

# ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## Environment and Climate Change Group

**14<sup>th</sup> January 2014 @ 12:50pm**  
**Conference Room 1, Town Hall**

### **Present:**

Cllr K Wyatt (**Chairperson**)

Cllr E Wallis

Laura Mellor (**Minutes**)

David Rhodes

Tracie Seals

Tom Bell

Ian Blagg

Howard Tweed

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b><u>Apologies for Absence</u></b>  Cllr Watson Cllr Roche Zafar Saleem	<b>All to note</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b><u>Previous Minutes</u></b>  There were no issues raised with the previous minutes.	<b>All to note</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b><u>Report on Environment and Climate Change Strategy key area and objectives:</u></b>  <b><u>Housing</u></b>  A report (Appendix A) was presented by Tom Bell and Tracie Seals expanding on the following areas:  <b><u>Objective 1</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SAP ratings are expected to continue to improve.</li><li>• Cllr Wyatt commented that these measures must be helping towards fuel poverty. TB agreed that some of the measures are making a big difference and some households are saving a significant amount of money. Examples of these savings are:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ External wall insulation. Potential saving of £440 – £490 per year for a 3 bed semi.</li><li>○ Cavity/Loft insulation. Potential saving of £120 - £140 per year for a 3 bed semi.</li></ul></li></ul> <b><u>Objective 2</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The objective centres on improving access to information on energy efficiency for all Rotherham residents.</li><li>• Paul Maplethorpe, RMBC Home Energy Officer is a main contact for Rotherham's residents for energy efficiency advice.</li></ul>	

	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brad Johnson offers energy advice to the schools including carrying out visits and training teachers and students.</li> <li>• DR mentioned that he went to a RMBC website drop-in sessions for the new Council website and the majority of the information that was uploaded on there is no longer visible. He has asked Paul Maplethorpe to attend the next drop-in session to look at this from a Housing point of view.</li> </ul> <p><u>Objective 3</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RMBC have done very well at getting bids in early and obtaining funding from various sources.</li> </ul> <p><u>Objective 4</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing is working closely with the Planning Department towards this objective.</li> <li>• Cllr Wallis asked what can/has been done to improve energy efficiency in flats. Tracie Seals said that Cavity Wall insulation can be installed in some flats with external walls. There have also been large roofing schemes taking places on several blocks of flats recently, this helps to improve the energy efficiency of buildings. In some of the communal areas there have been schemes to replace resident's doors.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Procurement &amp; Resources</u></b></p> <p>A report (Appendix B) was presented by Ian Blagg and Howard Tweed expanding on the following areas:</p> <p><u>Objective 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IB stated that Environmental and Sustainability questions are built into all pre-tender questionnaires.</li> </ul> <p><u>Objective 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Wyatt enquired about whether meet the buyer events still take place. IB said that as far as he knew there hadn't been one in Rotherham in the last 2-3 years but they still took place in the SCR and he had attended one recently with Costco.</li> </ul> <p><u>Objective 3</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DR stated that the WWF pledge for purchasing sustainable timber had been cancelled due to the WWF reporting requirements; lack of resources and in reality EU legislation prevented non sustainable timber from entering the market.</li> <li>• TB stated that there is collaboration between Housing and Procurement.</li> </ul>	

		<b>Action</b>										
<b>4.</b>	<p><b><u>Key Area Objectives to be reviewed at the next meeting:</u></b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="314 259 1160 741"> <tr><td>1. Strategic Planning and Policy</td></tr> <tr><td><del>2. Built and Natural Environment</del></td></tr> <tr><td>3. <b>Emergency Planning and Recovery, Social Care and Health</b></td></tr> <tr><td><del>4. Energy and Water</del></td></tr> <tr><td>5. Engagement, Education And Awareness Raising</td></tr> <tr><td><del>6. Housing</del></td></tr> <tr><td><del>7. Procurement and Resources</del></td></tr> <tr><td>8. Regeneration and Business</td></tr> <tr><td>9. Transport</td></tr> <tr><td>10. Waste and Recycling</td></tr> </table>	1. Strategic Planning and Policy	<del>2. Built and Natural Environment</del>	3. <b>Emergency Planning and Recovery, Social Care and Health</b>	<del>4. Energy and Water</del>	5. Engagement, Education And Awareness Raising	<del>6. Housing</del>	<del>7. Procurement and Resources</del>	8. Regeneration and Business	9. Transport	10. Waste and Recycling	<b>All to note</b>
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<b>5.</b>	<p><b><u>Any Other Business</u></b></p> <p>The next scheduled meeting will focus on Adaptation to Climate Change including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency Planning and Recovery, Social Care and Health – adaption measures:</li> <li>• EU funded Camino project presentation – Andy Newton / John Blanksby, University of Sheffield.</li> <li>• Additional key areas that work directly with adaptation e.g. Drainage and Highways; Development Control.</li> </ul>	<b>All to note</b>										
<b>6.</b>	<p><b><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting</u></b></p> <p>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2014; 12:30pm – 1:30pm, Rotherham Town Hall, Committee Room 1.</p>	<b>All to note</b>										

## Appendix A to ECCG Minutes dated 14<sup>th</sup> January 2014

<b>key Area</b>	<i>Housing</i>
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	<i>Tom Bell</i>
<b>Date</b>	<i>14 January 2014</i>
<b>Objective 1:</b> Improve the energy efficiency of social housing as measured through the SAP rating	
<b>Actions and progress;</b> <p>The SAP rating across the stock has improved slightly during the year from 57.08 (Jan 2013) to 57.36 (Jan 2014) – This year we have been improving our data base to help provide more accurate investment information. Further work is underway with more Energy Performance Certificates being generated not only on void and Right to Buy properties, but also an exercise is currently being carried out utilising surveyors from Michael Dyson Associates, to perform up to 500 additional EPCs at East Dene, Harthill and Rawmarsh – targeting properties where our existing knowledge is not as comprehensive as it could be. The findings will inform the capital programme of works to be undertaken in 14/15.</p> <b>Improve insulation</b> <p>A significant amount of capital investment has been made during the year to improve the thermal efficiency of the Council's stock:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 168 homes are currently receiving external wall insulation in Wath, as are</li><li>• 84 homes in Rawmarsh</li><li>• 3 homes in Maltby</li><li>• 168 non-trad homes also in Wath, and</li><li>• 14 homes in Swinton</li><li>• The total investment in these areas is over £2.6m</li></ul> <p>We are also undertaking a number of thermal imaging surveys of External Wall Insulation and render works to non-trad homes to ensure that works have been carried out effectively and to demonstrate that savings are being made for the household.</p> <p>The Council has continued, albeit on a much reduced scale, to enable installation of cavity and loft insulation to Council homes; most properties have received insulation measures over the last few years and it is just a remaining few No access or households that have previously refused works which remain.</p> <p>A pilot programme to overhaul windows to Band A was completed (rather than take them out and replace with new) – the outcomes are being considered to determine whether this approach is feasible for large projects</p> <b>Improve heating systems</b> <p>308 Sedbuk Band A rated boilers have been installed so far this year with a budget of £2.8m</p> <b>3 Improve energy awareness</b> <p>See Objective 3</p>	

**Objective 2:** Improve and maintain access to information on energy efficiency for Rotherham residents

**Actions and progress;**

Rotherham Residents are able to access information via a variety agencies and formats.

1. Agencies offering advice include; Energy Saving Trust (EST), National Energy Action (NEA), Rotherham Age UK, Rotherham Stay Put (HIA) and the Council including Public Health
2. Many residents are referred directly on to the Councils Home Energy Officer, Paul Maplethorpe. He receives approximately 40 referrals per week from a variety of sources including; EST, Citizens Advice, Councillor and MP surgeries. NHS and Hot Spot referrals. Advice is tailored to the individual household circumstances and includes sending out fact sheets and home visits.
3. Public Health are marketing Keeping Warm in Later Life via partnerships with Rotherham Age UK and CAB using advice booklets. The Health and Wellbeing Board have recently been successful in drawing down funding from the NEA to provide community fuel poverty training, which will be completed by 31st March 2014.
4. Schools are engaged in home energy advice programmes with funding and an officer providing training for teachers and school children. This programme is externally funded and enables school visits to take place
5. A Warm Zone was established in the north of the Borough which enabled green doctors to go door to door offering energy advice
6. Websites continue to be a valuable source of information and the Council site is due to be updated to reflect the latest announcements on the Green Deal Programme

**Objective 3:** Obtain external funding to support energy efficiency initiatives

**Actions and progress;**

Promote ECO/Green Deal

Funding bids continue to be applied for, as and when available, to improve energy efficiency in the private sector. To date we have achieved or are working towards;

- CESP (2012/13): 1,209 (predominantly private) properties in 5 localities have received energy efficiency improvements, including solid wall insulation and boiler replacements equivalent to approx. £11m of investment. Savings experienced by residents are equivalent to £500/year.
- DECC LA Competition (2013/14) – fuel poverty: £400k was successfully received to provide loft and cavity wall insulation to private properties, which wouldn't benefit from ECO related schemes or Green Deal. The first phase delivered 108 measures and 120 measures have been identified for a second phase. It is anticipated that a third phase will be offered but it is unknown at present what amount of funding will be available to spend.
- DECC LA Communities Fund (2013/14): An application has been made for funding of £1.23m to promote Green Deal finance in areas with a high concentration of designated defective non-traditional private sector dwellings. It is anticipated that a decision regarding our submission, to target 182 households, will be known in mid-January 2014.
- NEA Fuel Poverty scheme (2013/14): We have been successful in receiving officer support (12 days) from the NEA to contribute towards reducing fuel

poverty in Wentworth/Harley and Brampton Bierlow and develop a programme of activity to engage CYPS in the issue of fuel poverty. This scheme will be complete by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014

- Establishing a Green Deal partnership with three Green Deal Providers who will have responsibility for delivering Green Deal/ECO related schemes in determined geographical areas of the borough. A tender process has been completed and the top three providers are currently being considered for sign-up to a Rotherham Green Deal Partnering Framework. The scale of this partnership is unknown but initial calculations indicate an investment value of approx. £40m.

#### **Objective 4; Aim to achieve zero carbon new residential development**

##### **Actions and progress;**

Evaluate the outcome of the Government Building Standards review announced by Government October 2012, with expected changes in 2013 resulting in:

- Developing target(s) to achieve the objectives in line with changes to building standards.

Implement key actions to ensure compliance

- In terms of the private sector 'Waverley New Community' is a residential scheme of considerable size, around 3900 dwellings in total will be built, with the initial phases coming forward at Code level 4 – which is above building regulations targets for CO2 emissions. This site accounts for a large portion of new builds in Rotherham.
- There has been a push from central government to bring elements such as energy performance into building regulations rather than through supplementary planning documents and guidance. However Rotherham's Core Strategy has provisionally been given the green light by the planning inspectorate and is due to be formally adopted mid way through the year, and this makes the case for sustainable development with further specific policies on sustainability to come forward.
- Bassingthorpe Farm is another large scheme which may be coming to fruition on the back of an approved Core Strategy, designs are only indicative for the land parcels but aspirations are to meet Carbon Neutral targets set by the Government for 2016.
- There has been a planning approach to promote fabric first developments that can adapt and improve in terms of renewable at a later date; essentially what we are trying to do is reduce the demand for energy to a minimum before looking at renewables.
- RSL's have been hit by reduced grant funding and as such have had to scale back specifications to deliver carbon neutral schemes to ensure they have financially viable developments whilst still meeting current building regulations.
- Building regulations are to change this year, with an increased demand on Carbon reductions, comparable with code level 4 CO2 emissions.
- We have made progress by delivering RSL and council housing to a high level of the code (4 to 6), utilizing a range of different micro renewable methods, and will be exploring cost efficient ways to deliver passive house measures through the development of further new council housing.
- In spring 2014 the Renewable Heat Incentive will be open to custom/self builders, but no other form of new housing.

<b>a. Links to national / local performance indicators</b>
Nil
<b>b. Obstacles</b>
Funding & resources
<b>c. Resources</b>
Nil
<b>Next Steps and Future Actions</b>
Continued improvements sought
<b>Environment and Climate Change Group Comments</b>
Cllr Wyatt commented that there are many areas of good practice that should be communicated

**Signed: Tom Bell**

**Date: Jan 2014**

## Appendix B to ECGG Minutes dated 14<sup>th</sup> January 2014

<b>key Area</b>	<i>Procurement</i>
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	<i>Simon Bradley</i>
<b>Date</b>	<i>07/01/2014</i>
<b>Objective 1:</b> Promote sustainability and environmental considerations through procurement activities	
Environmental and sustainability questions are built into all Pre-tender questionnaires (PTQ's) and are used to appraise an organisation on their fitness and ability to work with RMBC. The questions are appropriately weighted in accordance with their relevance and importance to the contract being tendered.	
<b>Objective 2:</b> Encourage procurement of local products and services	
<p>Local suppliers, voluntary &amp; community organisations, are actively encouraged to register on the YORtender procurement e-tendering portal used by 25 local authorities across the Yorkshire and Humber region.</p> <p>Procurement engages with the local supply base through forward plans, contracts register and prior market engagement is provided to support through training and workshops to local providers in readiness for submitting their tender documentation electronically on the YORtender portal.</p> <p>Meet the buyer events</p> <p>Breakdown of tenders into lots where appropriate to encourage more bids from local providers</p> <p>Longer term agreements in place to give a higher level of financial security to local providers</p> <p>Feedback to successful and unsuccessful bidders</p> <p>The invitation to tender documents (ITT) include where relevant to the contract, questions on the use of local labour and supply chains. The questions are appropriately weighted in accordance with their relevance and importance to the contract being tendered.</p> <p>Agreements are already in place providing apprenticeships opportunities and using local supply chains.</p>	
<b>Objective 3:</b> Where feasible, purchase goods and materials that can be manufactured and disposed of in an environmentally sustainable way	
<p>Procurement evaluates the goods and materials as part of the tender process to ensure they are fit for purpose and comply with all appropriate legislation (i.e. Chain of custody for Timber), EU standards and to the specifications required by the customer.</p> <p>Questions are asked in the ITT on the disposal of goods / materials at the end of life where appropriate.</p>	
<b>a. Links to national / local performance indicators</b>	
Nil	
<b>b. Obstacles</b>	



Smaller organisation sometimes do not put much focus on sustainability and environmental factors.

**c. Resources**

Current

**Next Steps and Future Actions**

Continue to work with the supply base to increase the focus on sustainability.

**Environment and Climate Change Group Comments**

Nil

**Signed:** .....

**Date:** .....