

**CABINET – 22ND MAY 2018****MEMBERSHIP OF UK100****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT****PART A****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the support of the Cabinet to the County Council being a signatory to UK100, a network of UK local authorities in towns, cities, and rural areas committed to 100% clean energy.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that:-
 - a) The County Council becomes a signatory to UK100;
 - b) It be noted that the County Council's Strategic Plan commits the Council to make a positive contribution to the environment and that the 100% clean energy target should feature in the Strategic Plan Performance Framework, the emerging Environment Strategy, and other appropriate corporate and departmental plans;
 - c) The Director of Environment and Transport be requested to begin Council-wide discussions and commence a review of existing strategies to ensure that the Authority has in place the necessary plans to achieve 100% clean energy by 2050;
 - d) The Council commits to work with local businesses and communities to promote the benefits of clean energy and thereby help to deliver the climate change commitments made by the UK at the Paris Summit in 2015.

Reasons for Recommendation

3. Climate change is a global challenge and the County Council has a key leadership role in working with businesses and their local communities to ensure that Leicestershire transitions to a low carbon economy. Signing the UK100 pledge will provide greater impetus as well as enabling the County Council to work with other authorities to share best practice and lobby the Government to adopt appropriate policies and provide the necessary investment to ensure the UK delivers on its climate change commitments.

Timetable for Decision (including Scrutiny)

4. There is no need for this matter to be reported elsewhere at this stage. When Council strategies are reviewed and submitted for approval it will be important that all members of the Council (Executive and Scrutiny) have an opportunity to review them and ensure that the commitment now entered into is delivered and is reflected in the strategy.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

5. The County Council has a number of plans and strategies aimed at reducing its carbon footprint and promoting and investing in low carbon energy schemes.

Resource Implications

6. There are no resources implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

7. None.

Officers to contact

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PART B

Background

8. UK100 is a network of UK cities and other local authority areas committed to 100% clean energy. The network will connect leaders and authorities with similar ambitions to share best practice and develop locally based solutions to the challenge of shifting communities away from dirty fossil fuels. To date over 70 authorities have signed up to be part of UK100.
9. In order to make the pledge a reality, UK100 has asked member authorities to:-
 - a) Devise plans to achieve 100% clean energy at local level by 2050 that are ambitious, cost effective and take the public and businesses with them;
 - b) Work with business allies, bring private and public sector together;
 - c) Collaborate across a peer-to-peer network, learning from each other;
 - d) Deliver climate action by promoting co-benefits of economic growth and health and wellbeing;
 - e) Work together to influence national policy;
 - f) Make a material contribution to emission reductions.

Existing Plans and Strategies

10. The County Council already has in place a number of plans and strategies on energy reduction aimed at reducing its carbon footprint and contributing to the commitments made on climate change. These include:-
 - The current Environment Strategy and Carbon Reduction Strategy which are being reviewed and combined into a single Environment Strategy. It is proposed that the Council's greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced in line with national targets, meaning a 38% reduction from Council operations by 2030 compared to a 2016-17 baseline.
 - The corporate Energy and Water Strategy 2017-2021 sets a target to increase provision of renewable energy by 1% year on year. To date 10.6% of the Councils' total energy consumption is generated from renewables on County Council land and properties.
 - The corporate Energy and Water Strategy 2017-2021 also aims to reduce the Council's carbon footprint by reducing energy consumption and making efficiency savings of £320,000 by 2021.
11. Examples of achievements to date include:-
 - CO₂ equivalent emissions in 2016-17 were 37.3% below the 2008-09 baseline year and 20.8% below 2015-16. The 2016-17 emissions total

has fallen below the target projection for the first time and has surpassed the reduction target set for 2020-21 4 years ahead of schedule.

- Gas usage in Council buildings has decreased by 24.4%, mainly due to the installation of the biomass boiler at County Hall.
 - Street lighting energy consumption decreased by 24.7% as a result of the project to replace sodium lights with LEDs and a lower carbon conversion factor.
 - Emissions from Council fleet vehicles has reduced by 7% as a result of modernisation of part of the fleet and improved monitoring of vehicle movements and driver behaviour through a tracking system.
 - Emissions from business travel reduced by 5.5% as a result of a number of projects aimed at reducing the need to travel and managing staff journeys.
12. Signing up to UK100 and including a commitment to 100% clean energy by 2050 will provide a greater focus to the work of the Council as well as provide an opportunity to engage with others in the sector, learning from them and embedding good practice. Membership would also strengthen the voice of UK100 at a notional level.

Background Papers

County Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report 2016-17

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2017/11/13/LCC-16-17-GHG-Report-Final.pdf>

Equality and Human Rights Implications

13. There are no equality or human rights implications arising from the recommendations in this report.