with independent organisations and sought to encourage greater energy efficiency amongst local residents. Through door stepping local people were engaged and offered free electricity monitors which were designed to calculate the carbon use levels in their homes. The project targeted specific areas of the borough such as West Finchley, but the take up for the free service had been lower than expected. The TFG were informed that this was attributable to the attitudes of local people who were far less interested than the attitudinal research had suggested, or felt that they were already doing what they could to minimise carbon emissions and waste.
- 4.19 The TFG noted that the success and long term impact of community led projects was difficult to measure by the nature of them being undertaken and managed by local people, who may have different ways of measuring and defining success to the Council.

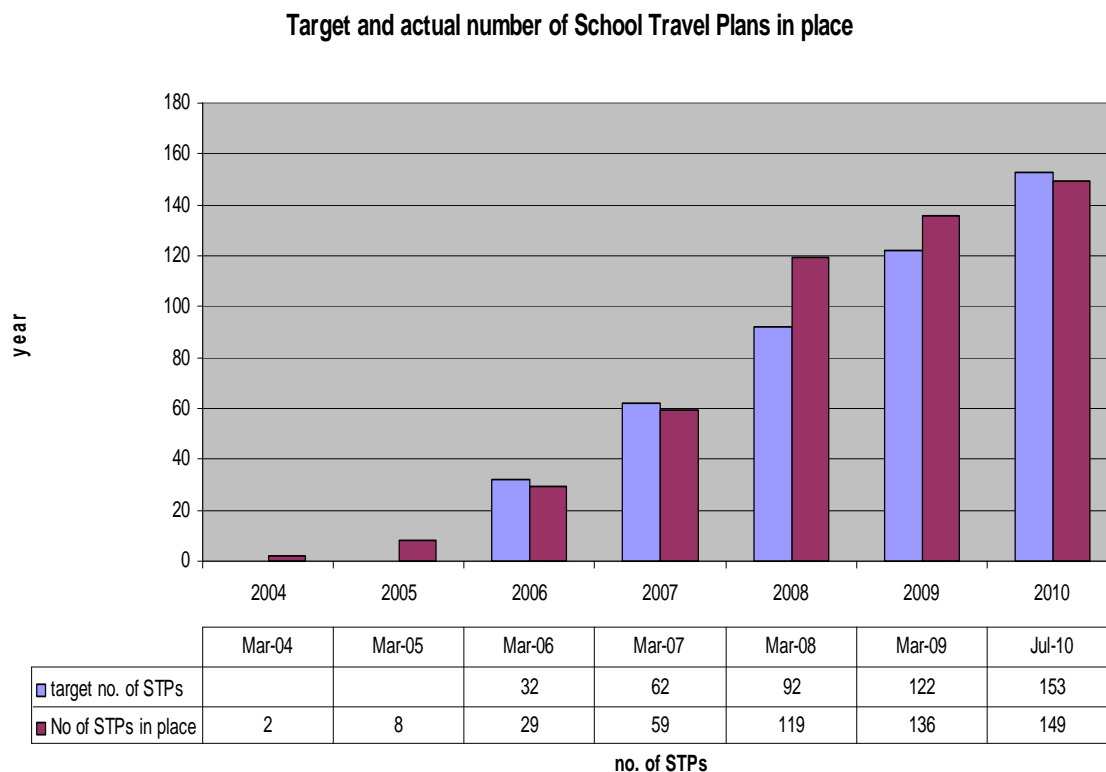
## Schools Programmes

- 4.20 In addition to the community activities outlined, the TFG were informed that several school programmes had been introduced. The Council had developed school projects to support school renewable energy projects and new builds. The Waste & Sustainability Team had brokered renewable energy installation projects between Schools and Creative Environmental Networks (CEN), which has now been re-branded as Climate Consulting an independent Energy Organisation that facilitated funding bids. Members were informed that five schools in the borough had been matched with utility funders and set up installations (e.g. wind turbines, solar panels). The Council's role in this process involved providing advice to Schools on their CEN Application, although the Council's Waste & Sustainability Team has also supported schools that have been working towards 'Eco School' status.

## School Travel Plans

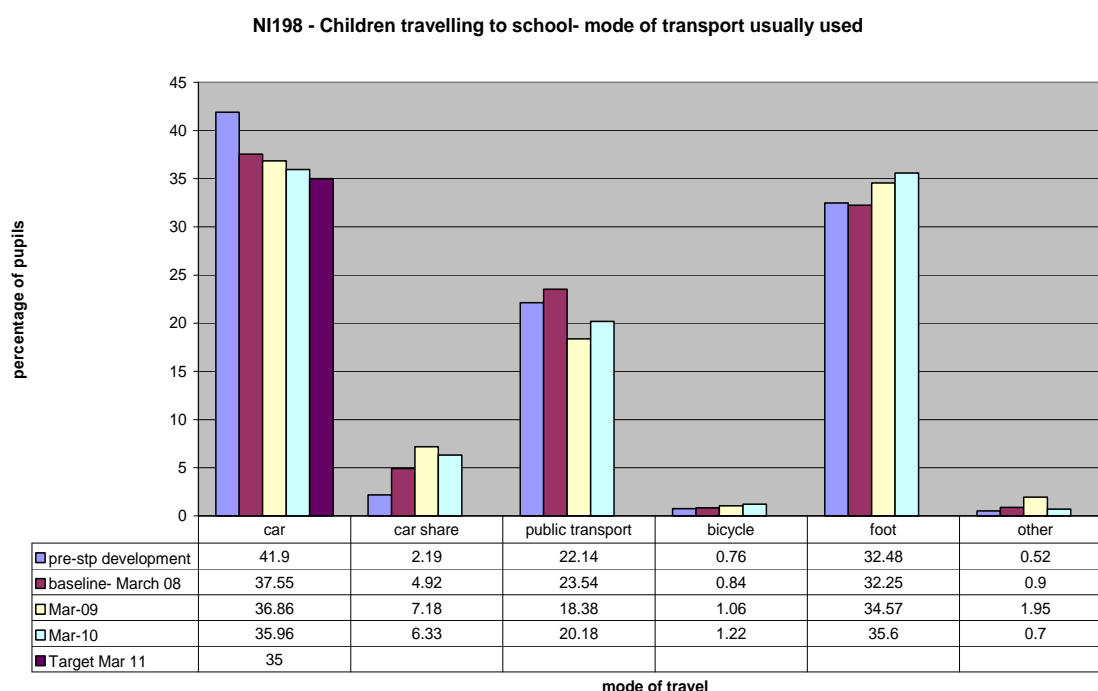
- 4.21 The Council had encouraged all schools to develop School Travel Plans to encourage the use of public transport. The TFG learned that all local authority schools in Barnet had an approved Plan. Additionally, all but four of the boroughs Independent Schools had a Plan. Out of the 153 Schools in Barnet, 149 Schools had approved School Travel Plans (97%). The details are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: The Number of Barnet Schools with School Travel Plans.





- 4.22 Members were informed that up until March 2011, Councils were required to collect data for the National Indicator set NI 198 (Children travelling to school – usual mode of travel). This data assisted local authorities to monitor and manage road traffic associated with the school run with a view to reducing the proportion of children travelling by car and increasing the numbers of people walking, cycling or using public transport.
- 4.23 At the time of this review the Council had met the NI198 targets for modal share car use of 36% (2009) and 37% (2010). The TFG were informed that the (modal shift) average reduction in single household cars on the school run was 12.23 %. This was almost double the London wide average of 6.3% ranking Barnet as the second highest borough for the reduction in single household cars on the school run.<sup>1</sup>



- 4.24 In April 2011, all Local Area Agreements (LAA) and the National Indicator data set were abolished. The National Indicator set was replaced by a single, comprehensive list of data that local governments are now required to submit to central government. The new data requirements do not include information on travelling modes to school by Children.
4. 25 However, the TFG were informed that the benefits of schools implementing School Travel plans had been recognised through the National School Travel Plan Accreditation Scheme (STAR – Sustainable

<sup>1</sup> iTrace, 2009 Transport for London

Travel Accredited and Recognised). In total 67 Schools in Barnet Schools had achieved STAR awards in 2010, which compared favourably with its neighbouring boroughs.

<b>Borough</b>	<b>Number of Schools awarded STAR</b>
Barnet	67
Enfield	38
Harrow	28
Camden	16
Haringey	14
Brent	8

### **Council Vehicle Use**

- 4.26 Members sought further information on the number of vehicles operated by the Council, Schools and contractors. They were informed that the data reported by the Council's fleet, schools and partners organisations included in total 558 vehicles which were mainly highways, refuse and maintenance vehicles. The data did not include all schools or contractors as not all responded to request for this information and, of those that did, some did not have their own vehicles, presumably hiring vehicles as required. The figure in Table 2 below also excludes figures for Council staff travel.

**Table 2 Vehicle Travel and Carbon Emission Levels**

<b>LBB Transport 2009/10</b>	<b>Number of vehicles</b>	<b>CO2 emission tonnes</b>	<b>Miles travelled</b>	<b>Average miles per vehicle</b>
Cars	68n/a		362,430	5,330
Vans & light lorries	320n/a		2,714,213	8,482
Heavy Goods Vehicles	131n/a		1,524,360	11,640
Plant & Grounds maintenance	39n/a		157485	4,038
<b>Totals</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>3,812</b>	<b>4,758,488n/a</b>	

- 4.27 All the figures are indicative. For example, some organisations reported total fuel and distance and did not give the number of vehicles used, and others gave the vehicles and fuel used but not distance travelled so assumptions had to be made about vehicle fuel efficiency.
- 4.28 The TFG were interested to know whether the Council had introduced

a staff/workplace travel plan and whether data in this area had been recorded and monitored. They were advised by the Travel Coordinator that as the Traffic and Development work programme had yet to be agreed a timescale for the Council Travel Plan had not been confirmed. However, it was anticipated that it would be written by the end of the financial year

## **Training**

- 4.29 The TFG also heard that in addition to community initiatives the Council had also introduced initiatives to train Council staff who came into regular contact with local residents to advise them about climate change and to generally improve their own knowledge and awareness of how to reduce carbon emissions and promote energy efficiency.
- 4.30 The TFG were informed that training had been provided for fifty frontline staff to enable them to advise residents on energy efficiency, as part of Carbon Emissions Reduction Action Plan. This included staff working in social care on home visits to vulnerable residents and Environmental Health Officers. The support of the Energy Saving Trust had enabled the Council to provide information and guidance on reducing both personal and organisational energy and water usage. The TFG were informed that there was no dedicated resource to continue this work.

## **Staff Awareness Raising Days**

- 4.31 In addition to training for some staff the Council had also organised staff awareness raising days to raise awareness of energy use and waste reduction measures. This included a dedicated Enviromonth in 2010 where a number of initiatives had been launched to raise awareness of climate change and encourage environmental behavioural change. Some examples included reducing personal waste bins and replacing them with dedicated recycling points as well as initiatives to encourage staff to shut down their PCs when not in use.

## **Recommendation 1**

**That the Council considers providing further training in energy efficiency awareness to ensure that all staff who visit residents in their homes are able to offer advice and signposting on energy efficiency.**

- 4.32 The TFG felt that it was important that staff and residents had better awareness of energy efficiency measures and how they could reduce carbon emissions. Members were supportive of the training that had already taken place and felt that it should be offered to other relevant staff.

- 4.33 The TFG noted that the Council had made progress against other strands of the Carbon Reduction Plan (2009). These include Partnership working with Barnet Homes to promote suitable levels of insulation and upgrade heating in social housing (Council and private) through the Decent Homes Standard; the use of the Council's planning policy to promote sustainable energy, and the Energy Efficiency Investment Programme. Details of these schemes are provided below.

### **Energy Efficiency Investment Programme**

- 4.34 The Council introduced Energy Efficiency Investment to Save Capital Programme (EEIP) in 2009 to implement a range of energy efficiency improvement measures to the corporate operational buildings and schools. The TFG were informed that a range of improvement measures had been undertaken including insulation works, lighting controls, electricity to gas conversions etc, to enable the more efficient use of energy and contribute to the Council's Environmentally Sensitive Ambition to minimise climate change. Full details are shown in Table 2. In total these measures would annually yield a cost saving of £181K whilst the annual CO2 saving was 990 tonnes and over a life time CO2 Savings 11,533 tonnes. Further savings would continue to accrue over the lifetime of the scheme/ building.

**Table 2: Measures from the Energy Efficiency Investment Programme**

<i>Building Energy Management Systems (BEMS)</i>	BEMS Provides improved control over conventional systems at Barnet House & Hendon Library.
<i>Upgraded of Heating Controls</i>	Provision of upgraded controls in new build and refurbishment projects e.g. Burnt Oak library, South Friern Library.
Commercial Condensing Boilers	Provides increased operating efficiency over conventional boilers. e.g. Barnet House, Burnt Oak Library, The Orion School.
<i>Improved zoning of building heating systems</i>	Reduces waste and improve comfort e.g. Burnt Oak Customer Service Centre, Goldbeaters School, Hendon, School new block.
Energy efficient lighting & Controls	Reduces operating consumption and reduces waste e.g. NLBP Building 4, South Friern Library, Oakleigh School
<i>Thermostatic Radiator Valves (TRVs)</i>	Installed to provide improved zoning control and reduce waste e.g. Burnt Oak Registry Office, Hendon Town Hall, Moss Hall School.
<i>Conversion from electric to gas fired heating</i>	Reduces carbon emissions and operating costs e.g. NLBP Building 4, Friary Park House.

<i>Evaporative Cooling System</i>	System cools via water evaporation and avoids the use of air conditioning system e.g. Hendon Town Hall Council Chamber.
<i>Draughtproofing</i>	Reduces waste and improves comfort conditions e.g. Church End Library, Chipping Barnet library, East Finchley library, Edgware library, North Finchley Library,
<i>Building Fabric Insulation</i>	Installation and upgrade of insulation where necessary e.g. Garden Suburb School, Mathilda Marks-Kennedy school
<i>Water Conservation measures</i>	Installation of urinal controls and automatic taps where appropriate e.g. Hendon Town Hall,

## ICT

- 4.35 The Council had also modernised its IT infrastructure which had resulted in the move away from conventional desk top personal computers to thin client and personal tablet technologies. Members were informed that this had substantially reduced the associated CO2 emissions, saving approximately 390 tonnes per year. In addition, savings were also achieved compared with older PCs as tablets were undocked at the end of the day and energy saving software enabled. Further reductions in emissions and operating costs were anticipated when the updated server technology was adopted.

## Street Lighting

- 4.36 The TFG sought further information on street lighting and were informed by officers that the programme of street lighting renewal of columns had stopped to enable further funding to be spent on new technology that would allow dimming of lights resulting in reduced costs and CO2 reductions. Members were informed that the recommended levels of lighting would be maintained, with the expectation that a 39% reduction in energy bills could be achieved.
- 4.37 Whilst the TFG noted that good progress had been made towards the Carbon Emission Reduction Action Plan it was noted that some of these activities lacked any strategic direction and that their long term impact could not be measured.

## 5. Engaging with the Executive.

- 5.1 As Carbon emission was a borough wide issue affecting all areas of the Council's work, the Chairman of the TFG wrote to all Members of the Council's Cabinet to find out what measures had been put in place within

their respective portfolios to address the issue of carbon emission reduction.

- 5.2 All Cabinet Members, except for the Cabinet Member for the Environment, responded and provided information on the work pertaining to their area of responsibility. The Cabinet Member for the Environment also declined two invitations to meet with the TFG.
- 5.3 The TFG invited the Leader of the Council to one of their meetings to share their initial findings and draft recommendations and to seek his support in promoting energy efficiency measures through the Council's media resources.
- 5.4 The Leader undertook to support the group in promoting energy efficiency and carbon reduction measures across the borough through use of the Council's media communication resources in particular 'Barnet First' magazine.
- 5.5 The TFG felt that a lack of awareness of carbon reduction strategies and energy efficiency saving measures were barriers to achieving greater carbon reduction across the borough. Members felt that reducing carbon emissions was a borough wide concern and that the Council's media was the best method of communicating to Barnet residents the value of implementing energy efficiency measures in their homes.

## **Recommendation 2**

**The Communications Team devises a publicity campaign to promote energy efficiency and carbon emissions reduction, including links with national and other publicity opportunities, articles in Barnet First, and improved access to energy efficiency information on the council website.**

- 5.6 The TFG received submissions from all Cabinet Members on Carbon Reduction which showed that consideration of climate change and energy efficiency measures had been undertaken across most council services, some of which have already been set out in this report. Further to the measures outlined, Members also noted that some additional initiatives had been undertaken within libraries.
- 5.7 The information provided by the Cabinet Member for Customer Access and Partnerships (responsible for libraries) showed that library property assets had been appraised for energy efficiency through the use of energy data, with the worst performing Library sites selected for improvement measures. In total, £114, 582 had been invested in energy saving measures across Barnet's libraries which, following installation, had resulted in an overall 20% reduction in gas use within these properties. Whilst it was recognised that there remained an opportunity to reduce the energy consumption (gas and electricity) of all Barnet's libraries, the TFG noted that following the Strategic Library Review investment in the library network would take place to ensure

that all sites were fit for purpose and sustainable.

- 5.8 Information submitted by the Cabinet Member for Safety and Resident Engagement highlighted to the TFG that Barnet had been designated an Air Quality Management Area for nitrogen dioxide and had in place an Air Quality Action Plan with a series of measures relating to transport, traffic and industrial and commercial estate management. The TFG noted that many of the actions and measures were in progress and that Environmental Health were also carrying out inspections of food and commercial premises to ensure that cooking equipment e.g. ovens, and extractor systems operated efficiently and minimised the possibility of carbon emissions.
- 5.9 The Cabinet Member for Housing provided further details to the Group on the work under his portfolio. The TFG received information relating to two grant schemes, the Decent Homes programme and a pan London scheme called Renew. Both these schemes contributed towards reducing the Carbon footprint in the borough.
- 5.10 The Decent Homes Programme provided assistance to the Council in undertaking minor repairs and improvements and had been utilised to support vulnerable owner occupiers living in properties that failed to meet the Decent Home Standard. The Programme stipulated that property should provide thermal comfort, and upgrades to the heating and insulation system where needed. In the private sector, landlords were subject to enforcement work if their properties failed to provide adequate heating and insulation.
- 5.11 The TFG received information on the ReNew initiative, an area-based home energy efficiency scheme which comprised a range of activities to promote energy efficiency.
- 5.12 Some of the activities included engaging households on a street-by-street level to conduct a home survey, and providing energy and water saving advice to as many homes as possible. A range of free 'easy' measures, such as low energy light bulbs, energy monitors and radiator panels, were offered. The home survey conducted by Energy Specialists determined if other energy efficiency measures (e.g. loft, cavity and solid wall insulation) or renewable energy measures were applicable to the home and whether the household was eligible for funding from other sources, such as the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT), Warm Front, or the Council's Decent Homes schemes.
- 5.13 The TFG noted that Burnt Oak, Colindale and West Hendon Wards were the initial target areas. These wards had been selected due to their range of dwelling type and tenure, and the fact that the indices of deprivation identified them as containing households that were least able to afford energy efficiency measures. The TFG noted that the scheme was due to run until March 2012.

## **Hendon Cemetery & Crematorium**

- 5.14 The TFG also learnt that the Council had commenced a project to replace old, outdated cremators in Hendon. This installation of new cremators had the potential to increase efficiency and reduce the use of gas. The heat from the cremators would be reused to heat on-site buildings or feed back into the national grid.
- 5.15 The TFG noted these initiatives under Cabinet Member for Housing's portfolio and would welcome further progress updates when these projects had been completed.

## **6. Delivering Sustainability through planning**

- 6.1 The TFG were particularly interested in the Council's planning and development work and what measures had been put in place to promote sustainability and reduce carbon emission. The TFG received information from the Cabinet Member for Planning, Cllr Joanna Tambourides relating to this area and met with the Building Control Manager, The Planning Policy Manager and the Assistant Director for Strategic Planning and Regeneration. The Cabinet Member for Planning was unwell and unable to attend.
- 6.2 The TFG were informed that planning decisions in Barnet were based on policies contained within the London Plan (published July 2011) the Unitary Development Plan (UDP)(adopted 2006) and the Local Development Framework (LDF) including the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies documents which will eventually replace the UDP). All these documents contained policy relevant to carbon reduction and were being applied to development in Barnet.
- 6.3 The London Plan (July 2011) stipulated that all major development (those which were more than 10 new residential dwellings or over 1,000sqm of commercial floorspace) should reduce their carbon dioxide emission levels to 25% below the basic levels required by Building Regulations 2010. The TFG were informed that that planning decisions in Barnet's were made on the basis of the policy framework provided by the London Plan, UDP and its LDF replacement. The Council's supplementary planning document (SPD) on Sustainable Design and Construction (2007) provides more detailed guidance including the following requirements for all development (except for householder development such as extensions and loft conversions):
- All new residential development is required to meet Code for Sustainable Homes – Code Level 3.
  - All non residential development is required to meet either BREEAM very good or excellent rating.



- This applies to all development except for householder development such as extensions and loft conversions.
- 6.4 The TFG were informed by the Planning Policy Manager that the Code for Sustainable Homes is intended as a single national standard which measures the sustainability of a home against design categories, rating the 'whole home' as a complete package. It was introduced in 2008 and contains a rating system from Code Level 1 to 6 and was linked to improvements in Building Regulations requirements, in particular energy efficiency. The SPD on Sustainable Design and Construction policy was currently being revised to make the Council's approach much clearer and user friendly.
- 6.5 The TFG noted that similar to the Code, the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) was also widely used to assess non-residential development for its environmental accreditation and could be applied to almost any development situation.
- 6.6 To date nearly 150 units in Barnet had been constructed to the Code for Sustainable Homes (Level 3) with a further 200 in the pipeline. The TFG met with the Building Control Manager as the group felt that the Council could do more to influence builders to be more energy efficient and move to Code Level 4 of the code for Sustainable Homes. The group argued that there were a number of residents who were able to undertake householder developments without the need for planning permission and that higher standards for these developments should be imposed by Building Control. The TFG felt that these types of householder developments should be required to meet Building Control regulations and like other property developers, household developments should be required to achieve higher standards of energy efficiency and sustainability.
- 6.7 The TFG were informed that although higher levels of sustainability were encouraged within all new developments, it was not enforced due to concerns about losing business. The Council's approach was to ensure that all new developments met the minimum level of compliance, and that higher compliance standards were promoted through accessible design and sustainability awards. The TFG were informed that the current compliance level was code level 3, and that in 2013 there would be a requirement for developers to meet level 4. The Government sets the standard for building control and these requirements were constantly changing.
- 6.8 Barnet Council building control operated the same standards as other local authorities, and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) was working with Barnet alongside other London boroughs to change standards. The TFG felt that it was important for the Cabinet Member for the Planning to lobby government for minimum requirements for energy efficiency measures to become an integral part of building control requirements.

### **Recommendation 3**

**Building Control be recommended to prioritise and promote the delivery of higher standards of insulation when inspecting buildings to encourage homeowners to improve the energy efficiency of their homes and that the Cabinet Member for Planning lobby government to raise the building control standards for energy efficiency measures.**

- 6.9 As part of the Council's Corporate Plan (2011-13) one of its key strategic objectives are to continue to work with residents to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Barnet. The Council has set a target to work with its key partners, owner occupiers, and private Landlords and developers to improve the thermal insulation of a minimum of 50 private sector homes by March 2012. To achieve this target the Council has pledged to offer grants to undertake this work and where necessary employ enforcement action.
- 6.10 Further targets include the requirement that 50% of all new homes for major planning applications meet level 4 of the code for sustainable homes. The TFG were very keen to ensure that this target was achieved as it was felt that developers should be required to go beyond the basic level (level 3) and be required to attain higher levels of sustainability.

### **Recommendation 4**

**The Cabinet Member for Planning considers a timetable for moving towards Level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes as part of the review of the Supplementary Planning Document on Sustainable Design and Construction.**

- 6.11 The TFG explored the Council's approach to sustainability through the Planning system and how it compared with its neighbouring boroughs. Members noted that many of its neighbouring authorities had moved to Code Level 4 or were planning to. Table 3 below provides a summary of the sustainability requirements for Barnet and its neighbouring Councils.
- 6.12 The TFG were informed by the Planning Policy Manager that there were opportunities for decentralised energy systems within Barnet's main regeneration areas. The TFG learnt that an important source of carbon emission reductions was utilising Decentralised Energy. A Decentralised Energy (DE) system produces heat and electricity at or near the point of consumption more efficiently than conventional energy generation. Major regeneration in Brent Cross – Cricklewood and Colindale are expected to include Decentralised Energy systems. At the moment a commitment to this form of energy generation is contained in the outline planning permissions for Brent Cross – Cricklewood and the Area Action Plan for Colindale. The TFG were informed that further feasibility work would be necessary.

**Table 3: Sustainability requirements for Barnet Council and its neighbouring Councils.**

Borough	Sustainability requirements	Standards
Haringey	Code Level 4	<p>For residential expects from 2011 onwards a 44% improvement on 2006 Building Regs (equivalent to Code Level 4). From 2016 expects zero carbon development.</p> <p>For commercial expects BREEAM Very Good, reaching Excellent by 2016. Expects school buildings to be zero carbon by 2016. Expects commercial buildings to be zero carbon by 2019.</p> <p>Draft Sustainable Design and Construction SPD</p> <p>Requires a Sustainability Checklist</p>
Harrow	Code Level 4	Requires attainment of Very Good in all non-residential development. After 2010 this SPD will require the attainment of Excellent under the BREEAM Standards or equivalent if other legislation or standards are introduced
Enfield	Code Level 4	<p>New housing developments should take account of the design and construction policies and sustainable design and construction guidance set out in the London Plan and should seek to exceed the Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3.</p> <p><b>Enfield Urban Design Declaration 2010</b> – commitment to applying the principles of One Planet Living to promote zero carbon development, less waste, use of more sustainable materials and transport, protection of natural habitats and cultural heritage, and an equitable local economy to enhance good health and well being.</p>
Camden	Code Level 3 and from 2013 (Code Level 4)	<p>New build residential should reach Code Level 4 by 2013</p> <p>Conversions and changes of use of 500m2 and above residential floorspace or 5 or more dwellings to achieve 'very good' in EcoHomes up to 2013, and 'excellent' from 2013</p> <p>Non-domestic developments of 500m2 and above floorspace to achieve 'very good' in BREEAM and aim to reach 'excellent' from 2016</p> <p>Requires a Sustainability Checklist</p>
Brent	Code Level 3 for homes & borough wide Code Level 4 for Wembley Energy Action Area & Housing Growth Areas (Wembley, Alperton, Burnt Oak/Colindale Church End)	<p>For non-residential, a rating of BREEAM 'Excellent' is expected, or the equivalent on any 'Code for Sustainable Commercial Schemes' (when forthcoming).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All development should contribute towards achieving sustainable development, including climate change mitigation and adaptation.</li> <li>Major proposals (10 or more dwellings and 1,000m<sup>2</sup> or more floorspace) and proposals for sensitive uses (education, health and housing) in Air Quality Management Areas have to demonstrate measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change over the intended lifetime of a development.</li> </ul>

		<p>Proposals expected (relative to scale) to connect to, provide or contribute towards decentralised energy networks (heating and cooling) and renewables infrastructure in key Growth Areas</p> <p>Requires a Sustainability Checklist</p>
Barnet	Code Level 3	<p>Requirements for BREEAM or Ecohomes are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 'very good' rating if more than 0.5 kms walk from public transport</li> <li>• An 'excellent' rating if less than 0.5 kms from public transport</li> <li>• Requirements apply to all developments (apart from householder developments)</li> </ul> <p>Requires a Sustainability Checklist for Householder and Minor Developments of less than 10 units.</p>

Note: the council's Corporate Plan includes an aim of 50% of new homes granted planning

### **Barnet's approach to householder schemes**

- 6.13 The TFG were informed that the Council does not require householder scale development such as extensions or loft conversions to incorporate carbon reduction measures, although a completed Sustainability Checklist was required to encourage householders to consider incorporating environmental measures. In total in 2009/10, fifteen schemes were identified as incorporating renewable technologies. The most popular technology amongst Barnet householders was the use of solar panels.
- 6.14 A homeowner who wanted to put solar panels on their roof could do so without the need to apply for planning permission, as proposals for micro generation technology including solar panels and small wind turbines were now permitted development. As permission is not required, the Council does not retain figures that could quantify the level of uptake for these technologies.

## **7. How does the Council plan to use the findings of the Internal Audit on Sustainability?**

- 7.1 The TFG met with the Assistant Director for Strategic Planning and Regeneration and the Planning Policy Manager. Members were informed that in January 2011 an Internal Audit of Sustainability (carbon emission reduction) had been undertaken. The audit identified some positive findings and areas for improvement. These included some of the activities that the Council had already undertaken and financial risks associated with the Carbon Reduction Commitment as set out within the Council's Corporate and Service Risk registers.

In summary the internal audit identified that there was :

- A lack of agreement as to the Council's future approach and the lack of overall co-ordination of the various activities undertaken in the Council to maximise impact;
  - The absence of a formal comprehensive risk management related specifically to carbon emission reduction, operational delivery and engagement with Strategic Partners to address energy consumption issues (referred to in the Corporate Plan). This was identified as essential for ensuring that the tasks were completed and that there were no significant costs to the Council.
  - A lack of robust performance management arrangements and performance measures for the various activities to monitor progress and effectiveness of carbon emission reduction delivery.
- 7.2 During the review, the TFG were informed by the Assistant Director for Strategic Planning and Regeneration that a newly formed Council Directorate (Environment, Planning and Regeneration) would be establishing a Sustainability and Carbon Emissions Group. This group would comprise Officers from across the Council Departments, who would each have actions assigned to them. It was anticipated that this would provide a more co-ordinated approach to reducing carbon emissions and ensuring that there was greater coordination for delivery of actions.
- 7.3 The TFG were informed that the Council would seek to involve local Partners, such as Middlesex University, in future carbon reduction strategies. In September 2011, following a further meeting with the Assistant Director for Strategic Planning and Regeneration, the TFG were provided with an update on actions arising from the audit. The TFG were informed that establishment of the officer group had been put on hold pending the outcome of the TFG review findings and that it was hoped that by the end of the financial year (2011/2012) the proposed officers group would be established to take forward the development of a Carbon Emission Strategy.
- 7.4 The TFG emphasised the importance of the new group leading on the preparation of a Carbon Emission Reduction Strategy and engaging with other boroughs such as Haringey and Islington whose carbon reduction initiatives were perceived to be more established than our own, and that the Officer's group should report back on progress to the appropriate Scrutiny committee.

#### **Recommendation 5**

**The Environment, Planning and Regeneration directorate establish an Officer Group by end of the financial year (2011/12) within the**

**Council to develop a strategy for Carbon emission reduction and to provide to the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee a progress report in six months time.**

## **8. External Engagement**

### **Climate Consulting**

- 8.1 The TFG met with representatives of Climate Consulting a specialist sustainability consultancy which assists local authorities, commercial companies and individuals to reduce their carbon footprint and improve their sustainability. It provides audits to primary and secondary schools, businesses and domestic homes and through its advice centre, provides advice on reducing emissions from energy, transport, water and waste.
- 8.2 Climate Consulting, gave a presentation to the TFG on Photovoltaic (PV) and Feed in Tariffs (FIT). They were informed that PV's were a method of generating electrical power by converting solar radiation into direct current electricity through PV panels. Historically PV had been very expensive to buy but due to increases in the global manufacturing capacity, the price of PV panels had dropped.
- 8.3 The TFG were informed that in April 2010, the Feed in Tariff came into effect which gave homeowners and organisations the opportunity to benefit financially in three ways through the:
- Generation tariff paid on all electricity generated (rates vary with technology and scale of system)
  - Export tariff paid on all electricity exported to the grid
  - Fuel bill savings
- 8.4 In August 2010, local authorities also became eligible to sell electricity to the grid. This was an attractive option to many local types of Council as the use of the FIT had become more attractive in line with the Energy hierarchy of energy efficiency measures.
- 8.5 The TFG were provided with a case study based on the London Borough of Sutton and how they had approached the use of the Feed in Tariff. Sutton Council had completed a Business Case for solar panels that could generate electricity which proposed two options:
1. Sutton Council purchases their own PV panels using their own budget, directly benefiting from FIT payments.
  2. For a utilities company to pay for the panels, and allow Sutton Council the use of the electricity generated for free, with FIT payments going directly to the company.

- 8.6 The Business Case showed that it was more cost effective for Sutton Council to buy their own panels rather than be supplied with panels from a third party. Sutton Council's Business Case showed that PV could not only provide greater benefits for schools and Council buildings, but also enable the Council to gain the greatest benefit overall. However the TFG noted that the greatest benefits for Sutton Council could only be realised on properties where energy efficiency work had been carried out.
- 8.7 The TFG were informed that should the Council wish to consider Implementing a PV system across its estates, it may be possible to apply for retrospective Carbon Emissions Reductions Target (CERT) funding. CERT funding could be used for energy efficiency measures previously undertaken by the Council such as boiler installation. It was also thought that the funding could be used to pay for a desk study to assess the viability of renewable (the use of solar and wind energy) in schools, such as the work undertaken in Peterborough where 76 schools had been assessed.
- 8.8 The TFG were informed by Climate Consulting that, should Barnet Council chose to undertake a similar desk top solar survey on the Council's schools portfolio, this would cost approximately £6K . Members were informed that funding for this feasibility study could possibly be sourced through the CERT. The study would enable schools and the Council to make an informed choice about how viable renewable could be in their school building, thus saving money in the longer term and reducing carbon emissions across the borough.

#### **Recommendation 6**

**The Council be recommended to commission a desk study to assess where possible the viability of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy installations in Schools across the borough.**

#### **Energise Barnet**

- 8.8 The TFG met with Nigel Farren the co-founder of a community initiative known as Energise Barnet (EB). Mr Farren informed the TFG that the aim of the organisation was to improve the environmental well-being of the borough by persuading homeowners, schools, churches and businesses to generate their own energy, reduce energy consumption and improve insulation in their properties. Energise Barnet was not a commercial organisation, but a social enterprise that could help plug the gaps resulting from public spending cuts. It aimed to arrange 15,000 installations of renewable energy systems and insulation in the borough by December 2016 and had proposed to the Council that any surplus from it's activities could be donated to help improve the energy efficiency of social housing and reduce fuel poverty in the borough.
- 8.9 The TFG heard that the initiative had over 300 supporters both at a local and national level. Some of their supporters included local MPs, schools and colleges, resident associations, the National Insulation

Association, Micropower Council, Friends of the Earth and the Business Community.

- 8.10 The TFG were supportive of community initiatives such as Energise Barnet, and welcomed receiving further updates on progress in achieving its aims.

## **9. Fuel Poverty**

- 9.1 The TFG were very concerned about fuel poverty in the borough and briefly explored the rising numbers of residents within Barnet that had been classified as being in fuel poverty. The TFG were informed that households are considered by the government to be in fuel poverty if they had to spend more than 10% of their household income on fuel to keep their home in a satisfactory condition. It was estimated that in 2009, 18% of all households in England were classified as being in fuel poverty.
- 9.2 Fuel poverty is most common among those who live in private rented accommodation. Between 2007-2009, 20% of tenants living in privately rented accommodation were in fuel poverty, compared to 15% in other tenures.
- 9.3 The TFG sought further information on the number of residents within the borough classified as being in fuel poverty. Members were informed by the Energy Resource Manager that the Council reported on NI 187 Fuel Poverty in 2008/09 and 2009/10, although the two reporting methodologies were not comparable. The National Indicator Fuel Poverty data indicated that the proportion of households in receipt of income benefits and with low energy efficiency had increased within the borough from 15.59% to 17.27% between 2008/09 and 2009/10 (the last reporting year). The government has since taken over reporting sub-regional fuel poverty using a different methodology and the figures cannot be directly compared.

### **Tables 4 & 5 London Borough of Barnet – DECC Fuel Poverty Statistics**

#### **2005**

LACode	LAName	Region	No. households	No. fuel poor households	% of households fuel poor
00AC	Barnet	London	126,431	10,001	7.9%

#### **2008**

LACode	LAName	Region	No. households	No. fuel poor households	% of households fuel poor



<b>00AC</b>	<b>Barnet</b>	<b>London</b>	127,267	12,912	10.1%

- 9.4 The TFG noted the rise in the numbers of households living in fuel poverty in Barnet and felt that further investigations were needed to look at the risk factors and signs of fuel poverty and to address what actions were being taken to prevent this.

#### **Recommendation 7**

**The Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee set up a Task and Finish Group to look at Fuel Poverty in Barnet within the next six months, focusing on the prevalence of fuel poverty in the borough and the assistance available to support residents at risk.**

## **10. Conclusion**

- 10.1 In the final analysis, the TFG have reviewed the actions taken to reduce the Carbon emissions in the borough and have concluded that although some good community initiatives had taken place, many of these were not long term, difficult to measure and had since ceased.
- 10.2 The TFG recognised the wider work taking place in schools and across the Council's own estate and buildings, which they viewed as an excellent start in reducing carbon emissions and promoting energy efficiency. However, the Council's internal audit report on sustainability echoed some of the Members findings, that there was a lack of strategic approach, accountability and co-ordination of the various activities undertaken across the Council and within the local community.
- 10.3 The TFG felt that any future strategy needed to address the issues outlined in the internal audit if the Council are to achieve its aims of supporting the people of Barnet to improve energy efficiency in their homes and reduce carbon emissions across the borough.

## References

HM Government, (2009) The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan, National Strategy for Climate and Energy

LB Barnet (2010) Carbon Emissions Reduction Action Plan

LB Barnet (2011) Draft Internal Audit Report Sustainability (Carbon Emission Reduction)

Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI): UK Statute Law Database- The Climate Change Act (2008)

Department of Trade and Industry, (2007) Meeting the Energy Challenge: A White Paper on Energy

Department of Trade and Industry, (2006) The Energy Challenge: Energy Review

Department of Trade and Industry (2003) Our Energy Future: Creating a low carbon economy

Environment Agency(2008) Carbon Trust, Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme (CRC)

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2011) Mainstreaming Sustainable Development: The Government's Vision and what it means in practice.

Peters, Fudge, Sinclair (2010) Mobilising community action towards a low carbon future: opportunities and challenges for local government in the UK. (Energy Policy 38)

Draft Energy Bill 2010-2011.

## PROJECT PLAN

<b>Topic for Review</b>	<b>Carbon Footprint Task and Finish Group</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Councillor Brian Salinger ( Chairman)</b> <b>Councillor David Longstaff</b> <b>Councillor Tom Davey</b> <b>Councillor Julie Johnson</b> <b>Councillor Alex Brodkin</b>
<b>Link to Corporate Plan</b>	<p>Barnet is currently ranked among the highest producers of carbon dioxide in London and the third highest consumer of energy (2004).</p> <p>Within the Corporate plan one of the council key objectives are to make Barnet 'A <i>successful London Suburb</i>'. To achieve this the Council has set a number of aims to work with businesses and residents to prototype new and innovative approaches to reduce waste and energy use, and improve the street environment in town centres.</p> <p>Barnet's <i>Sustainable Community Strategy</i> also contains a number of objectives relevant to this review. This includes the aim to be 'Environmentally sensitive' and to protect the borough for current and future generations. To achieve these aims the strategy suggests actively minimising climate change through the efficient use of energy, reducing the amount of waste produced and increasing the amount of recycling undertaken.</p>
<b>Background</b>	<p>The council has undertaken and supports a number of activities aimed at reducing carbon emissions and promoting sustainability across the borough. In November 2010 an internal audit was undertaken which sets out the findings of an assessment of the council's performance management against a number of standards. These findings and recommendations are presently being considered by the Environment and Planning teams.</p>
<b>Scope and Purpose of Review</b>	<p>The review will consider</p> <p><b>1) What actions have been taken by the Council to reduce Carbon emissions in Barnet, and what impact have these had?</b></p> <p><b>2) How does the Council plan to use the findings of the (January 2011) internal audit on Sustainability?</b></p>
<b>Format of Review</b>	<b>Methodology</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scrutiny office to conduct desk research</li> <li>• Members to meet with Barnet Council officers</li> <li>• Best practice – the work of other boroughs</li> </ul>

<b>Key Evidence (internal &amp; external)</b>	<b>Documents required</b> Draft Internal Audit Report LB Barnet Carbon Emission Reduction Action Plan Others- to be determined during the course of the review  <b>Witnesses/stakeholders</b> Relevant Barnet Officers: Michael Lai, Group Manager, Waste and Sustainability Team, Nigel Bell, Energy Resource Manager, Nick Lynch, Planning Policy Manager Nick Lennox, Senior Building Control Manager Lucy Shomali, Assistant Director for Strategic Planning and Regeneration Leader of the Council, Cllr Richard Cornelius Cabinet Member: Cllr Brian Coleman, Cllr Joanna Tambourides Other relevant stakeholders: Energise Barnet, Climate Consulting  <b>Other:-</b> As appropriate
<b>Timescales</b>	Overview and Scrutiny arrangements recommend that Task and Finish Groups should be completed within a timescale of three months. It is envisaged that this review be completed by December 2011 with report submitted to the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee in February 2012.
<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	The Task and Finish Group will make up to four clear and concise SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely) recommendations to the Council's Cabinet
<b>Follow up</b>	Implementation of recommendations are monitored by the Scrutiny Office