



ARTICLE NO: 2A

CORPORATE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

**MEMBERS UPDATE 2011/12
ISSUE: 8**

Article of: Borough Planner

Relevant Managing Director: Managing Director (Transformation)

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor M Forshaw

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SUBJECT: CARBON FOOTPRINT OF COUNCIL OPERATIONS

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF ARTICLE

- 1.1 To present gas and electricity consumption data from 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011.
 - 1.2 To present carbon footprint data for 2010/11 and report progress against carbon reduction targets.
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2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 2008 the Council adopted a Climate Change Strategy with an overall aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions directly associated with Council operations by at least 25% by 2020, against a 2006/07 baseline.
- 2.2 The carbon footprint calculations include gas and electricity consumption in corporate buildings, fleet transport, and private car mileage on Council business. Consumption of gas for space heating has been weather corrected using the recognised degree day procedure. This offsets seasonal variations in consumption due to one period being generally colder than another and allows comparison of performance year on year.

3.0 ENERGY CONSUMPTION

- 3.1 The total annual electricity use in corporate buildings has seen a 4% reduction in 2010/11, in comparison with 2009/10. Electricity usage has seen year on year reductions since the baseline year, as illustrated in Figure 1 below, and consumption is now achieving a 19% reduction on the 2006/07 baseline.
- 3.3 The total annual gas use in corporate buildings has seen an 8% increase in 2010/11, in comparison with 2009/10. As illustrated in Figure 1 below, there has been a small increase in consumption over the last two years. Notwithstanding this, we are still achieving a 15% reduction on baseline levels.
- 3.4 The biggest savings have been achieved at Digmoor and Birch Green community centres. The largest increases have occurred at 52 Derby Street, Stanley Depot and Tanhouse and West Skelmersdale Community Centres. The increases at Stanley Depot were to be expected with the construction and operation of the new waste transfer station. Boiler problems at Derby Street and West Skelmersdale community centre are also thought to have been responsible. Usage of the community centres may also have been a contributory factor.

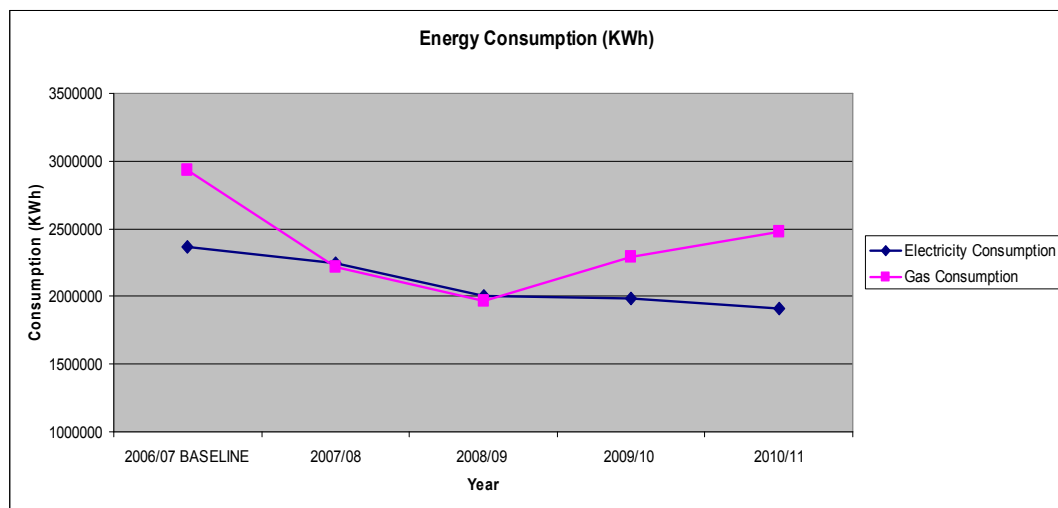


Figure 1: Electricity and gas consumption in corporate buildings

4.0 FUTURE ACTION

- 4.1 The annual increases in gas consumption have been investigated and where possible rectified to ensure savings in the future. Consumption at these properties has been closely monitored over the last six months and found to have decreased significantly at all sites. Monitoring will continue over the coming winter months to ensure any problems are identified early and promptly rectified.

- 4.2 An energy audit conducted at Digmoor Community Centre has also highlighted a number of energy efficiency measures that could be implemented, many of which are relevant to all the centres. These include heating pipework insulation, insulation of suspended ceilings, draught proofing and energy efficient lighting. These will be investigated further, working in partnership with the Property Services team. Community centre staff will receive awareness raising and promotional materials to encourage efficient energy use. Thermal imaging will also be undertaken during the winter months to identify any areas of heat loss.
- 4.3 The Council is currently refurbishing 52 Derby Street and additional roof insulation is being provided, together with double glazed windows and energy efficient lighting. This will improve the energy efficiency of this building. The Council's intention is to review the use of Westec House and a report is to be prepared for Council in December on this. A full option appraisal needs to be carried out but at this stage it is likely that Westec House will be demolished in financial year 2012/13. The building is very poor from an energy perspective and this will further improve the Council's carbon footprint.

5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 5.1 The Council's carbon footprint has been calculated in accordance with guidance produced by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC). In line with guidance, our leisure and other outsourced services have not been included in these calculations. Emissions are reported in tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent. This is the universal unit of measurement used to indicate the global warming potential of a greenhouse gas, expressed in terms of the global warming potential of one unit of CO₂.
- 5.2 Our corporate carbon footprint is presented in Figure 2 below. Overall, we have achieved an 11% reduction on baseline emissions to date. This is excellent progress but further savings will need to be made if we are to meet our 25% reduction target by 2020 and further reduce running costs. It's therefore imperative that we continue this work to ensure further improvement in the energy efficiency of our buildings. At DECC's request, this information has been made available on the Council website.

West Lancashire Corporate Carbon Footprint*			
GHG emission data for period 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011**			
	Tonnes of CO ₂ e		
	2010/11	2009/10	Base year 2006/07
Scope 1	1911	1874	2015
Scope 2	1042	1082	1281
Scope 3	113	123	157
Total gross emissions	3066	3079	3453
Carbon offsets	-	-	-
Green tariff	-	-	-
Total annual net emissions	3066	3079	3453

Figure 2: WLBC Carbon Footprint

6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct financial or resource implications arising from this report. Investment in energy efficiency usually requires initial capital investment but, depending on the type of measure, has a payback period of just a few years. The costs of the efficiency measures suggested for the community centres and the savings they could provide will be investigated prior to any action being taken. The payback period on renewable energy solutions has also reduced since the implementation of the feed in tariff and renewable heat incentive.
- 6.2 There are obvious financial savings associated with reducing energy and fuel consumption and this will only increase with the predicted rise in energy prices over the next few years. The 4% reduction in electricity consumption over the last year will provide savings of around £7,000.

7.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 This item is for information only and makes no recommendations. It therefore does not require a formal risk assessment and no changes have been made to risk registers as a result of this report.
- 7.2 At the current time, the Councils energy consumption falls well below the threshold requiring participation in the national Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme. Penalties would therefore not be incurred should we fail to achieve our targets. However, should national consumption thresholds be lowered, this may not always be the case.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

The Article does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Appendices

None.