



# Policy and Resources Committee - 19 April 2010

## Use of Natural Resources Strategy

### Summary

This paper seeks Member approval of a Use of Natural Resources Strategy which sets out the Council's approach to reducing its energy consumption and cutting fuel bills.

### Attachment(s)

Use of Natural Resources Strategy

### 1 Background

- 1.1 Analysis of energy consumption in the Council's main office in Thrapston (East Northamptonshire House) since 2006/07 has shown a year-on-year increase up to a peak in 2008/09. The usage of energy only decreases by half during the evening and only slightly less at weekends.
- 1.2 East Northamptonshire House received a 'G' energy rating (the lowest possible energy efficiency rating) in 2009, having fallen from being rated 'F' the previous year. Clearly, it would be desirable to reverse this trend.
- 1.3 An internal project around Energy Efficiency has been established, which has begun to look at ways in which the Council's energy consumption can be reduced and the energy rating be improved.

### 2 Use of Natural Resources Strategy

- 2.1 With fuel bills increasing, the Council recognises that it makes sound financial sense to reduce energy consumption, and acknowledges the accompanying reduction that this will have on the impact of the Council's operations on the environment.
- 2.2 This Strategy sets out a broad approach which will be taken by the Council in reducing energy consumption and improving the Display Energy Certificate rating, focusing on the Council's main office in Thrapston initially, before being rolled out to other Council buildings at a later date.
- 2.3 It also outlines our approach to business travel and how we will encourage the deliverers of contracted-out services to reduce the energy used in the operation of services on behalf of the Council.
- 2.4 The actions associated with this Strategy will also help the Council's contribution towards the national commitment to cut carbon emissions by 34% by 2020.

### 3 Recommendation

- 3.1 It is recommended that the attached Use of Natural Resources Strategy be approved.

<b>Implications:</b>			
<b>Corporate Outcomes or Other Policy/Priority/Strategy</b>			
Good Quality of Life	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good Reputation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Good Value for Money	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High Quality Service Delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>

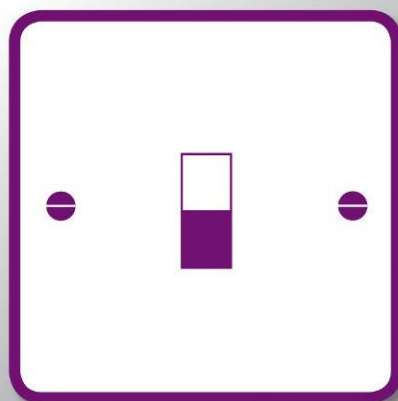
Effective Partnership Working	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Strong Community Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Knowledge of our Customers and Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employees and Members with the Right Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours			<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Other:</b>			<input type="checkbox"/>
Decision(s) would be outside the budget or policy framework and require full Council approval			<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Financial</b>	There are no financial implications at this stage		<input type="checkbox"/>
	There will be financial implications – see paragraph		<input type="checkbox"/>
	There is provision within existing budget		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure at a later date		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Decisions may have potential for income generation		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Risk Management</b>	An assessment has been carried out and there are no material risks		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Material risks exist and these are recorded at Risk Register Reference - inherent risk score - residual risk score -		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Staff</b>	There are no additional staffing implications		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Additional staff will be required – see paragraph		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Equalities and Human Rights</b>	There will be no impact on equality (race, age, gender, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation) or human rights implications		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	There will be an impact on equality (see categories above) or human rights implications – see paragraph		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Legal</b>	Power: Climate Change Act 2008 Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations 2009		
	Other considerations: Energy White Paper 2009		
<b>Background Papers:</b> None			
<b>Person Originating Report:</b> Emma Gadsby, Policy & Performance Manager, 01832 742099 egadsby@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk			
<b>Date: 26 March 2010</b>			
<b>CFO</b>		<b>MO</b>	
			<b>CX</b>

(Committee Report Normal Rev. 20)



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## Use of Natural Resources Strategy



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## Document Version Control

<b>Author (Post holder title)</b>	Policy & Performance Manager
<b>Type of document</b>	Strategy
<b>Version Number</b>	Final
<b>Document File Name</b>	Use of Natural Resources Strategy FINAL TO SMT P & R
<b>Issue date</b>	
<b>Approval date and by who (SMT / committee)</b>	19 April 2010 (Policy & Resources Committee)
<b>Document held by (name/section)</b>	Rob Austin (Resources)
<b>For internal publication only or external also?</b>	Internal and external
<b>Document stored on Council website or Eunice?</b>	Website
<b>Next review date</b>	April 2013

## Change History

Issue	Date	Comments
V1	12 March 2010	From Amenities Manager
V2	22 March 2010	From Heads of Service
V3	30 March 2010	From SMT

*NB: Draft versions 0.1 - final published versions 1.0*

## Consultees

Internal	External
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Amenities Manager	
Heads of Service	
SMT	

## Distribution List

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## Links to other documents

Document	Link

## Additional Comments to note

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## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This document sets out the Council's approach to reducing its energy consumption and cutting fuel bills.
- 1.2 An analysis of energy usage, the energy efficiency of the Council's main offices in Thrapston and rising energy bills shows that managing how we use our resources makes sound financial sense.

## 2.0 Scope

- 2.1 This Strategy applies to the energy consumption within the Council's own offices (Thrapston, Rushden and Oundle) and to energy consumption used in carrying out Council business (e.g. fuel for offices who travel to different locations as part of their job).
- 2.2 It also applies to contractors who deliver services on the Council's behalf (e.g. in the delivery of the waste contract or the management of the leisure centres).

## 3.0 Strategy outcomes

- 3.1 The outcomes to be delivered by this strategy are:

Use of Natural Resources Strategy outcomes	Links to corporate outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improved Display Energy Certificate rating</li><li>• Reduced costs arising from reduced energy consumption</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Good quality of life: sustainable</li><li>• A good reputation with customers and regulators</li><li>• Council services which provide good value for money</li><li>• Effective partnership working</li><li>• Effective management</li></ul>

## 4.0 Use of Natural Resources Strategy

### 4.1 Background

4.2 East Northamptonshire Council recognises the need to reduce the energy consumption within its buildings and operations. Analysis of energy consumption in the Council's main offices in Thrapston (East Northamptonshire House) since 2006/07 has shown a year-on-year increase up to a peak in 2008/09. The usage of energy only decreases by half during the evening and only slightly less at weekends.

4.3 East Northamptonshire House received a 'G' energy rating (the lowest possible energy efficiency rating) in 2009, having fallen from being rated 'F' the previous year. Clearly, it would be desirable to reverse this trend.

4.4 With fuel bills increasing, the Council recognises that it makes sound financial sense to reduce energy consumption, and acknowledges the accompanying reduction that this will have on the impact of the Council's operations on the environment.

### 4.5 Energy efficiency project

4.6 Led by the Head of Resources, a project group comprising representatives from across the Council has been developing ideas on how this Strategy can achieve its desired outcomes set out below, firstly by focusing on the Council's main offices in Thrapston:

- Improved Display Energy Certificate rating
- Reduced costs arising from reduced energy consumption

4.7 The following activities will be investigated to see how effective they could be in reducing the Council's energy consumption and associated costs as it is considered that the offices in Thrapston provide the best scope for significant efficiency improvements that will result in equally significant reductions in energy use.

### 4.8 Heating and lighting

- Ensure heating and cooling is not used in the same office at the same time
- Restrict the use of electric heaters
- Improve insulation
- Review lighting in the Council's offices in terms of number, energy efficiency and hours of operation
- Investigate alternative energy tariffs

### 4.9 ICT and other equipment

- Investigate the use of 'power down' adapters to switch off all non-essential equipment at night and reduce the use of 'standby' mode
- Set computers to hibernate during the day when not in use
- Continue the process of 'server virtualisation' which increases the number of software systems that can be run per server, thereby reducing the number of servers required
- Reduce the amount of printers and the amount of printing carried out by staff
- Select energy efficient equipment when replacing existing stock



- Assess the energy efficiency and environmental impact of different options such as hot water boilers versus kettles

#### **4.10 Staff behavioural changes**

- Launch a campaign to promote energy efficiency

#### **4.11 Environmental Management Systems**

- Look at best practice
- Investigate the possibility of participating in EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme)

#### **4.12 Renewable Energy**

- Investigate the following potential energy sources and environmental measures for the Council's operations:
  - Biomass boilers
  - Brise soleil
  - Grey water recycling
  - Ground source heat pumps
  - Natural ventilation systems
  - Sedum roof
  - Solar power

#### **4.13 Sustainable Procurement**

- Develop a Sustainable Procurement Strategy that will balance the need to achieve value for money with sustainable procurement principles such as favouring local suppliers and suppliers with environmental credentials

4.14 These potential solutions will be used first of all as part of the Energy Efficiency Project looking at East Northamptonshire House before being rolled out to other Council offices.

#### **4.15 Business travel**

4.16 Some officers travel on Council business, for instance visiting customers or residents, travelling between sites or carrying out inspections. As a rural authority covering 50,979 hectares with poor transport links, officers are reliant on cars to carry out Council business.

4.17 Clearly the Council will compensate officers for the cost of fuel used on Council business. However, in agreement with staff, mileage rates have been reduced. This measure will reduce the cost of business travel, and may also encourage staff to think more carefully about the way they travel e.g. car share with others travelling in a similar direction, join up journeys more effectively reducing the need for one-off journeys etc.

4.18 The Council currently offers a car scheme to some employees, and a limit on carbon emissions has been set to discourage the purchase of cars with high fuel consumption.

#### **4.19 Contracted-out services**

- 4.20 The Council's housing stock, waste services, leisure centre management and grounds maintenance are no longer managed in-house. We will encourage the providers of these services to reduce their energy consumption as part of their operations (relating to buildings and transport) on our behalf.
- 4.21 Some work has already gone on. Cultural Community Partnerships (CCP) has already undertaken work to reduce energy consumption in the leisure centres it runs on behalf of the Council. However, the Council plans to reduce the energy consumption of the leisure centres by replacing two older sites with one newer development that will make use of energy efficient technologies. It is hoped the development will achieve the 'Very Good' BREEAM accreditation. The Renewable Energy Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal has identified a range of renewable energy sources as potentially viable and is targeting a 10% minimum renewable energy contribution.
- 4.22 Our current waste and cleansing contractor is ISO 14000 accredited. The contract is due for renewal in 2011 and sustainability criteria will be included in the award for the next waste contract, which will form part of the decision-making process when deciding which company to award the contract to. Sustainability will also feature in the final contract itself, with stipulations such as the types of vehicles used (to reduce carbon emissions) and driver training (to reduce the amount of fuel used).

#### **5.0 Next steps**

- 5.1 An action plan will be developed as part of the Energy Efficiency Project in April 2010. The Energy Efficiency Group will continue to support the work of the action plan, with ownership being taken by the Head of Resources.
- 5.2 The Energy Efficiency Project will act as a pilot for energy reduction within other Council buildings.
- 5.3 This strategy will be reviewed in 3 years.

## 6.0 Glossary of terms

Term	Definition
<b>Biomass boilers</b>	These burn wood chip, wood pellet or cereals or a combination of fuels rather than fuel with a limited source
<b>BREEAM accreditation</b>	Widely used environmental assessment method for buildings that assesses a building's environmental performance
<b>Brise soleil</b>	Permanent sun-shading technique that prevents large expanses of glass overheating in the summer.
<b>Display Energy Certificate</b>	Shows the actual energy usage of a building. Display Energy Certificates are only required for buildings with a total useful floor area over 1,000m <sup>2</sup> that are occupied by a public authority providing a public service to a large number of people and open to the public. They are valid for one year.
<b>EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme)</b>	A voluntary initiative designed to improve companies' and other organisations' environmental performance. Its aim is to recognise and reward those organisations that go beyond minimum legal compliance and continuously improve their environmental performance. In addition, it is a requirement of the scheme that participating organisations regularly produce a public environmental statement that reports on their environmental performance.
<b>Environmental impact</b>	The effect that an activity has on the environment
<b>Grey water recycling</b>	Rainwater is collected and substituted it for mains water in non-potable applications
<b>ISO 14000 accreditation</b>	Assesses various aspects of environmental management
<b>Power down adapter</b>	An adapter that ensures that all your peripherals (e.g. printer, monitor etc) are turned off when you shut down your computer.
<b>Renewable Energy</b>	Energy generated from natural resources such as sunlight, wind etc which are renewable rather than coming from a limited source
<b>Sedum roof</b>	A roof covered by the grass 'Sedum' that absorbs rainwater, provides insulation and creates a habitat for wildlife.
<b>Solar power</b>	Using the sun's energy to convert it into electricity. This is captured by photovoltaic cells that can be attached to a roof or walls
<b>Sustainable procurement</b>	Buying goods or services that have the least impact on the environment (e.g. by being local therefore reducing the amount of miles for delivery)



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