



**ARTICLE NO: 3A**

**CORPORATE &  
ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW  
& SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**MEMBERS UPDATE 2013/14  
ISSUE: 2**

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**Article of: Assistant Director of Housing and Regeneration**

**Relevant Managing Director: Managing Director (Transformation)**

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**SUBJECT: THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF COUNCIL OPERATIONS**

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Wards affected: Borough wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF ARTICLE**

- 1.1 To present gas and electricity consumption data from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013.
  - 1.2 To present carbon footprint data for 2012/13, as reported to the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) 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. Gas consumption 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.

- 2.3 The Councils carbon footprint has been calculated in accordance with guidance produced by DECC. Emissions are reported in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e). 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 CO<sub>2</sub>.

### **3.0 ENERGY CONSUMPTION**

- 3.1 Electricity consumption has seen year on year reductions since 2006/07, with a 5.3% reduction in 2012/13, in comparison with the previous year. This provides savings of approximately 101,218KWh of electricity, £9,109 on energy bills and 31 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e. Overall, we have achieved a 23% reduction on the 2006/07 baseline.
- 3.2 Despite the overall reduction, there are some buildings which have seen an increase in consumption in comparison to the previous year. These are namely the community centres, 61 Westgate, the Investment Centre and the Robert Hodge Centre.
- 3.3 Two of the Councils seven solar photovoltaic (PV) systems are located on corporate buildings that are included in this carbon footprint. The electricity contribution from these two installations is negligible when considered against overall electricity use, but they have contributed 2% and 13% of electricity consumed at 52 Derby Street and 61 Westgate respectively. This has been accounted for in Scope 1 of the carbon footprint.
- 3.4 Gas consumption has been reduced 22% in 2012/13, in comparison with the previous year. This provides savings of approximately 515,146KWh of energy, £12,300 on energy bills and 96 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e. Overall, we have achieved a 38% reduction on the 2006/07 baseline.
- 3.5 Reductions in gas consumption have been achieved at the majority of sites, with the exception of 52 Derby Street, Tanhouse Community Centre and Ormskirk Community Centre and Chapel Gallery.
- 3.6 Some of these savings can be attributed to buildings being unoccupied (e.g. the Tanhouse housing office) and the reduction in staff numbers. Those buildings seeing an increase in consumption is thought to be a result of their occupancy and usage, however this will be investigated further in due course.
- 3.7 The fuel consumption of Council fleet vehicles has also seen a year on year reduction since the 2006/07 baseline, with a 13% reduction in fuel consumption in 2012/13 in comparison with the previous year. To date, overall emissions from fleet transport have reduced 23% on the baseline.

Mileage undertaken by officers in private cars has increased 22% in comparison with last year. However, an overall 24% reduction in emissions has been achieved on the baseline.

#### 4.0 CARBON FOOTPRINT REPORT

- 4.1 The Councils corporate carbon footprint is presented in Figure 1 below. Greenhouse gas emissions associated with Council operations in 2012/13 have reduced 10% on the previous year, providing savings of 282 tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup>e.
- 4.2 Overall, we have now achieved a 27% reduction on baseline emissions to date. This is excellent progress and means we have achieved our 2020 Climate Change Strategy target 7 years early.
- 4.3 Notwithstanding this, we must ensure that we continue to achieve further improvements to the energy efficiency of our buildings. Reducing the use of carbon intensive fossil fuels from finite resources will help to tackle climate change, meet national carbon reduction targets and promote sustainability.

West Lancashire Corporate Carbon Footprint*					
GHG emission data for period 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011					
Tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> e					
	2012/13	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	Base year 2006/07
Scope 1	1468	1732	1921	1874	2015
Scope 2	836	866	956	980	1121
Scope 3	184	172	190	201	264
<b>Total gross emissions</b>	<b>2488</b>	<b>2770</b>	<b>3067</b>	<b>3055</b>	<b>3400</b>
Outside of Scopes					
Carbon offsets	N/A				
Green tariff	N/A				
<b>Total annual net emissions</b>	<b>2488</b>	<b>2770</b>	<b>3067</b>	<b>3055</b>	<b>3400</b>

Figure 1: WLBC Carbon Footprint

\* Our carbon footprint has been restated for all years in order to account for material changes to the conversion factors provided by Defra, for company reporting purposes.

#### 5.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct financial or resource implications arising from this report. 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. Investment in energy efficiency measures usually requires initial capital investment but

depending on the type of measure, payback periods can be just a few years.

- 5.2 At DECC's request, this information will be made available on the Council website before the end of July 2013. A press release is also planned to promote our achievement in meeting our 2020 carbon reduction targets ahead of schedule.

## **6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 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.

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### **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 is for information only and 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.