

<b>Body:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>11 July 2012</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Future Carbon Reductions</b>
<b>Report Of:</b>	<b>Head of Infrastructure and Senior Head of Community</b>
<b>Ward(s)</b>	All
<b>Purpose</b>	To agree next steps to reduce the Council's carbon emissions in order to meet national targets and deliver outcomes in line with the Corporate Plan Quality Environment Project 4: Towards a Low Carbon Town.
<b>Recommendation:</b>	Cabinet is recommended to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Note the carbon reduction achievements made over the last two years</li><li>2. Approve a budget of £25,000 to carry out carbon audits of all of our buildings and a limited number of buildings owned by local businesses</li><li>3. Agree this can be funded from the surplus generated by SolarBourne</li><li>4. Give delegated authority to the Low Carbon Governance Board to oversee the appointment of a contractor and the delivery of the audits, including approving the carbon audit application process for local businesses.</li></ol>
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## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Council is committed to reducing carbon emissions from its own operations and for the whole of Eastbourne; the reduction targets for both areas are 40% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 over 2009 baselines.

These targets are supported by two strategies. The Natural Resources Strategy for the Council's own operations and the Eastbourne Environment Strategy for the town. An update on both of these strategies was given at the 18 April 2012 Cabinet.

To ensure these targets are met for its own operations the Council would like to carry out carbon audits of all of its properties so that it can assess what is required and plan a programme of works.

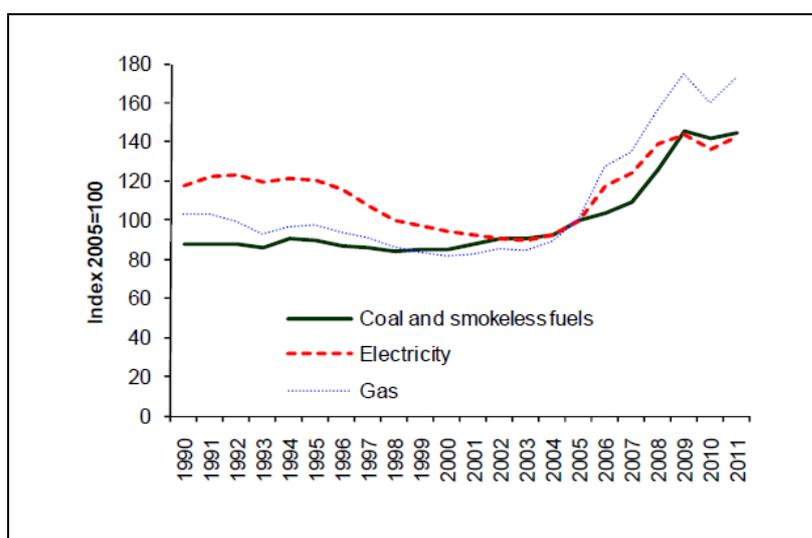
## **2.0 The need for carbon reduction**

- 2.1 Carbon reduction has two benefits – helping to limit the impacts of global warming and helping the Council's commitment to reduce ongoing costs

though lower energy bills.

For global warming, we need to limit the overall global temperature increase to no more than 2 degrees. We are already seeing erratic climate patterns as a result of a 0.8 degree temperature such as: severe flooding, changes to the seasons, rapid reduction of ice sheets, drought to major food producing areas, and increases in disease and fatalities through excess heat. The Council's targets are in line with national targets set by the UK's Climate Change Act and the Committee on Climate Change.

Energy consumption is important as it is very likely that energy prices will continue to rise. The following graph shows how domestic energy prices have compared over the last 20 years. This has been down to a number of factors including high oil prices and the UK is no longer a net exporter of gas. The UK also has an issue over the next decade on being able to generate enough electricity as power plants are coming to the end of their useful life.



Source: DECC March 2012 Energy Prices

### 3.0 What has the Council already achieved?

3.1 The table below highlights the Council's 2009 baseline and the reductions that have been made over the past two years.

	Carbon emissions (tonnes)					Energy Spend (£)		
	Buildings (tonnes)	Vehicles (tonnes)	Total	% Year on Year Change	% Change on 2009/10	Building Energy Spend (£)	% Year on Year Change	% Change on 2009/10
2009/10	2,939	114	3,054	0%	0%	515,288	0%	0%
2010/11	2,860	47	2,907	-5%	-5%	583,261	13%	13%
2011/12	2,408	64	2,472	-15%	-19%	457,848	-22%	-11%

This data includes all operational building under the Councils' direct control and vehicles used by members of staff on Council business. The vehicle data for 2011 is only provisional but this only accounts for a small proportion of the overall footprint.

3.2 **In just two years, the Council has reduced its carbon emissions by nearly 20%, almost half way to the 2020 target. This is excellent progress.**

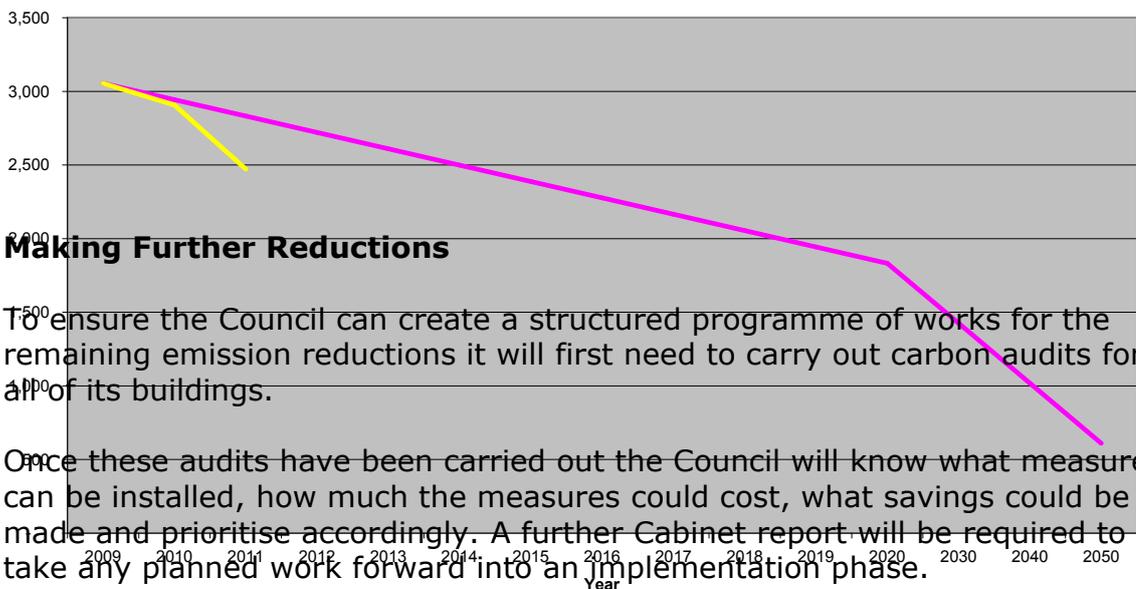
These reductions have been due to the Agile Working Programme and building managers taking a pro-active role in managing their energy.

**4.0 Is the Council on track to meet its targets?**

4.1 The following graph shows the Council’s progress against the required targets and demonstrates that it is ahead of schedule.

Further reductions are expected for this year with the replacement of the crematorium furnaces and the installation of solar panels on some of our buildings. However, without an action plan to further reduce our emissions, our progress will stall from 2013/14 onwards.

**EBC Carbon Reductions Upto 2050**



**5.0 Making Further Reductions**

5.1 To ensure the Council can create a structured programme of works for the remaining emission reductions it will first need to carry out carbon audits for all of its buildings.

Once these audits have been carried out the Council will know what measures can be installed, how much the measures could cost, what savings could be made and prioritise accordingly. A further Cabinet report will be required to take any planned work forward into an implementation phase.

It is expected that carbon audits of our buildings will cost approximately £20,000.

5.2 The Eastbourne Environment Strategy clearly positions the Council as a community leader, and in addition to reducing our own emissions, we need to explore ways we can support the rest of the town to reduce emissions.

One way to do this would be to offer a limited number of carbon audits to businesses within Eastbourne to help maintain the reduction in carbon emissions across the town. These would only be offered to companies that had already demonstrated some application of low carbon principles and had the means to take any recommendations forward into an implementation phase.

It is suggested a budget of £5,000 should be set aside for this.

## **6.0 Resource Implications**

- 6.1 In 2011/12 the Council delivered a major solar installation project known as Solarbourne. Solarbourne delivered twin benefits of lower energy bills for many lower income households whilst generating an income stream for the authority, through the Government's Feed in Tariffs.

We now have the first few month's performance data for Solarbourne, and the data shows that the installations are performing better than projected in the original business case.

It is therefore recommended that the budget for the carbon audits (£25,000 in total) should come from the in-year surplus generated by Solarbourne, so we re-invest part of the income from this successful scheme into further carbon reduction initiatives.

Funding the carbon audits from Solarbourne would also match one of the original intentions of the project in creating a community fund that can seed fund other low carbon initiatives. It would also ensure that there is no additional burden to the Council finances.

- 6.2 The procurement of the carbon audits can be managed within existing staff resources.

## **7.0 Other Implications**

- 7.1 Eastbourne must play its part in addressing the global environmental challenges. We have made an excellent start, and these audits will provide a solid foundation on which to base future investment decisions to help us play our part in the carbon reduction challenge.

- 7.2 It should also be noted that the CIPFA review of the Council's asset management resulted in three recommendations related to sustainability and carbon reduction. This initiative will contribute to the delivery of those recommendations, which were agreed and adopted by Cabinet in October 2011.

## **8.0 Conclusion**

- 8.1 Cabinet is asked to note the carbon reduction achievements made over the last two years.

To help maintain the momentum in carbon reductions, protect the Council against future rises in energy prices, and encourage the business community to realise the same potential Cabinet is asked to agree the recommendations of the report.

**Nick Adlam**  
**Energy Efficiency Officer**

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**Background Papers:**

Natural Resources Strategy, March 2011

Update on the Environment and Natural Resources Strategies, Cabinet Report, April 2012

To inspect or obtain copies of background papers please refer to the council's website.