

meeting papers

Environment Committee

Thursday, 12 September 2013
7.00 pm



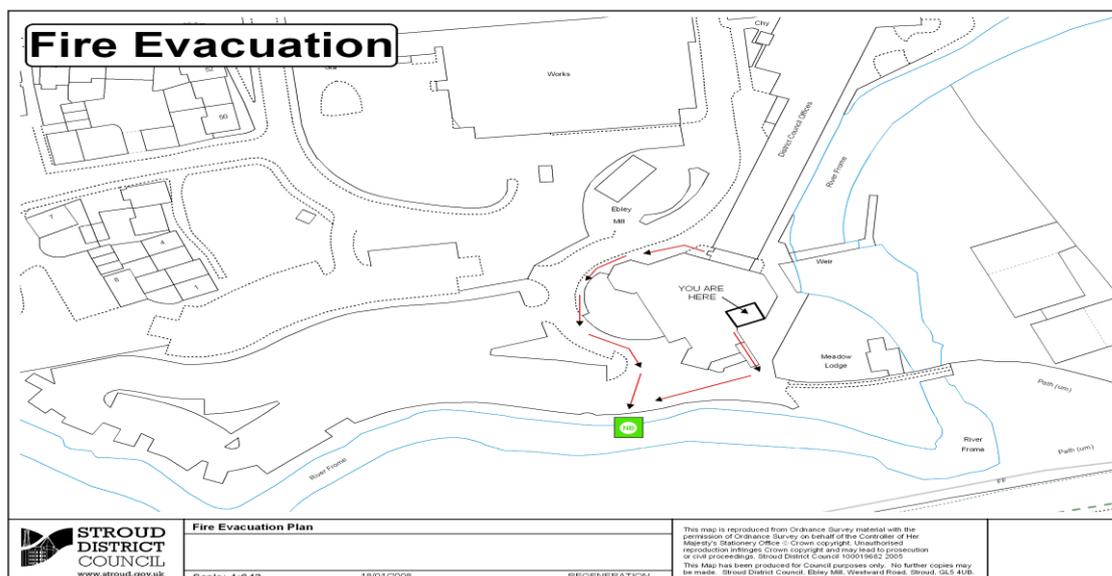
2002-2003
Crime Reduction in Rural Areas
2004-2005
Services for Older People
2007-2008
Emergency Planning



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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For Agenda enquiries contact:	Judy Balfe, Democratic Services and Elections Officer Tel: 01453 754351 Email: judy.balfe@stroud.gov.uk
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30 August 2013

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Environment Committee will be held on **Thursday, 12 September 2013** in the Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Ebley Wharf, Stroud at **7.00 pm.**



David Hagg
Chief Executive

AGENDA



Please Note: This meeting will be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site (www.stroud.gov.uk). The whole of the meeting will be filmed except where there are confidential or exempt items, which may need to be considered in the absence of the press and public.

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1. APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
To receive declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES
To confirm and sign as correct records the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2013 and the Special meeting held on 8 July 2013.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chair of the Committee will answer questions from members of the public, submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures.

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF QUESTIONS
Noon on Monday, 9 September 2013**

Questions must be submitted in writing to the Chief Executive, Democratic Services, Ebley Mill, Ebley Wharf, Stroud and sent by post, by fax (01453 754957), or by Email: democratic.services@stroud.gov.uk

5. BUDGET MONITOR REPORT 2013/14

To note the outturn forecast for the General Fund Revenue budget and Capital programme for 2013/14 and recommend to Strategy and Resources Committee to approve the proposed transfer from earmarked reserves, as set out within the report.

6. DESIGNATION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING AREAS

To accept the nomination of three Neighbourhood Planning Areas affecting the parishes of Eastington, Stonehouse and Whiteshill and Ruscombe.

7. CARBON MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

To recognise the achievements and performance to date and consider the future programme, capital costs, revenue and carbon savings.

8. BUSINESS PLAN

To consider the Committee's business plan for 2013/14 and update accordingly.

9. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

See Agenda Item 4 for deadline for submission.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING
Thursday, 31 October 2013**

The Committee Membership for 2013/14 Civic Year is as follows:

Councillor Simon Pickering (Chair)

Councillor Paul Smith (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Liz Ashton

Councillor Paul Denney

Councillor Chas Fellows

Councillor Nick Hurst

Councillor Haydn Jones

Councillor Graham Littleton

Councillor Stephen Moore

Councillor Roger Sanders

Councillor Brian Tipper

Councillor Martin Whiteside

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ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

13 June 2013

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7.00 pm – 8.45 pm

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

Minutes**Membership:**

Councillor Simon Pickering (Chair)	P	Councillor Haydn Jones	P
Councillor Paul Smith (Vice-Chair)	P	Councillor Graham Littleton	A
Councillor Liz Ashton	P	Councillor Stephen Moore	P
Councillor Paul Denney	P	Councillor Roger Sanders	A
Councillor Chas Fellows	A	Councillor Brian Tipper	P
Councillor Nick Hurst	A	Councillor Martin Whiteside	P

P = Present A = Absent

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor June Cordwell	Councillor Mattie Ross
Councillor Keith Pearson	Councillor Geoff Wheeler

Officers Present:

Strategic Head (Development Services)	Policy Implementation Manager
Head of Finance	Public Spaces Manager
Canal Project Manager	Public Space Officer
Head of Planning	Building Control Manager
Planning Strategy Manager	Energy Officer Policy and Implementation
Head of Environmental Health	Senior Policy Officer
Accountancy Manager	Democratic Services and Elections Officer

EC.001 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chas Fellows, Nick Hurst, Graham Littleton and Roger Sanders.

EC.002 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

EC.003 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None received.

EC.004 **INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

The Strategic Head of Development Services explained his service area which included the Council's carbon management programme and energy performance. Representatives from each of the service areas within the remit of the Committee gave brief outlines of the services they provided. Information sheets were made available at the end of the meeting and would be published in the Members' area on the Hub.

EC.005 **SERVICE COMMITTEE BUDGETS 2013-14**

The Accountancy Manager presented the above report which informed Committee of the services it was responsible for, together with associated revenue budgets for 2013/14. The first quarter budget would be presented at September's meeting when each Committee's budgets had been agreed. A detailed budget book would be provided to all Committee Members.

RESOLVED **To note the service budgets for which Committee is responsible.**

EC.006 **APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Chair drew Members' attention to the list of outside bodies within the remit of Committee for the civic year:-

Organisation	Councillor(s) Appointed
Berkeley Nuclear Stakeholders	Councillor Liz Ashton
Lower Severn Drainage Board	Councillor John Jones
Minchinhampton and Rodborough Commons Advisory Committee	Councillor Paul Carter
Wessex Water	Councillor Paul Smith
Cotswold AONB	Councillor Nick Hurst
Stroud Valleys Project Board	Councillor Paul Denney
Tyndale Monument Charity	Councillors Paul Smith and June Cordwell

RESOLVED **To agree the appointments to outside bodies as set out above.**

EC.007 **PERFORMANCE MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS**

The Chair confirmed that two Committee members were required to meet with senior management teams on a quarterly basis to monitor the performance of services within Environment Committee and report back on an exception basis. Several expressions of interest were made and it was

RESOLVED **Councillors Paul Smith and Stephen Moore would represent Committee.**

EC.008 **BUSINESS PLAN**

Members discussed future business and reports which they would like to discuss and take forward:-

- Waste Contract – Alternative approaches to waste disposal (December 2013).
- Ash Tree Die Back (September 2013).
- New Earth Solutions, Sharpness (a company who compost green waste have offered a tour of their facilities - Members agreed they would like to accept this invitation and possibly invite the company to give a presentation at a future meeting).
- Redevelopment of Brimscombe Port (progress report in September 2013 and final report in October 2013).

Councillor Martin Whiteside proposed a Motion that a cross party Task and Finish Group be set up to agree a way forward for the redevelopment of Brimscombe Port. Members from Strategy and Resources and Housing Committees would also be invited to participate. The Motion was seconded by Councillor Stephen Moore and unanimously supported by Committee.

RESOLVED

- (a) **That the Committee’s business plan be updated.**
- (b) **To invite Members from the Strategy and Resources and Housing Committees to participate in a cross party Task and Finish Group to agree a way forward for the redevelopment of Brimscombe Port.**

EC.009 **MEMBERS’ QUESTIONS**

There were none.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Chair

SPECIAL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

8 July 2013

7.00 pm – 9.05 pm

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

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Minutes

Membership:

Councillor Simon Pickering (Chair)	P	Councillor Haydn Jones	P
Councillor Paul Smith (Vice-Chair)	P	Councillor Graham Littleton	P
Councillor Liz Ashton	P	Councillor Stephen Moore	P
Councillor Paul Denney	P	Councillor Roger Sanders	A
Councillor Chas Fellows	P	Councillor Brian Tipper	P
Councillor Nick Hurst	A	Councillor Martin Whiteside	P

P = Present A = Absent

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor Dennis Andrewartha	Councillor Mattie Ross
Councillor June Cordwell	Councillor Emma Sims
Councillor Doina Cornell	Councillor Geoff Wheeler
Councillor John Marjoram	Councillor Rhiannon Wigzell

Officers Present:

Strategic Head (Development Services)	Planning Strategy Manager
Locum Solicitor	Principal Planning Officer
Head of Planning	Democratic Services and Elections Officer

EC.010 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Nick Hurst.

EC.011 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

EC.012 STROUD DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN

The Chair outlined proceedings for the meeting and confirmed an amendment to paragraph b) of the decision box of the report, which would now read:

“Authority be delegated to the Strategic Head of Development Services to make textual changes to the draft Stroud District Local Plan in consultation with the Chair of Environment Committee prior to publication.”

The Chair paid tribute to Councillor Dennis Andrewartha who had driven the Stroud District Local Plan to this point in time, Officers who had been working on it since 2009, Members, other bodies and the public who had commented upon it.

The Planning Strategy Manager outlined the background to the report. The Stroud District Local Plan was one of the most important documents to be produced by the Council. The Plan would set the planning strategy and policies for promoting and managing development within the District for the next 15+ years. He confirmed that 15,000 consultations had taken place resulting in 3,000 pieces of correspondence. Engagement had taken place with stakeholders, town and parish councils and also with neighbouring authorities. The evidence base was complex and a balance had been made between the environment, social and sustainable growth for the future. Due to the current recession the Plan needed to support local development. As a result of the consultation the public wanted concentrated growth, but also flexibility. The Plan had been subject to testing through a sustainability appraisal and impact on key nature conservation resources which was ongoing.

The Planning Strategy Manager advised the Committee that levels of growth proposed within the Plan were based on a solid evidence base supported by professional and independent experts. It was vitally important to the safe progress of the draft Plan through public examination that levels of growth were based on such a sound footing – that there is clear evidence rather than just opinion.

The Plan was deliverable and the risks were set out within the body of the report. If the Plan did not meet with local needs, it may not be accepted by the Planning Inspector. A delay in progressing the Plan would mean uncertainty and that the Council might be overtaken by events eg developers submitting planning applications for ‘Greenfield’ development on areas within the District where development had not been planned.

The Planning Strategy Manager advised the Committee that it was very important to have a good robust Plan which would go out to further public consultation in September and be submitted to the Government early in 2014 for public examination. If agreed at Council on 25 July 2013, the draft Plan could be used in consideration of future planning applications along with the present Local Plan.

The following two errors were highlighted within the report:-

- Page 29, Appendix A – Core Policy CP2 (right hand column) the figure 5,100 should have read 6,200. This was an error in the original drafting and the figure was recommended in paragraph 4.3. of Dr Keith Woodhead’s latest paper. The figure also needed to be changed in the supporting text.
- A Town Centre Boundaries Map 16A: Stonehouse Town Centre had been omitted from the back of Appendix A of the report but had been circulated at the meeting. This showed the recommendations from Stroud Town Centres and Retailing Study in July 2010.

In reply to questions the following was confirmed:-

- It was an aspiration of the Plan for two jobs to be created for every new home built. The building of houses brought jobs; it was appreciated that such an aspiration would be difficult to meet on all sites.
- In clarifying the word “abandoned” (page 11, H25) the Locum Solicitor outlined the case law on abandoned properties. Confirmation was given that the owner(s) of a building that was not abandoned but beyond restoration would not be expected to restore it if it was not economically viable to repair. Consideration would be given for a replacement if repairs were fundamentally wrong.
- The farm enterprises and diversification policy helped to keep farming activity going. Barn building construction was permitted development and this policy supported this activity.
- The Plan contained broad aspirations that the Council wanted to achieve in the future. Officers were confident in hitting the targets outlined within the Plan. There needed to be positive planning, soundness and a move out of the ‘comfort zone’.
- Sharpness Docks had a currently disused single railway track and road network in place but did not perform well in terms of sustainability. If the distribution company expanded, it might assist in balancing the current mismatch between jobs and homes.
- From the Employment Land Study undertaken for Sharpness Docks, warehouse distribution would be supported, as well as light industrial use.
- The aspiration of the overall Plan was to link housing with employment growth within the District. The ratio of two jobs to every house would help Officers when they were speaking to future developers. The sites in the existing Plan were not all viable.
- Commuting patterns had been taken into account when drafting the Plan.
- Only new applications for retail shopping centres within a town shopping centre would be covered by Core Policy 12 (page 116). New Greenfield sites would be picked up under clause E of the same core policy. A retail impact assessment would be commissioned for new applications under Delivery Policy E19 to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- The Plan would be monitored, managed and could be reviewed in part or as a whole. The anticipated timescale for the first review would be after the Plan had been in operation for five years. If policies needed to be updated within the Plan a review would be undertaken. The timetable for a review and its extent was dependent on changes to the policy landscape in which the Plan existed.
- Existing Parish and Community Plans were valuable and helped in formulating the Local Plan - but did not have the same weight as Neighbourhood Plans which Parish and Town Councils were encouraged to make.
- No Local Plan could cover all possible application types that could be received up to 2031, e.g. a new golf course.
- Larger sites were defined by 10 or more dwellings and windfalls by 9 or less. However, it was stressed that the Council could not rely on windfalls.
- The Employment Land Study carried out this year was robust and the policies were more stringent than those in the last Plan. This would mean that good employment sites could be defended and there would be more flexibility on poorer sites.
- The proposed draft Stroud Local Plan could be defended.

It was proposed by Councillor Paul Smith and seconded by Councillor Haydn Jones that the Officer recommendation should be accepted but subject to the following changes to the proposed housing distribution numbers:

Site	Number of dwellings
Hunts Grove Extension	500 (same)
North East Cam	Reduce from 500 to 250
Sharpness	250 (same)
Stroud Valleys	Increase from 300 to 350
Council House Programme	150
Windfall Allowance	750
Stonehouse	100 (add to housing distribution)
Total	was 2,450 now 2,350

In addition, the reserve site West of Stonehouse should be deleted

Councillor Chas Fellows moved an amendment to the housing distribution numbers proposed in the substantive motion, namely that the allocation at Sharpness be increased by 1,000 and the removal of the Hunts Grove Extension and North East Cam sites. This amendment was not seconded.

Councillor Brian Tipper moved a further amendment regarding the aspiration of the ratio of jobs to dwellings built, namely that this should be reduced from 2:1 to 1:1. This amendment was also not seconded.

In reply to a question regarding the proposed amendment to the housing distribution figures, the Locum Solicitor confirmed that Committee could recommend to Council whatever amendments it saw as fit to the draft Local Plan. However, he urged caution. When the Local Plan was submitted to the Inspector he/she would look at its soundness. The DCLG Guidance advised that to help establish the soundness of the Local Plan, the Council would need to show a clear trail of option generation and appraisal, option selection or rejection, sustainability appraisal and the role community engagement had played in this process. Members should be aware that if they moved away from the policies and wording set out within the draft Plan at this late stage, there was potential risk that the Planning Inspector might find the Plan unsound.

The Planning Strategy Manager was concerned by the proposed reduction to the allocation of dwellings from 500 to 250 at the site North East of Cam. He felt that this reduction would affect the employment allocation. To deliver the infrastructure, the number of dwellings had been tested at between 400-950. He advised that 250 dwellings would not bring forward employment in the managed and phased way that the Council was trying to achieve through this Plan.

It was queried whether the extra 50 homes in Stroud Valleys would be made up of a number of sites, as one specific site had not been identified to accommodate the additional 50 homes. During discussions with landowners and developers, Officers had tried to achieve a balance between housing and employment. It was not good practice to promote a site that was not within the Local Plan, (not a SHLA site) and where no public consultation had been undertaken.

The Head of Planning confirmed that an application had been received for 120 houses opposite Avenue Terrace in Stonehouse. If a Plan was not agreed this would encourage developers to submit speculative applications across the District.

In debate it was suggested that the proposed reserve site West of Stonehouse would be ideal for commuters, that 500 properties in Cam was too many, but that a lower figure of between 200-250 might be acceptable. In Cam the public transport system was poor and the railway station needed upgrading. There was a flooding assessment to be undertaken for the Cam Valley in the future. It was suggested that 500 dwellings in Cam would not trigger an expansion at Rednock School, which was already full and many prospective pupils would have to go to other schools within the District. It was also suggested 100 houses in Stonehouse would 'play off' for the Avenue Terrace site.

Councillor Whiteside proposed a further amendment to the substantive motion regarding housing numbers as follows:

Site	Number of dwellings
Hunts Grove Extension	500
North East Cam	250
Sharpness	300
Stroud Valleys	300
Council House Programme	150
Windfall Allowance	750
Stonehouse	100 (add to housing distribution)
Total	2,350

In addition, the reserve site West of Stonehouse should be deleted

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Paul Smith.

The Strategic Head (Development Services), in giving advice on the amendment, confirmed that 250 dwellings at Sharpness would generate revenue for investment in improving the tourism offer and help with enhancing employment opportunities. The Canal and River Trust had a detailed business plan for the regeneration of the dock area. The issue was whether 300 dwellings could be built on this site.

It was reiterated that there was a risk that the Inspector may deem the Plan unsound if new sites were introduced where consultation had not taken place. If consultation on the Sharpness site was undertaken, it would delay the Plan for between 6-12 months. If proposals were significantly outside the area of where consultation had already taken place, the process would not be sound.

Councillor Paul Smith commented that Members had looked at the evidence and felt that these figures were reasonable.

Councillor Liz Ashton confirmed that the Canals and River Trust were looking at developing the top end of the dock at Sharpness but the people of Sharpness wanted development to take place around their town. A balance needed to be struck.

On the amendment being put to the vote it was CARRIED by eight votes in favour to one against and became the substantive motion.

It was queried whether 250 dwellings at Sharpness would be enough to generate employment and dwellings because it required infrastructure.

The Planning Strategy Manager confirmed that the site West of Stonehouse had been promoted and consultation had taken place. This reserve site would give flexibility.

It was a natural 'bolt-on' for properties to be added at Hunts Grove which would provide housing for those employed within and adjacent to the district and the logical completion of this development.

The Head of Planning requested that a plan outlining the area for the proposed site for 100 dwellings in Stonehouse be made available prior to the Special Strategy and Resources meeting to be held on 10 July 2013.

Clarification was given that the latest minimum number of new dwellings was 9,500, as set out in Dr Keith Woodhouse's report. By changing the housing numbers the level of risk that the Plan would be found to be unsound by the Inspector would be increased. The projected numbers were evidence based.

The Chair reminded Committee of the current recession which had been estimated to continue for another 5 years. The Head of Planning offered a word of caution that sites could be lost on appeal if the Council did not have a sound Local Plan.

Confirmation was given that the total number of small sites (9 properties or less) had averaged at 83 per annum since 2005.

The Head of Planning clarified that if a developer submitted a proposal to build, eg, 250 dwellings on a site that had not been identified within the Council's adopted Local Plan then, unless there were exceptional reasons, it would be refused. He also confirmed that there was Government funding available to help Town and Parish Councils make Neighbourhood Plans.

Before a vote was taken, in summing up the Chair confirmed the three areas of risk:-

1. The revised housing allocation in Cam, both infrastructure and jobs;
2. The lack of a reserve site, and
3. The overall housing allocation numbers were 100 dwelling lower than the recommended housing number.

On the substantive motion being put to the vote it was CARRIED by eight votes in favour to one against (Councillor Chas Fellows).

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL a) **The draft Stroud District Local Plan attached to Appendix A to this report, together with supporting documents, is approved for publication in accordance with Regulations 19 and 20 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and subsequently to be submitted to the Secretary of State in accordance with Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, subject to amendments to the requirement for new housing and its locations as follows:-**

<u>Location</u>	<u>Number</u>
Hunts Grove	500
North-East Cam	250
Sharpness	300
Stroud Valleys	300
Stonehouse	100 (Site to be identified by Environment Committee)
Council housing	150
Windfalls	<u>750</u>
Total	<u>2,350</u>

Reference to a reserve site west of Stonehouse is to be deleted from the Stroud District Local Plan.

- b) Authority be delegated to the Strategic Head of Development Services to make textual changes to the draft Stroud District Local Plan in consultation with the Chair of Environment Committee prior to publication.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Chair

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

12 SEPTEMBER 2013

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Report Title	BUDGET MONITOR REPORT 2013/14
Purpose of Report	To present to the Environment Committee a forecast of the outturn position against its revenue budgets and capital programme for 2013/14.
Decision(s)	<p>The Committee Resolves to</p> <p>a) to note the outturn forecast for the General Fund Revenue budget and the Capital programme for 2013/14;</p> <p>and RECOMMENDS to Strategy and Resources Committee</p> <p>b) to approve the proposed transfer from earmarked reserves, as set out in paragraph 7 (page 4).</p>
Consultation and Feedback	Budget holders have been consulted about the budget issues in their service areas. The feedback has been incorporated in the report to explain differences between budgets and actual income and expenditure.
Financial Implications & Risk Assessment	<p>There are a number of variances identified in this report between revenue budgets and projected outturn. These will need to be considered by Strategy & Resources Committee when they review the overall General Fund projected outturn at their meeting in September 2013.</p> <p>Sandra Cowley, Head of Finance Tel: 01453 754136 Email: sandra.cowley@stroud.gov.uk</p>
Legal Implications	<p>There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.</p> <p>Saira Malik, Solicitor Tel 01453 754357 Email: saira.malik@stroud.gov.uk</p>
Report Author	<p>David Stanley, Finance Manager Tel: 01453 754100 Email: david.staney@stroud.gov.uk</p>
Options	None.
Performance Management Follow Up	Budgets will continue to be monitored on a monthly basis by budget holders supported by Finance. Further updates will be reported to the Committee in October 2013 and January 2014, with the outturn position reported in June 2014.

Background Papers and Appendices	General Fund Outturn 2012/13 Supplementary Paper on Service Committee Budgets 2013/14
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Background

1. This report provides the first monitoring position statement for the financial year 2013/14. The purpose of this report is to notify members of any known significant variations to budgets for the current financial year, highlight any key issues, and to inform members of any action to be taken if required.
2. The report takes account of transactions up to 30 June 2013, with a projection of income and expenditure to the end of the financial year based on an assessment of known and predicted variations. There does, however, remain an area of risk or uncertainty within the outturn forecast which are discussed further in paragraph 10.

Revenue Budget position

3. The revised net General Fund Revenue budget for 2013/14, approved by council in January 2013, is £15.152 million. Table 1 below provides a reconciliation of the original budget to the latest budget.

Table 1 – Reconciliation of Budget movements

Environment Committee	2013/14 Budget (£)
Original Budget	4,955,400
Add: Carry Forwards (S&R 28/06/13)	20,700
Latest Budget as at 30 June 2013	4,976,100

4. The monitoring position at 30 June 2013 shows a projected net underspend of **(£436,900)** (7.78%) against the latest budget, as summarised in Table 2.

Table 2 – Outturn Forecast

Environment Committee	Para Refs	2013/14 Latest Budget (£)	TOTAL Budget Year to date (£)	Actual to 30 June 2013 (£)	Variance to Date (£)	2013/14 Projected Outturn (£)	2013/14 Projected Variance (£)
Canal		7,500	1,475	62,797	61,322	7,500	0
Carbon Management	4	172,200	94,225	(2,407)	(96,632)	114,200	(58,000)
Conservation		56,600	13,425	12,382	(1,043)	56,600	0
Environment Management		186,600	44,700	41,209	(3,491)	186,600	0
Environmental Health	11	938,400	212,373	198,176	(14,197)	898,800	(39,600)
Licensing		(75,100)	(19,200)	(8,325)	10,875	(75,100)	0
Development Control	12	71,700	39,950	1,672	(38,278)	27,300	(44,400)
Statutory Building Control	13	215,400	68,000	(22,587)	(90,586)	188,300	(27,100)
Strategic Planning of Local Plan		256,500	75,550	75,442	(108)	256,500	0
Economic Development	14	433,900	171,942	30,865	(141,076)	198,700	(235,200)
Waste and Recycling	15	2,143,300	334,353	216,476	(117,877)	2,111,900	(31,400)
Street Cleansing		614,100	114,677	101,277	(13,400)	612,900	(1,200)
Environment TOTAL		5,021,100	1,151,470	706,978	(444,492)	4,584,200	(436,900)

Appendix A provides a detailed breakdown and explanation of significant variations. £50,000 of the variation on Carbon Management relates to an incorrect budget, which will be removed when the budget is revised in December 2013.

Areas of Risk and Uncertainty

5. The forecast outturn variance of **(£436,900) underspend** highlighted in paragraph 4 of this report is based on known and estimated outcomes. However, there remains a degree of uncertainty with the forecast variance, either because;

- There is insufficient data available at this stage of the financial year with which to estimate an outturn position
- There are a number of different outcomes that may occur and it is difficult to predict with a degree of certainty which outcome is more likely
- Management action is being taken to offset potential risks and it is too soon to assess the impact

6. Listed below are the main areas of risk and uncertainty associated with the outturn forecast.

Development Control

- Development Control (Income) – Whilst we anticipate that the level of income should be within budget at the end of the financial year, it is generally difficult to predict with a degree of certainty and beyond the control of the service. Income comes from 2 main sources – small scale developments and householder fees; and large scale developments. Indications are that small scale/householder fees are on target, and we are anticipating 4 extremely large applications well before the end of the financial year.
- Development Control (Appeals) – Urbaser Balfour Beatty have appealed against the County Council's decision to refuse planning permission for the incinerator at Javelin Park. It has been confirmed

that a 20-day inquiry will start on 19 November 2013 with a final decision expected next summer. Stroud District Council will need to defend the appeal in a thorough and professional way and it is estimated that this is likely to cost up to £150,000. Whilst the cost of counsel advice and specialist consultants (expert witnesses) can be funded from the Legal Counsel reserve and/or the Planning Appeals reserve, the resultant reserve levels would need to be reviewed as part of the council's budget setting process.

Virements and Reserve movements

7. The following reserve movements have been proposed and form a recommendation to Strategy & Resources Committee:
- £150,000 transfer from reserves - additional expenditure on legal counsel/expert witness fees to defend the council in Urbaser Balfour Beatty's appeal against refusal for planning permission for the incinerator at Javelin Park (para 6, page 3).
 - £200,000 transfer to reserves – potential underspend on Economic Development budget (para 14, page 7).
 - £40,000 transfer from reserves – transfer of part of the 2012/13 balance on Clinical Sharps scheme (para 15, page 7).

Environment Capital Programme

8. A revised Capital Programme of £3.1 million for 2013/14 was approved by Strategy & Resources in June 2013 incorporating the slippage from 2012/13.
9. Table 3 below shows the capital monitoring position at the end of June 2013 and shows an estimated nil capital variation.
10. Due to the volume of information contained in the report, it would be helpful where members have questions on matters of detail if they could be referred to the report author or the appropriate service manager before the meeting.

Table 3 – Capital Outturn Forecast

Environment Capital Schemes	Para Refs	Total Budget (£)	Actual to Date (£)	Outturn Forecast (£)	Outturn Variance (£)
Canal		2,520,000	229,000	2,520,000	0
Countdown to Low Carbon Homes		150,000	0	150,000	0
Ebley Mill Server Room		78,000	0	78,000	0
Energy Efficiency - Invest to Save		397,000	0	397,000	0
TOTAL Capital		3,145,000	229,000	3,145,000	0

Table 4 – Outturn Forecast and breakdown of variation

Environment Committee	Para Refs	2013/14 Latest Budget (£)	2013/14 Projected Outturn (£)	2013/14 Projected Variance (£)	Underspends			Overspends		
					Salary Savings (£)	Under spends (£)	Income Surplus (£)	Salary Variations (£)	Over spends (£)	Income Shortfall (£)
Canal		7,500	7,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carbon Management	4	172,200	114,200	(58,000)	(8,000)	(50,000)	0	0	0	0
Conservation		56,600	56,600	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Environment Management		186,600	186,600	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Environmental Health	11	938,400	898,800	(39,600)	(37,200)	(7,400)	0	0	5,000	0
Licensing		(75,100)	(75,100)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Development Control	12	71,700	27,300	(44,400)	(44,400)	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory Building Control	13	215,400	188,300	(27,100)	(109,100)	0	0	0	0	82,000
Strategic Planning of Local Plan		256,500	256,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Economic Development	14	433,900	198,700	(235,200)	(35,200)	(200,000)	0	0	0	0
Waste and Recycling	15	2,143,300	2,111,900	(31,400)	0	(70,200)	(1,200)	0	40,000	0
Street Cleansing		614,100	612,900	(1,200)	0	(6,400)	(100)	0	5,300	0
Environment TOTAL		5,021,100	4,584,200	(436,900)	(233,900)	(334,000)	(1,300)	0	50,300	82,000

11. Environmental Health – (£39,600) underspend(Jon Beckett, xtn 4443), jon.beckett@stroud.gov.uk

The variation is due to a number of salary savings during the year. The sum comprises a number of factors as follows:-

- (i) The bursary for an Environmental Health Student to complete the practical element of their training through a placement at the Council has not been required as an existing member of staff is currently completing the practical element of their MSc in Environmental Health as part of a career progression programme.
- (ii) An Administrative Assistant post (Stroud 2) is currently being filled by an NVQ apprentice until they qualify, which has resulted in a salary saving.
- (iii) The Senior Business Support Officer was temporarily seconded to another post within the Council, during which time other staff 'acted up' resulting in a small salary saving.
- (iv) Another member of the admin team worked on a reduced hours basis prior to being seconded to a post in tenant services. The post has now been backfilled by a full time agency member of staff.
There is temporary saving with a phased retirement (3 years) of the Principal Environmental Officer from July 2012, this is proposed to be filled by a current member of staff who is completing their professional qualification.

12. Development Control – (£44,400) underspend(Phill Skill, xtn 4345), phil.skill@stroud.gov.uk

The variation has arisen due to a revision of the Development Management structure. A provisional sum of £50,000 was budgeted to cover costs of additional posts; this increase was to be met by increasing fees from major applications. Meanwhile the Government announced relaxation of planning controls on single storey domestic extensions and a wide range of changes of use. As a consequence of these changes it was considered prudent to progress with all the additional posts, rather to reconfigure the current staff and introduce training posts. As such, the full £50,000 was not drawn down, and hence the moderate variance.

13. Statutory Building Control – (£27,100) underspend(Phill Skill, xtn 4345), phil.skill@stroud.gov.uk

The overall underspend is made up of 2 significant variances.

It is forecast that the Staff costs budget will be **underspent by (£109,000)**. **(£63,000)** of this variance has been achieved through the review of posts as they have become vacant over the years, resulting in savings on replaced posts or the removal from the establishment. The saving on staffing costs is offset against the downward trend in income.

The remaining **(£46,000)** is due to a building control surveyor on maternity leave and deciding not to return to work, a building control technician who has resigned from her role and taken up a post in housing. Savings have also arisen due to a re-structure of several business support roles within the team, alongside a future re-structure of Building Control.

Building control income budget projection is **£82,000 shortfall**. Income for the first quarter was £5,000 down on the same period last year, with 234 applications deposited a reduction of 6 on the same period last year. Market share was 81% compared with 87% on the same period last year. With continued competition for building control services the service review will look at the service we provide for our customers whilst balancing income and expenditure to achieve a break even budget.

14. Economic Development – (£235,200) underspend

Barry Wyatt xtn 4210, barry.wyatt@stroud.gov.uk

(£200,000) of the variance is attributable to support business growth & sustainable food production. On the assumption that we will launch a Sustainable food production and supply support scheme we may only achieve spend of £20,000 this year. Therefore, it is recommended that the potential £200,000 variation is transferred to the Economic Development reserve.

The **(£35,000) salary variation** on the Economic Development budget was originally identified as part of the Workforce Planning savings 2011/12. Recruitment has been put on hold pending clarification over the staffing implications of the 'Jobs and Growth Agenda', which has yet to be resolved.

15. Waste and Recycling – (£31,400) underspend

Carlos Novoth xtn 4406, carlosnovoth@stroud.gov.uk

A potential **underspend of (£60,500)** has been identified against the enhanced waste management service introduced in July 2012. This is primarily due to lower than anticipated contract costs for the full year of the service. An element of the reduced cost relates to a lower contract inflation rate (0.93% actual vs. 3.00% budgeted) and will be removed from the budget when it is revised in December 2013.

The Clinical Sharps waste programme will overspend by £40,000 (**net £30,200 overspend** after some small underspends within the budget) in 2013/14, which is fully funded from a transfer from the Unapplied Revenue Contributions reserve from the unspent contributions from the other Gloucestershire districts at the end of 2012/13.

The remaining variation of **(£1,100) underspend** is on the Multi Bank recycling sites budget.

16. Capital Programme

As discussed in paragraphs 7-9 of this report, there are no Capital variances forecast for 2013/14.

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**AGENDA
ITEM NO**

12 SEPTEMBER 2013

6

Report Title	DESIGNATION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING AREAS
Purpose of Report	To consider the nomination of three Neighbourhood Planning Areas affecting the parishes of Eastington, Stonehouse and Whiteshill & Ruscombe.
Decision(s)	The committee accepts the nomination of the three Neighbourhood Planning Areas as defined in Appendix A to this report.
Consultation and Feedback	<p>The nominations have all been subjected, at different times, to 6 week consultation with the community. This has been via a press advert with all documents being reproduced on the council website. http://www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/planning/planning_strategy.asp#s=sectioncontent5&p=np</p> <p>There has been no feedback from the community to the consultation.</p>
Financial Implications and Risk Assessment	<p>Dependant on the volume of plan submissions, the authority could incur significant costs in supporting the nomination stage and in the external scrutiny of the plan. Although there is presently Government financial assistance available to meet these costs, its future provision is uncertain and that could result in the authority having to meet these costs itself.</p> <p>Ian Garrett – Business Accountant Tel: 01453 754121 Email: ian.garrett@stroud.gov.uk</p> <p>RISK The author considers the risks to the council are mostly resource driven, both human and financial. It is more likely than not that more neighbourhood nominations and NDPs will be proposed, and it is also more likely than not that initial funding from government will reduce and eventually dry up. As such a risk factor of 4 (2x2) would be currently appropriate, though this may rise to 9 (3x3) in future years.</p>

<p>Legal Implications</p>	<p>The Council has a statutory duty to consider proposals to designate neighbourhood areas, and determine these in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and subsequent Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.</p> <p>There is also a duty to support the Parish and Town Councils who wish to introduce a neighbourhood plan, particularly given the amount of evidence they will require ensuring the neighbourhood plan conforms to national and local planning policies, EU and Human Rights obligations, including the Strategic Environment Assessment Directive and also that it is sustainable.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (Regulation 7) state that as soon as possible after designating a neighbourhood area, the Council must publish the following on our website (and in such other manner considered likely to bring it to the attention of those who live, or work in the neighbourhood area):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the name of the neighbourhood area • a map which identifies the area, and • the name of the relevant body who applied for the designation. <p>If deciding to refuse to designate a neighbourhood area as applied for then the Council has to publish a “decision document” setting out the decision and a statement of reasons for that decision; and also publish details of where and when the decision document may be inspected. It is worth noting that a decision document does not have to be produced if agreeing to designate a neighbourhood area (as applied for).</p> <p>Once a neighbourhood area is designated, the Parish or Town Councils can formally begin to prepare their neighbourhood plan. As the neighbourhood plan will be a statutory planning document there are a number of formal stages that have to be completed in its production. These are covered in the body of this report.</p> <p>Saira Malik, Solicitor Tel: 01453 754357 Email: saira.malik@stroud.gov.uk</p>
<p>Report Author</p>	<p>Philip Skill: Head of Planning Tel: 01453 754345 Email: phil.skill@stroud.gov.uk</p>
<p>Options</p>	<p>The Committee may:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Designate any or all of the nominations without variation, 2. Vary the extent of any or all of the nominations, 3. Decline to designate any or all of the nominations

Performance Management Follow Up	None
Background Papers/ Appendices	Nominations and maps (Appendix A) on the website at http://www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/planning/planning_strategy.asp#s=sectioncontent5&p=np

Introduction

Applying for designation as a neighbourhood area is the first step local communities are required to take before acquiring their new neighbourhood planning powers. The areas indicated on the maps in Appendix A are the geographical extents in which the Parish or Town Council wishes to undertake neighbourhood planning.

Following the submission of a nomination, the Council must put the details out to public consultation for a minimum of 6 weeks. This consultation, on the neighbourhood planning area, gives an opportunity for members of the public, businesses and other interested bodies to make representations relating to the appropriateness of the area to be designated. The District Council, as Local Planning Authority is required to consider the nomination and either designate the area, vary the extent of the nomination or refuse to designate the area. If the decision is to refuse or vary the designation, then reasons must be given.

Background

Neighbourhood planning gives communities the ability to prepare a statutory plan known as a “neighbourhood development plan” (NDP) for their area, setting out the type of development that will happen, where it should be located and how it should look. It is also possible to grant planning permission for certain types of development, by drawing up a neighbourhood development order (NDO) for a specific site.

It should be remembered at all times that the purpose of a neighbourhood development plan is to be **pro-growth** rather than to stifle development. As such it should identify additional opportunities for development or seek to influence the implementation of allocations within the district council’s local plan. It should also be noted that despite the fact that this legislation was introduced under the Localism Act, the planning system remains a top-down process, with NPDs being subservient to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the local plan (together with any additional strategic planning documents such as those prepared by the county council)

The first statutory stage in bringing forward a neighbourhood planning proposal, either a plan or order, is to define the neighbourhood area. The proposed area must be agreed by the local planning authority, following a period of consultation. All of the communities which have applied to the district council for their neighbourhood area to be designated indicate that they wish

to prepare a NDP, which would contain a suite of planning policies that complement the strategic planning framework.

The Localism Act and its regulations set out what a community must do when making an application for neighbourhood area designation. Part 2, Regulation 5 states that “where a relevant body submits an area application to the local planning authority it must include-

- a) a map which identifies the area to which the area application relates (see Appendix A);
- b) a statement explaining why this area is considered appropriate to be designated as a neighbourhood area; and
- c) a statement that the organisation or body making the area application is a relevant body for the purposes of section 61G of the 1990 Act.”

The Act and regulations also describes how the Local Planning Authority should publicise nomination. In the case of Eastington, the nomination was advertised in Stroud Life on the 15 May 2013, on the same page as the planning applications.

The nominations for Stonehouse and Whiteshill & Ruscombe were similarly advertised on the 31 July and 29 May respectively. It should be noted that the 6 week consultation period for Stonehouse will expire the day before this committee meeting (11 September 2013). If any comments are made, they will be reported verbally at the meeting.

In addition, the three nominations were published on the Council’s website on page http://www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/planning/planning_strategy.asp#s=sectioncontent5&p=np

Evidence and feedback

The maps which designate the areas to be covered are reproduced in Appendix A, however, in each case, the maps show the entire extent of each of the parish boundaries. This is in accordance with the Act and Regulations which state that in a parished area, the boundary can be the whole, or a part of the parish.

The Localism Act (Section 61G) indicates that a Parish Council is a “relevant body”, see (c) above, which is capable of applying to a Local Planning Authority for the designation as a neighbourhood area. It is clear from reading section 61F that in a parished area, the Parish Council is the **only** organisation or body which is authorised to act in relation to a neighbourhood area. All three applications have been received from a Parish or Town Council, and it is therefore accepted that the nominations have been made by relevant bodies.

At the time of writing, there have been no objections or comments made on any of the nominations or their extents, though as stated above the Stonehouse consultation period has not expired at the time of writing.

Resource Implications to the District Council.

The cost of this initial stage is minimal and other than the advertisements, has been kept within existing budgets. The Government has made available £1.5 million to support LPAs in the nomination stage. This could cover 300 designations at £5,000 each. Unfortunately there are approximately 10,000 civil parishes in England plus however many urban neighbourhoods which are designated.

Whilst the district council can apply for the initial £5,000 funding there is no guarantee that the funding will still be available (the allocation being exhausted) or that the fund will be topped up in future years. As such the Committee will need to consider the implications for the 2014/15 financial year of designating and supporting nominations.

These initial costs will relate to supporting the parish and town councils in the preparation of a NDP. It is envisaged that parishes will receive some assistance from the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) and be able to obtain grants from Government to develop their own plan. The district council's role is to provide advice on policy matters and to ensure the plan is in conformity with the Local Plan and NPPF. It is not the role of the district council to project manage or write the NDP for a community. There is no budget to provide dedicated assistance, and in any event this would tend to disenfranchise the parishes whose plan it will become.

Once a neighbourhood has produced its NDP it will be subject to external scrutiny, in the same way that a Local Plan exposed to an Examination in Public. Being a smaller document it is unlikely to be subjected to the same level of inquiry, however, it will be for the District Council to pay for the examination by an independent inspector, of our choosing, that is to say, not the planning inspectorate.

Whilst there is nothing to stop a NDP from being examined a head of the adoption of the district council local plan, it is difficult to see how an inspector would found it sound prior to the local plan examination. As such it is unlikely that NDP examinations will take place before summer 2014, though they may be processed in tandem.

If the NDP is found to be 'fit for purpose', and in conformity with the Local Plan and NPPF, the district council will arrange for a referendum to be held, at the district's expense. The acceptance of the NDP will be based on a simple majority of those parishioners voting. Should this be achieved, the LPA must adopt the NDP, adding it to the NPPF and Local Plan as material considerations in planning applications.

The NDP may also indicate additional development opportunities in the parish, such as affordable housing, cross-subsidy housing, sporting / recreational facilities etc. Hooks have been left in the district council's emerging local plan, so as to ensure an NDP which propose such growth can be shown to be compliant.

Should the community reject the NDP, it will fail and have no relevance in planning policy. It should be noted that “no” campaigns have considerable success in referenda, with the status quo tending to prevail.

Government have again provided a fund to assist district council’s with their costs. Following the completion of the examination of an NDP, the Council may apply for up to £25,000 to pay for the inquiry and the referendum. This funding is for district council use and it is not anticipated there will be any surplus to assist parish and town councils. Pathfinder projects have indicated that the funding available does not always cover the cost of managing the process. It should also be noted that the Government funding is capped and is not guaranteed in future years.

Again, the Committee will need to consider budget provisions for the 2014/15 financial year and the medium term plan, to ensure these and other NDP can be accommodated.

Further Consideration

Members should be mindful that the Localism Act places duties on district councils to assist in the preparation of NDPs and NDOs. The duty is not, however, specific about the level at which a district council should offer assistance. Whilst the Government have a policy on regulatory matters (one in, one out) these are new duties on the Council and do not replace a duty which has been withdrawn.

The planning service has managed to accommodate the current expenditure within budget, however it is not able to provide more than basic assistance to parishes, as outlined above, particularly as the Council prepares for the examination in public (public inquiry) on the Local Plan in 2014.

Stroud, together with other parished district councils, is in the fortunate position that only town and parish councils may come forward with neighbourhood designations. There is a widely held view that the legislation was designed primarily for un-parished cities and urban areas where neighbourhoods would not have the ability to raise funds through taxation or levies; and hence the duty to assist was necessary.

Parish and town councils on the other hand have the ability to raise income to cover their expenditure through a precept. It could be argued that the cost of the developing a NDP should, under the concept of localism, be funded by those who will benefit from the plan, rather than the general populous. This will be a matter for consideration at another time.

Conclusion

The Committee agrees to designate the entire parishes of Eastington, Stonehouse and Whiteshill & Ruscombe as neighbourhoods under the Localism Act.

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**AGENDA
ITEM NO**

12 SEPTEMBER 2012

7

Report Title	CARBON MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE
Purpose of Report	To note the achievements to date and consider future projects.
Decision(s)	Committee Resolves to:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To recognise the achievements and performance to date. 2. To consider the future programme, capital costs, revenue and carbon savings.
Consultation and Feedback	The CMP is an internal management document. Monthly officer meetings take place to review progress and to discuss new actions. The Council has the opportunity to sign up to a Local government Association initiative called 'Climate Local', this requires amongst other things to publicise the plan and track its delivery. Historically it was common practice to sign up to such commitments but the interest in and effectiveness of these commitments on top of what we currently achieve is questionable. The Carbon Management Plan and reports fulfil the same role.
Financial Implications	The remainder of the plan for 2013/14 (including the Retrofit Guarantee Loan fund) will be funded from existing budgets. New projects will only take place if suitable funds are allocated although some projects may be able to be delivered from the building maintenance program. Funding for these projects will need to be considered as part of the wider 2013/14 Budget Strategy. David Stanley, Accountancy Manager Tel: 01453 754100 Email: david.stanley@stroud.gov.uk

Risk Assessment	<p>Failing to reduce consumption will impose an increasing financial risk on the organisation when coupled with rising energy prices. This needs to be balanced against the cost of capital works, while making sure that investments achieve the best carbon and financial return possible.</p> <p>Barry Wyatt, Strategic Head of Development Services Tel: 01453 754210 Email: barry.wyatt@stroud.gov.uk</p>
Legal Implications	<p>s.1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides local authorities with a general power of competence. The Council therefore has the power to do anything not prohibited by legislation, subject to general public law principles.</p> <p>The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) issued guidance in July 2012 under the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) requiring local authorities to report on their plans for improving energy efficiency in homes. Local authorities have to identify energy conservation measures that they consider are practicable, cost-effective and likely to result in significant improvement in the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in their area. The first report was to be submitted by 31 March 2013, with further reports to be made every 2 years.</p> <p>The recently updated Affordable Warmth Strategy is the councils plan in respect of the HECA requirement, but in addition the Carbon Management Plan acts as a management tool for monitoring the implementation of actions.</p> <p>Zoe Lash Solicitor Tel: 01453 754362 Email: zoe.lash@stroud.gov.uk</p>
Report Author	<p>Barry Wyatt, Strategic Head of Development Services Tel: 01453 754210 Email: barry.wyatt@stroud.gov.uk</p>
Options	<p>The production of a Carbon Management Plan is a discretionary activity, however, the plan helps the Council to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • achieve it's commitment to tackling climate change by reducing its own CO2 and those of the District

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • manage performance against the requirements of the HECA • achieve financial savings • manage the delivery of projects to reduce fuel poverty <p>In the absence of the CMP other mechanisms would need to be developed to achieve the above.</p>
Performance Management Follow Up	<p>Performance on some aspects will be monitored through Excelsis. The Council's EMAS accreditation considers both the environmental contribution made by the Carbon Management Plan but also the rigour with which the plan is managed. Annual updates will be presented to the Environment Committee. Funding sources for the proposed schemes need to be identified and approved as part of the budget process and consequently will be subject to addition review as part of that process.</p>
Background Papers/ Appendices	<p>Original Carbon Management Programme report and summary http://www.stroud.gov.uk/info/members/cms_documentation/cab-12mar09-Ag18CarbonRedProg.pdf</p> <p>Report on renewable energy opportunities http://www.stroud.gov.uk/info/members/cms_documentation/Ag5_RenewableenergyCabrep_20Dec10_complete.pdf</p> <p>CMP Update July 2011 http://www.stroud.gov.uk/info/members/cms_documentation/Ag11_Carbon_Man.pdf</p> <p>EMAS annual statement 2011/2012 http://www.stroud.gov.uk/info/environment/emas1011.pdf</p>

Introduction and Background

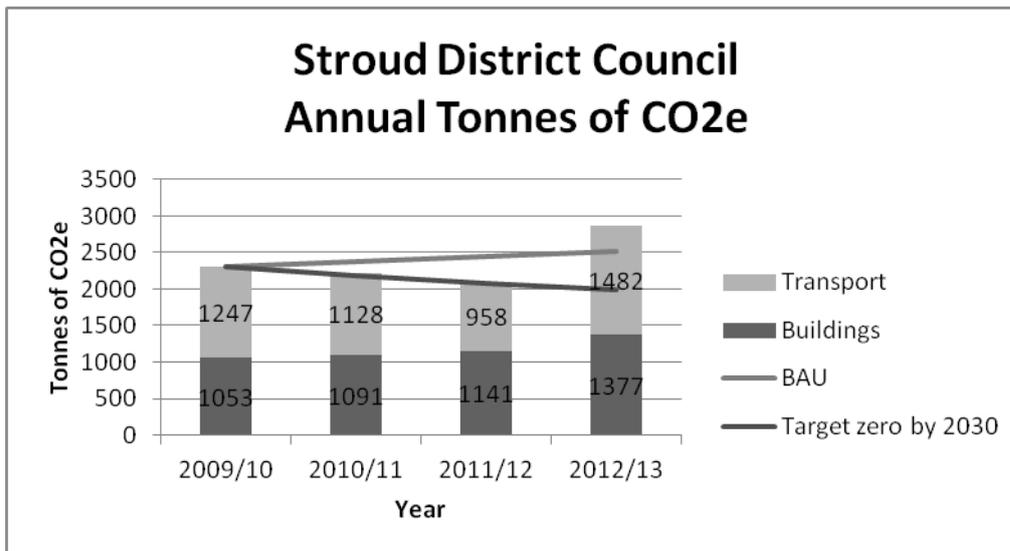
1. In 2007 the Council adopted its Environmental Strategy which set out the Council's ambition to improve the environment through a number of measures. The Carbon Management Plan (CMP) is the main output from the Council's involvement in Round 6 of the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme, overseen by the Carbon Trust. Amongst other actions, the CMP records the projects, both delivered and planned, in order to move towards the Council's aspiration of becoming carbon zero by 2030. The previous target of a 35% reduction in Co2 emissions between 2008 and 2011 was almost achieved with a 32.3% reduction against a 2007/2008 baseline
2. In terms of climate change actions, the focus of the plan is on mitigation measures (those intended to reduce Co2 emissions as opposed to adapting

to the consequences of climate change) both to general fund properties and HRA stock. Other mitigation actions are also covered with projects supporting private sector homes and businesses although these fall outside the zero carbon target which is focused on SDC controlled emissions only.

3. The purpose of this report is to set out the achievements to date and put forward proposals in order to further reduce CO₂ emissions related to both Council related emissions and those of the wider community.

Performance in 2012/2013

4. The performance in 2012/2013 as shown on the graph below shows a significant departure from the zero carbon or business as usual (BAU) trajectory line. However this does not include any Co₂e savings made from offsetting activity such as those resulting from investments in HRA stock; this would reduce the total in the last column by 276 tonnes but still be above the zero carbon target trajectory by 2030. It would also be reasonable to add the Co₂e savings from the hydro power scheme at Dudbridge (60 tonnes) as the Council was a significant contributor and without the Council's involvement it would not have happened.
5. The most significant increase has been from transport emissions associated with the collection of waste and to a lesser extent HRA millage. Another area of increase relates to gas consumption and increased patronage at venues, significantly at SPLC where electricity consumption has increased markedly. Officers are working with SLM to manage consumption more vigorously. The areas of increasing CO₂ emissions highlight the frailty of measuring emissions year on year where the following variations can occur.
 - Changes in Council services
 - Weather variations
 - Changes in patronage
 - Improvements in data collection/billing
6. The calculations can get very complicated, for example we could attempt to offset the increase in CO₂ emissions from waste contractor's vehicles with the CO₂ savings from the reuse of recycled materials. Alternatively if the Council were to close certain facilities then significant CO₂ reductions would occur but obviously the community value of those facilities would be lost. Consequently it is often more useful to look at the carbon performance of each individual project in terms of savings or generation



7. Appendix A sets out the projects from the last two years and the savings that they have contributed. The last table of 'Projects Being Investigated' sets out exactly that and also gives a very brief summary of the current status of those investigations.

Meeting the aspiration

8. As set out in last years report, in order to meet the Zero Carbon aspirations from SDCs own emissions through offsetting would require the following scale of potential projects based on current levels of energy consumption:-

- 5 wind turbines the size of the Ecotricity turbine at Lynch Knoll or
- 2 AD plants such as the one investigated at Stratford Park or
- 50 hydropower schemes such as the proposed installation at Ebley Mill or
- 22820 PV panels

9. Whilst the cost and deliverability of this energy infrastructure, is a challenge, it is likely that opportunities will come forward within the lifetime of this target. The first of those is now developing around 'allowable solutions' which pulls together funding from individual new build projects to invest in larger more efficient infrastructure. However continued reductions in consumption will reduce the amount of energy generating projects needed to offset the remaining emissions.

Wider Community Targets

10. Targets relating to carbon emissions from the wider community are challenging to measure and compare. More significantly it is the ability of the Council to influence community emissions and distinguish what proportion is as a result of an SDC action or initiative, as opposed to an external factor such as rising fuel prices, for example. It is more useful to manage the performance of the process and actions rather than the Co2(e) outcomes.

11. Both in terms of the Council's emissions and those of the wider community, the focus has generally been on 'mitigation' measures i.e. those to reduce carbon emissions in order to reduce the rate of climate change (and also save money on fuel bills!). However 'adaption' measures, those that are necessary to respond to changing climate i.e. flood defences, have always been the Cinderella of climate change action. To spend money in order to reduce the potential impact of an uncertain future event with no definable return on investment, will always be a hard sell. However, the carbon management programme needs to consider adaption activity and arrive at balanced investment judgements between the relative certainties of mitigation actions, versus the uncertainty of the 'payback' of adaptation measures.

Future Projects

12. At this stage it is only possible to place broad estimations on financial and carbon savings and costs of implementation against the actions in the table of the schemes being investigated.

13. The cost of delivering several of the future projects is not accommodated within existing budgets and would need to be considered against other Council priorities. Future schemes will have to demonstrate a competitive return on investment in terms of the energy saved or energy sold and not just on the potential Co2 savings.

Ebley Mill Hydro update

14. A sum of £360,000 remains in the budget to fund the installation of a hydro power scheme at Ebley Mill. This was based on the projected returns reported in the last update. In order to increase the potential return a short assessment has been made regarding the acceptability of increasing the height of the weir in order to generate more power. We are awaiting confirmation from the EA that the increase in weir height and the impact on upstream water levels would be acceptable to them prior to going out to tender on the basis of a design and build arrangement.

Target 2050 Loans update

15. The previous report detailed proposals for the development of a loan scheme which was then called 'Countdown', this was a working title only and the loans will be offered under the existing banner of 'Target 2050'. Since the budget was agreed, the legal arrangements for offering the loans have been developed and the anticipated launch date is the 21st September 2013.

Server Room improvements update

16. The tender process is underway for a contractor to upgrade the cooling system in the sever room. In the interim, maintenance contracts are still in place to maintain the existing cooling system which is still providing

sufficient cooling but is expensive to run and is operating at the upper limits of its capacity.

Current Budget Position

17. Appendix A shows the current position regarding various non HRA budgets that contribute to delivering Carbon Management work (excluding any building maintenance budgets). Some projects have not been able to be delivered or were delivered with some savings. Income has been received for undertaking enforcement work on behalf of the County Council, as a result the £75,000 for the Loan Guarantee fund can be accommodated within existing budgets

Appendix A

Projects Completed 2011/12 (Year 5)

Project and Cost	Annual Savings		CO ₂ reduction % of total
	Financial saving	CO ₂ saving (tonnes)	
Replace existing PC's with Thin Client (90% Complete) (60% more than in 2010/2011)	£5196pa	62	2.7
LED lighting at The Museum in the Park	£2654pa	12	0.5
PV at Dursley Pool and SLPC. Two 50KWP systems	£28000 FiT income pa. £7280 Displaced	46	2.00
PV on Sheltered Schemes 20kwp scheme at Sherborne and 5kwp at Dryleaze Court. 2.2kWp PVT combined with heat pump installed at Springfields Court *(Excluded as HRA not included in 2007 baseline)	£9114 FiT pa Plus value of displaced import £1859	*8.83 *1.78 *3 Retrofit (across all 8 properties) - *12	NR
Total	£54,103	120	5.2
Grand Total against 35% Target by end of 2011	£122,343pa	820	32.30%

Projects Completed 2012/13 (Year 6)

Project	Cost	Return or saving	CO ₂ Saving
Replacement lighting - Museum in the Park	£16417	£2882 pa	13.7 tonnes pa
Doors & Window sealant – Ebley Mill,	£4050	Reduction in drafts & noise Assume £1000	Hard to quantify Est 5 tonnes
Window sealant - Sub Rooms	£2400	Reduction in drafts & noise Assume £500pa	Hard to quantify Est 3 tonnes
Loft insulation – Museum in the Park	£1200	£143 & better temperature control	0.6 tonnes pa
Replacement lighting inc sensor controls – Ebley Mill new build	£6680 inc labour	£166 pa + (lights on for less time) Labour savings n less frequent replacements	2.2 tonnes
Customer site visits systems thinking review	Officer time only		9.7 tonnes
Removal of pressurisation of Stairwells	£0.00	£1000pa	Hard to quantify Est 5 tonnes
Pipe insulation Insulation to hot water pipe work	£1500	£500pa	Hard to quantify Assume 2 tonnes

Updating the affordable warmth Strategy	Officer time	Non to SDC	Non to SDC
HRA funding for a small pilot. To include 20 SDC properties, comprising: replacement flue gas heat recovery boiler, PV, loft insulation, A-rated windows & doors.		FiT returns to SDC – estimated £6,000pa. Fuel cost (£200+/property pa) and	CO2 savings to SDC tenants. (As offset assume 3 tonnes per property 60 tonnes)
Installation of PV systems to 40 HRA homes with existing renewable heating systems	£180k	Electricity cost (estimate £200/property pa) to tenant. FiT return to SDC – estimate £10,000 pa.	CO2 savings to SDC tenants. (As offset assume 3 tonnes per property 120 tonnes)
Installation of PV, air source heat pump and thermal improvements to 32 HRA homes.	Part funded by RHPP2 social landlord competition. SDC £500k.	Fit return to SDC – estimate £9000 pa Fuel cost £200/property pa)	CO2 savings to SDC tenants. (As offset assume 3 tonnes per property 96 tonnes)
Total			No HRA offset 61.9 tonnes With HRA offset 337.9 tonnes

Projects for 2013/14

Project	Cost	Return or saving	CO2 Saving
Ebley Mill Hydro	£360,000 In budget	£31373pa (For 25 years)	51 tonnes pa
Replacement lights – Stratford Park car park & park paths. (order placed)	£19705 In budget	£2452pa	11 tones pa
Micro CHP at SPLC and DP	£100,000 No budget	TBC	
Building Management System. Engage Trend House consultant to advise on upgrade and support of existing IQ2 controllers, sensors and software at Ebley Mill	£2500 No budget	TBC	
Engage specialist consultant to assess economic life of existing boiler plant and pumps in both HRA & General fund assets and to make recommendations on improving efficiency.	£5,000 No budget	Up to £3,500 pa	
Install radiator reflector panels Install radiator reflective panels to the rear of radiators at Ebley Mill	£2,000 In budget	£1000pa	
Consider feasibility of current Optimisation Supply installation at Ebley Mill	£10,000 No budget	Typically 2 years payback	
Revise Ebley Mill Foyer arrangements	£5,000 No budget	Unlikely to give a viable return but increase in comfort of users	
Upgrade of Dursley Pool water filter system with glass media	Additional £500 In budget	20% less water by halving the number of back washes	TBC
Assess the benefits of Installing destratification fans to tall internal spaces inc BBG, BB5 receptions & council chamber	£6,000 No budget	£3000pa	
Countdown Project Guaranteed loan fund	£105,000 Total (£30K development and implementation £75,000 to Loan Guarantee fund) Plus officer time. In budget		

On going roll out of renewable heating installation comprising: Air source heat pump, solar PV, A-rated windows & doors (where required), loft insulation top up, cavity wall fill (where required), external wall insulation (where required), blocking of upvc privacy panels.	Estimated Fit return/property: £300pa for 20 years. Estimated RHI income/property: £600pa for 7 years. Saving to tenant: estimated £200pa (depending on existing heating usage pattern) Estimated Carbon saving: 3 tonnes per property pa. Within HRA budget	
Consider the provision of low emissivity pool cars for site visits and other council business	£TBC No budget	
Investigate insulation measures for SPLC, Dursley Pool & Ebley Mill	£TBC No budget	
Complete replacement lighting at Ebley Mill LB4	£5000	
Total		TBC

Relevant Energy and Environment Budgets

Code	Description	Uncommitted Balance Remaining
4036	Environment Strategy Co ordination (revenue)	£0
4226	Climate Change Planning & Policy (revenue)	£0
8303	Energy Efficiency Invest to Save (capital)	£3000
4200	Energy Efficiency Contract (revenue)	£100k
4223	Climate Change (Match funding) (capital)	£20k
8305	Target 2050 Loan (capital)	£75k

**Stroud District Council
Environment Committee Business Plan 2013/14**

12 September 2013

1. Budget Monitoring Report – Quarter 1 (D Stanley)
2. Neighbourhood Designations – Eastington, Stonehouse and Whiteshill and Ruscombe (Phil Skill)
3. Carbon Management Programme
4. Ash Tree Die Back **(NEW) (No report – Members Information Sheet)**
5. Re-development of Brimscombe Port – progress report **(NEW) (No report Members Information Sheet)**
6. Business Plan

31 October 2013

1. Budget Monitoring Report Quarter 2 (D Stanley)
2. Re-development of Brimscombe Port – final report **(NEW) DELETED** (I Edwards)
3. New Earth Solutions, Sharpness **(NEW – arrange for a site visit for members who wish to attend – no report)**
4. Food Project **(NEW)** (I Edwards)
5. Multi-Services Contract **(NEW)** (R Figg)
6. Community Infrastructure Levy, to agree direction of travel. (M Russell)

5 December 2013

1. Revised Budget 2013/14 and Draft Budget 2014/15 (D Stanley)
2. Business Plan
3. Waste Contract - Alternative approaches to waste disposal **(NEW) DELETED REPLACED WITH MULT SERVICES CONTRACT – FEB** (R Figg)

4 February 2014

1. Budget Monitoring Report Quarter 3 (D Stanley)
2. Multi-Services Contract Update **(NEW)** (R Figg)
3. Business Plan

13 March 2014

1. Business Plan

13 June 2013

1. Introduction to Environment Committee
2. Appointments to Outside Bodies
3. Environment Committee Budgets 2013/14
4. Business Plan

8 July 2013 (Special Meeting)

1. Stroud District Local Plan 2014-2031