

Meeting Date	29 July 2010
Report Title	Update on work of Climate Change Officer
Portfolio Holder	Cllr David Simmons
SMT Lead	Louise Matthews
Head of Service	David Clifford
Lead Officer	Janet Hill
Key Decision	No
Classification	Open
Forward Plan	Reference number:

Recommendations	1. To note the report
	2.
	3.

Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

1.1 This report is to update the Scrutiny Committee on the work of the Climate Change Officer.

2 Background

2.1 Following the May elections, and the restructuring of the Scrutiny Committee, it was decided that Climate Change would no longer be one of its areas of investigation. However the Committee wishes to receive regular updates on the work of the Climate Change Officer.

3 Main Report

3.1 Since the last report to Scrutiny – 4th November 2009 – the Climate Change Officer has

- Arranged climate change strategy workshops for officers and the LSP. We are about to put out the final draft for consultation.
- Attended and inputted into Kent Climate Change Network meetings and training events. KCC leads on these events which support our work on NI 186 (CO₂ emissions per capita) and NI 188 (adapting to climate change)
- Calculated our NI 185 (CO₂ emissions from our own operations) results for 2009/10 – a fall of 3%
- Submitted our NI 188 results – level 2

- Attended Salix workshops to share best practise with other local authorities who are also in receipt of Salix funding for carbon saving measures. The Faversham pool cover was used as a case study. Covers are now in place in all the borough's pools. Other projects for Salix funding are being developed.
- Commented on planning applications.
- Contributed to the development of the Core Strategy of the LDF
- Arranged climate change and risk training for SMT and other officers led by Dr Sarah Anderson, KCC Climate Change lead officer. Climate change risk is being built into service plans
- Collated evidence to support NI 186
- Developed the scrutiny scoping report with Cllr Ellen, however Climate Change is no longer a topic for investigation.
- Continued to work one day a week at Ashford Borough Council
- Been a guest speaker at a British Trust for Conservation Volunteers sustainability workshop and at Canterbury Farmers' Club February meeting.
- Joined a shadow CRC scheme to prepare SBC for CRC should the qualifying threshold fall.
- Supported the development of the LSP Environment and Liveability thematic sub group.
- Worked with the Energy Saving Trust (EST) under their One to One Programme to produce a community carbon action plan. However due to budget cuts the EST is unable to sustain its support to us and the funding to carry forward the action plan (up to £25k) has been withdrawn
- Contributed to the Audit Commission's Use of Resources Assessment, particularly the Use of Natural Resources key line of enquiry. Informal feedback suggests a level 3 – only a few councils have achieved this nationally.
- Following the change in Government, the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) Lead for Kent has advised us that all CAA Use Of Resources and Managing Performance related activities are to cease with immediate effect. We will now need to consider added value of continuing to produce case studies for natural resources

4 Alternative Options

4.1 none.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

5.1 n/a

6 Implications

Note: To avoid challenges to decisions, it is important to be able to show that all relevant implications have been identified and that due consideration has been given to any issues raised. If no implications are identified for an issue then *none identified at this stage* should be entered in the implications box.

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Creating a cleaner and greener Swale Becoming a high performing organisation
Financial, Resource and Property	Savings should occur as a result of carbon saving measures.
Legal and Statutory	None at this stage – in the future we may become liable for the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC)
Crime and Disorder	none
Risk Management and Health and Safety	There is a need to build climate change risk into service plans
Equality and Diversity	none
Sustainability	Without progress on climate change we will become less sustainable as an organisation.

7 Appendices

7.1 There are no appendices

8 Background Papers

8.1 Report to Scrutiny 4 November 2009.