Report of the Corporate Services & Partnerships Policy Overview Committee 2013/14

Reducing Our Carbon Footprint

Members of the Committee

Cllr Richard Lewis (Chairman)
Cllr Richard Mills (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Lindsay Bliss
Cllr Wayne Bridges
Cllr Beulah East
Cllr Raymond Graham
Cllr Carol Melvin

Contents

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

The Committee was greatly encouraged at the work the Council had already carried out in relation to improving its environmental performance by reducing its carbon emissions. Savings had been made in energy costs and the move to the procurement of greener energy, and many energy efficiency measures had been undertaken throughout the Council.

During the review, Members were made aware of the number of excellent energy efficiency initiatives and schemes which this Council publicised for residents of the Borough, to help with rising energy costs and to reduce domestic carbon emissions. The Committee asked that these schemes be further promoted, together with help for residents and local businesses on the process for switching energy suppliers to enable them to get the best deal for their gas and electricity.

The recommendations of the review centre around four principal themes which could place this Council in a stronger position in terms of a reduction in the Council's and residents' Carbon Emissions. In the long term this could lead to reduced energy and fuel costs and a decrease in Carbon Reduction Commitment allowances (carbon taxes) that this Council pays.

There are exciting opportunities around possible anaerobic digestion projects and the potential for heat and power networks which would produce cheaper, greener and locally produced heat and energy. More detailed feasibility studies are required before the Council makes a firm commitment to such schemes, but the review has provided the Council with an opportunity to consider these initiatives as part of this Council's energy Strategy.

I would like to thank the witnesses and the officers who have expertly supported the review and I commend this report and the recommendations contained within, to the Cabinet for consideration.

Chairman of the Corporate Services & Partnerships Policy Overview Committee

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Corporate Services & Partnerships Policy Overview Committee recommends:-

RECOMMENDATION 1:

That the Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Business Services considers whether to develop a corporate energy policy statement and strategy to help the Council in its approach to carbon reduction, for approval at a subsequent Cabinet meeting.

RECOMMENDATION 2:

That the Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Business Services asks officers to look at the feasibility of recording Council carbon emissions and carbon mitigated on a plus and minus balance sheet to give a fuller picture on the Council's carbon footprint and enable proactive monitoring by officers.

RECOMMENDATION 3:

That the Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Business Services considers whether to ask officers to enter into discussions with the Department of Energy and Climate Change Heat Network Delivery Unit on a district heat and power capability in Hillingdon, including outline concepts, business case, costs benefit analysis and feasibility.

RECOMMENDATION 4:

That the Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Business Services considers whether to ask officers to undertake further discussions and research with a view to supporting a small scale Anaerobic Digestion project in the New Years Green Lane area, if financially viable for the Council.

BACKGROUND

What is a Carbon Footprint?

A basic definition of a carbon footprint is the total sets of greenhouse gas emissions caused by an organisation, an event, a product or a person. However, because calculating total carbon footprints is impossible due to the large amount of data required and the fact that carbon dioxide can be produced by natural occurrences, a more practicable definition is:

"A measure of the total amount of carbon dioxide and methane emissions of a defined population, system or activity, considering all relevant sources, sinks and storage within the spatial and temporal boundary of the population, system or activity of interest. Calculated as carbon dioxide equivalent using the relevant 100 year global warming potential (GWP100)."

This Council as with all public sector organisations is required to purchase Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) allowances from the Department of Energy and Climate Change. The Council is required to measure and report its electricity and gas related carbon emissions annually, following a specific set of measurement rules. Following that measurement and reporting, the Council is required to buy allowances for every tonne of carbon they emit (relating to electricity and gas).

The Government's CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme (CRC EES) aims to regulate and reduce the carbon emissions (tonnes of carbon dioxide) of large consumers of energy in both the private and public sectors.

Participants in CRC EES are required to monitor and report on their energy consumption and incentivized to reduce their emissions primarily through a financial driver (the purchase of allowances to cover carbon emissions).

What is the current carbon emitted from Council buildings and from Street Lighting?

The Council's Carbon Emissions for 2012/13 i.e. the tonnes of carbon (gas and electric) emitted from Council buildings and street lighting is broken down into the following:

- Academies – 10,941
- General Fund – 9,023 (Civic Centre accounts for 50% of General Fund emissions)
- Housing Revenue Account – 237
- Street Lighting – 5,387
- LA Schools – 8,949

This all totals 34,737 tonnes of carbon.

Therefore, a reduction in the Council's consumption of electricity and gas and the resultant decrease in carbon emissions could decrease the level of spending on the CRC allowances in future years.

Energy Costs

The Committee was provided with details of the present levels of energy costs for this Council with present energy contracts totaling approximately £21m over 4 years. The Council's Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) allowances are projected to cost £357,000 for the final year of Phase I of the scheme (2013-14). As reported to Cabinet on 20th March 2014 annual emissions in Phase II of the scheme (April 2014 to March 2019) is projected at 15,507 tCO2 (tonnes carbon dioxide).

Based on a carbon cost of £15.60 per tCO2 CRC Allowances are projected to cost £241,909 in 2014-15.

Reference was made to a Climate Change Levy (CCL) which was an environmental tax on energy supplies and was levied on all non-domestic energy supplies. Hillingdon's present levy is £280,000 per annum. From 1st April 2014 CCL rates will increase by 3.24% for electricity and 3.3% for gas as announced in 2014 Budget. CCL rates will increase again from 1st April 2015.

The Committee was made aware that for 2014/15, Academies and Schools would be removed from the reporting requirements of CRC and Street Lighting would be included. Therefore this would impact on the Council's CRC.

Reference was made to a Climate Change Levy which was an environmental tax on energy supplies and was levied on all non-domestic energy supplies. Hillingdon's present levy is £280,000 per annum.

The Committee was encouraged throughout its review at the improved environmental performance of the Council which had saved the Council money and reduced carbon emissions, together with the Council's move to the procurement of energy on a greener tariff.

The Council had saved money with an improved environmental performance with energy related works. Energy efficiency measures which had taken place in the Civic Centre had included improving the building fabric and insulation, an extensive lighting programme which included the installation of LED tubes.

Reference was made to the energy efficiency improvements made through a Chiller replacement which had taken place with the air conditioning system in the Civic Centre.

Upgrading the boilers and pipe work for direct hot water services meant the main boilers at the civic were not needed all year round. This also led to a saving on the annual gas costs at the Civic Centre.

ICT upgrades had taken place which reduced energy costs and usage. PCs in the Civic Centre automatically shut down in the evenings

Examples were given of the Council's greener approach to energy in the form of renewable power. These included:

- Solar Photovoltaic which had been installed at Sibley Court and the Civic Centre.
- Solar Thermal power which had been installed at Botwell Leisure Centre.
- Combined Heat and Power systems which had been installed at Hillingdon Sports Centre and Triscott House and which had been considered for the Civic Centre.

To help the Committee achieve the aims of the review, support was given throughout its review by the Council's Energy Team and evidence and professional advice was received from a number of internal witnesses.

Structure

Over the course of the review, the Committee received information on a variety of areas such as street lighting, electric cars and electric charging points, energy efficiency measures for residents and for businesses. However four major themes were identified which form the principal strategic areas of the review. The report has therefore been produced around these themes, as follows:

1. Establishing an Energy Policy and Strategy
2. Establishing Hillingdon's Carbon Balance Sheet
3. Heat Networks Funding Stream
4. Energy from Waste: Current position and Anaerobic Digestion.

It should be noted that, in order to keep this report as accessible as possible, much of the contextual information relating to the review can either be found through the external sources highlighted in the Background Reading list or within the minutes of the meetings of the Corporate Services & Partnerships Policy Overview Committee which are found at:-

http://modgov.hillingdon.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=243&Year=2014

Establishing an Energy Policy Statement and Strategy

The Committee's review highlighted a number of areas where the organisation has reduced carbon and saved or avoided expenditure over the last 4 years. These achievements have spanned work areas such as waste management, housing, facilities, major construction and education. However, they have not necessarily been conducted as part of an energy policy and strategy. The key drivers so far are to make financial savings for the Council, maintain compliance and improve quality and efficiency of services.

In 2007, the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change which sets out the intention to work with residents and businesses to reduce carbon emissions. However, this did not commit the Council, or others, to stating any targets toward carbon reduction. Later in 2011 the Local Government Group and The Department of Energy and Climate Change signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to define targets and establish actions for local authorities.

The development of a strategy could identify the key technologies and programmes required to help the Council in meeting the national and local targets on carbon reduction and low or zero carbon energy generation.

Suggested Draft Policy Statement

As a suggested draft from the Committee for the Cabinet Member to consider, “The Council recognises its contributing role to the 80% greenhouse gas emissions reduction target set out in the Climate Change Act 2008 and fuel poverty targets arising from the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000. It also recognises the target to supply 15% of the UK’s energy consumption from renewable energy by 2020 as set out in the 2009 Renewable Energy Directive and its obligations under the London Plan.

The Council will contribute further to these goals by assessing and targeting energy use in the Council's own estate and operations and energy use within Council control. The Council will use its influence in homes, businesses, transport infrastructure and procurement, where permissible and prudent, to support a local sustainable economy. The Council will review and, where possible, participate in national carbon reduction policies to be delivered at a local level."

With a view to this, the Committee recommends to Cabinet:

1	**That the Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Business Services considers whether to develop a corporate energy policy statement and strategy to help the Council in its approach to carbon reduction, for approval at a subsequent Cabinet meeting.**

Establishing Hillingdon's Carbon Balance Sheet

During various witness sessions the Committee received information on the areas which the Council was working on to reduce the Council's carbon footprint, to help residents of the Borough reduce their carbon emissions and some of the carbon offsetting work which was taking place throughout the Borough.

For example, in relation to the Civic Centre as described earlier in the report, a wide range of energy efficiency measures had taken place which had improved energy efficiency and reduced the Council's carbon usage.

During this inquiry, it was established that while a number of areas of the Council's business led to carbon emissions, other areas led to reductions, mitigated carbon or raised the potential for further reductions in current use.

It was noted emissions arising from buildings and vehicles could be accounted for through such measures as kilowatt hours or vehicle emissions per mile. It was also noted that green procurement methods and measures could assist with a reduced carbon portfolio and, particularly in relation to vehicles, assist with air quality in the Borough.

Further analysis revealed the operations which the Council had control over, such as tree planting and maintenance of existing Council owned trees, could have also have a positive effect on carbon emissions. Increasing recycling rates and generating energy from waste were also noted to have positive effects on reducing carbon emissions.

Measures to reduce domestic carbon emissions

In Housing, it was also considered that measures which the Council invested in, led to a carbon reduction for residents, as well as helping them save money on their bills. The Committee was provided with evidence on what the Council was doing in terms of this.

Reference was made to the Energy Company Obligation (ECO), which was a new Government led energy savings scheme which was funded by energy suppliers. There was an Energy Company Obligation of £327,000 with a minimum target of achieving 120 heating measures, 10 solid wall insulations, 60 loft and cavity wall insulation and 5 hard to treat cavity wall insulations.

The Committee was informed that the main purpose of ECO was to reduce the amount of carbon emissions and to help reduce fuel poverty.

With ECO, Energy Companies were obligated in three ways:

- Home Heating Cost Reduction Obligation (HHRCO) – This would fund boiler replacements for those on certain benefits but was only for private sector housing.
- Carbon Emission Reduction Obligation (CERO) – This focused on solid wall or hard-to-treat cavity wall insulation and applied to all tenures. This amounted to around £8-10k per property.

- Carbon Savings Community Obligation (CSCO) – This focused on loft and cavity wall insulation within 15% of the most deprived Lower Super Output areas in the Borough, and applied to all tenures.

During the review, the Committee was informed that there had been a national advertising campaign for ECO and publicity had been given on the Council's public website, through Hillingdon People and at numerous community events.

This publicity was reinforced by further information being provided on the Council's website, together with information for residents and for local businesses on helping them switch energy providers and providing information on energy efficiency measures to reduce energy costs and carbon emissions.

Reference was also made to the new £20 million Green Deal Communities scheme which had been introduced by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) to help local authorities drive street-by-street delivery of this scheme. Subsequent to the review, the Council was informed that it had been awarded £3m from DECC to carry out energy efficiency work to property in the Borough.

The Council would identify target streets and areas in the Borough that could most benefit from the Green Deal, and then offer incentives to households in these areas to encourage them to install energy efficiency home improvements under the Green Deal. The Council would propose incentives as part of their bids for funding, which would be assessed by DECC.

Use of Development Planning to reduce the Carbon Footprint

The Council's Principal Sustainability Officer provided a paper which informed Members that the Council had been implementing the London Plan requirements for carbon reductions in new developments. Until 1 October 2013, these required new major developments to reduce emissions by 25% from building regulations (minimum standard). However, from 1 October 2013 all new major developments must demonstrate a 40% reduction in CO2, which would be difficult to achieve.

The Committee was informed that, where a developer could not achieve the savings onsite, the Council would ask for offsite contributions via Section 106 (i.e. developer funds). This would then enable the Council to make carbon reductions elsewhere.

Members were provided with examples of what work had been carried out to ensure developments met the 40% target with offsite contributions. Particular reference was made to the Council's School Building Programme which had saved £100k and ensured improvements to inefficient buildings

Urban greening and Off-setting work

The Committee was provided with details of the carbon off-setting work (carbon sinks) which was taking place through the planning system. It was recognised that the plantation of more trees in the north of Borough would be a useful method of providing more carbon sinks. However, of more benefit would be the planting of more trees in the

south of the Borough as this area suffered some poor air quality and was acknowledged that vegetation not only removed carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, but also other harmful emissions such as those from transportation.

In the last planting season (November 2012 - March 2013) the Council had planted 704 street and roadside trees.

The amount of Carbon a tree would offset depended on a number of factors, such as the type of tree, where it was planted and the amount of room it had to grow. On average, one broad leaf tree would absorb in the region of 1 tonne of carbon dioxide during its full life-time (approximately 100 years). Therefore with an estimated 16,000 trees planted alongside the Borough's roads and highways this would absorb around 16,000 tons of carbon.

The Committee concluded that the Council was in a positive position in terms of the work which was being done, both by the Council, and by residents in relation to reducing carbon emissions.

To highlight this, the Council could produce a balance sheet which presented details of the Council's carbon emissions and the mitigating measures which were taking place to reduce carbon emissions.

Likely areas to be covered by the balance sheet:

Carbon emitted	***Carbon mitigated***
Operational Buildings	Demand Reduction Projects
Landlords Housing Supplies	Housing Energy Projects
Street lighting	Recycling
Council Fleet Vehicles and Staff Mileage	Energy from Waste
	Council owned trees and planting
	Green Energy Procurement

A fuller, accurate picture of the positive carbon effects of the Council's operations, may present scope for discussions with Central Government to mitigate or offset some of the carbon taxes currently paid by Council. This was a new idea proposed by the Committee during discussions and worthy of further exploration.

With a view to this, the Committee recommends to Cabinet:

2 **That the Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Business Services asks officers to look at the feasibility of recording Council carbon emissions and carbon mitigated on a plus and minus balance sheet to give a fuller picture on the Council's carbon footprint and enable proactive monitoring by officers.**

Decentralised Energy - Heat and Power

During the review, the Committee was provided with information on decentralised energy and the use of heat and power to generate energy. This concept is essentially energy that is produced for local use which reduces the requirement for large power stations.

The Committee was informed that decentralised energy was an efficient source of energy and used less carbon based fuel to do more work. Information was provided to the Committee on the potential for heat and power networks within the Borough.

Reference was made to the Energy Centre and heat network at Bunhill, in the London Borough of Islington.

This was set up to provide cheaper, greener, locally-produced heat. The heat network was fed by a local energy centre which produced electricity and heat. In the same way that we use heat from a car engine to keep us warm when driving, the energy centre uses the heat created from producing electricity to help heat buildings and provide hot water.

The Committee was informed that the central power stations which produce most of our electricity waste up to two thirds of their energy, mostly through wasted heat. The energy centre at Bunhill produces electricity on a smaller scale and the otherwise wasted heat is captured and piped around the heat network. This therefore makes the energy centre much more efficient, cheaper and greener and provides residents in Bunhill with affordable warmth and helps in the reduction of carbon emissions.

The local heat network was a series of underground pipes which carried hot water between the local energy centre (where the heat is generated) and the buildings connected to the network. The heat network consists of two parallel pipes, one which carries hot water to buildings in the network and the other returning the cooler water to the energy centre. The heat is then transported through these pipes to the boiler houses in each building and then from the boiler houses, the heat is transferred to the existing central heating system which will then carry the heat to each building.

Benefits of those connected to the heat network

- **Reduced Energy costs**

Most power stations waste heat when generating electricity - up to two thirds of the energy can be wasted. One of the benefits of local heat networks is that they capture and use the heat, which is more efficient and savings can be passed onto residents.

- **Greater energy reliability and security**

Local heat networks use a tried and tested technology called Combined Heat and Power (CHP). The Committee was informed that CHP was a type of engine that turns an

electricity generator and captures the heat in the same way that we use heat from a car engine. The heat from the CHP engine will be used to provide heating and hot water in buildings. The existing boilers in the building will also be retained to provide additional sources of heat and back up. Having the energy centre and heat network means the heat supply will be more secure and reliable. Heat networks also have built in flexibility to be supplied by a range of fuels in the future to take advantage of cheaper alternatives as they become available.

- **Reduced carbon footprint**

For the purposes of this review, the Committee was interested in this major benefit. CHP is the most efficient way to get the most out of the fuel which is used and can result in 30% less carbon dioxide emissions than traditional heat and power supplies.

With reference to the Bunhill Energy Centre and Heat Network, Members of the Committee were informed that a variety of housing estates were part of the heat network and this provided major benefits to residents of those estates.

The Committee was informed that the Pimlico District Heating Undertaking had been around since the 1950s and was the first major initiative to combat London's air pollution ahead of the Clean Air Act 1956. This established scheme provided heating and water services to 3,256 homes, 50 commercial premises and three schools within the area, at a reduced energy cost and with less carbon emissions. It was estimated that Pimlico, because of this, had reduced carbon emissions of 11,000 tonnes per year.

The potential for heat and power networks within the Borough

The Committee recognised that working closely with partners, there was the potential for such a facility within the Borough. Such areas could be close to Uxbridge High Street, Hillingdon Hospital, Brunel University, Harlington Road Depot, the Mortuary, the Civic Centre and Hillingdon Sports Centre.

Members noted that for the potential use of privately owned sites within the Borough, the onus would be on the land owner of a proposed site to consider the suitability of a decentralised heat network.

Reference was made to the Heat Networks Funding Stream which was established in summer 2013 by the Department of Energy and Climate Change. This provided funding support to local authorities to establish detailed technical feasibility and business modelling for Heat Networks.

Round 1 saw enquiries for funding from 31 local authorities, of which 26 were subsequently awarded £1.94 Million for support, guidance and project development.

Five London Boroughs received a total of £307,000, with the lowest at £20,000 and the highest at £101,300.

Round 2 of the funding closed in January 2014. However, a further £7 million is available through 2014/15 during round three.

With a view to this, the Committee recommends to Cabinet:

3	**That the Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Business Services considers whether to ask officers to enter into discussions with the Department of Energy and Climate Change Heat Network Delivery Unit on a district heat and power capability in Hillingdon, including outline concepts, business case, costs benefit analysis and feasibility.**

Energy from Waste: Current position and the possibility of establishing an Anaerobic Digestion Plant at New Year's Green Lane

What is Anaerobic Digestion?

Anaerobic digestion is a naturally occurring process when organic matter is broken down by bacteria in the absence of oxygen. This process produces a biogas that is rich in methane and carbon dioxide. This process occurs naturally in landfill sites where waste is broken down, with the subsequent gases emitted into the atmosphere.

An anaerobic digestion plant allows the biogas to be captured for the production of energy. The biogas can be burned within the plant creating a source of renewable electricity and heat. The electricity could be sold to the National Grid, whilst the heat could be utilised within the plant or to supply nearby buildings with their heat demand. Reference was also made to the final product from the process which is called a digestate which could be used in farming.

Benefits of Anaerobic Digestion

During witness sessions the Committee was provided with details on the benefits anaerobic digestion could bring to the Council. These were summarised as follows:

- Reducing the amount of food waste which would go to landfill which was one of the Council's key waste management targets. Anaerobic digestion would be a cost effective alternative solution to land filling.
- Income from electricity production by means of renewable energy sources. Energy companies were legally obliged to buy energy produced from renewable energy sources. This would be a revenue stream for the Council and could provide payback on medium scale anaerobic plants of around 6-8years.
- There could be income to the Council of gate fees which would be a type of "toll" on allowing waste over a weighbridge.
- The Borough had a large proportion of Green Belt in the region which could give the authority the ability to utilise or sell the digestate to the farm occupants.
- Generating heat from an anaerobic digestion plant could help supply heat to nearby housing developments. This would again be a source of revenue to the Council and provide lower energy bills for residents.

Waste

The Committee was informed that the Council as a Waste Collection Authority was responsible for collecting all household waste and business waste on request. The disposal of the waste collected is the responsibility of the area waste disposal authority, the West London Waste Authority (WLWA).

Where possible, the Council recycles waste or converts it to energy; this reduces the amount requiring disposal to landfill sites, which are financially costly and environmentally damaging. Using Department of Communities and Local Government funding, a number of steps were taken by the waste management section to help increase existing recycling rates, which also assists with carbon management.

In July 2013 the range of plastic collected was increased to include pots, tubs and the fortnightly garden waste service was increased to a weekly collection. Then, in September 2013, a weekly textile collection, the purple sack scheme, was introduced. Finally in October 2013, food waste collection was introduced on an opt-in basis.

The Council sends 25,000 tonnes of remaining waste, which cannot be recycled, to the energy from waste plant at Colnbrook. This local generation of electricity reduces demand for energy from the high voltage transmission network and conventional power stations. The amount of waste used for energy is about to rise to 33,000 tonnes when under a new WLWA contract the remaining residual waste is shipped from South Ruislip to Bristol, again avoiding landfill.

The Committee was informed that an opportunity exists in the Borough to utilise other residual waste to generate energy. The waste occurs at tenant farms in Harefield in the form of cattle slurry from the dairy herds.

Slurry and organic waste

Discussions took place during the review on the amount of slurry produced on farms within the Borough and the Committee was assured that there were sufficient amounts to justify the use of this for the process. Details were provided on the slurry and dirty water volumes for a named farm in the Borough whereby the slurry and dirty water was collected and transported to News Year Green Lane where it was stored on site. It was then transported off the site. It was noted that if there was an anaerobic digestion plant on the New Years Green Lane site, this slurry could be utilised and it would also reduce the lorry movements from the site, which would be beneficial for local residents.

The Committee was informed that the weekly collection service for a mix of both garden and kitchen waste (organic) receives approximately 13,000 tonnes of material annually. This is sent to an in-vessel composting plant. An additional 4,000 tonnes of garden waste only is received at the two Household Waste & Recycling Centres, this is sent to windrow and in-vessel composting systems.

The Committee recognised that currently the Borough's food waste was not recycled at the New Years Green Lane site. There was a cost to the Council of transporting the food

waste to be recycled elsewhere. An anaerobic digestion plant on New Years Green Lane would recycle the food waste and thus reduce the Council's costs.
The Committee was informed that, in theory, the combination of this waste and other miscellaneous feed stock is considered sufficient for a small scale anaerobic digestion facility in that area. Officers estimated that the combination of wastes would generate enough biogas to power a 50 kilowatt unit without discernible increase in the traffic volumes at the site. At its current size, locating an anaerobic composter would require local agreement between the benefactors of the facility such as the composting company and local farmers.

Reference was made to the Council in the near future needing to invest capital at farms in the Borough to maintain infrastructure and meet new farming regulations. If the Council was to achieve a return by investing in anaerobic digestion directly, it would require a larger volume of waste contracts to ensure commercial viability for the operator. To progress this commercially it is advisable to work with other partners in the West London Waste Authority to establish future waste volumes and return on investment.

Currently there was a level of Government funding for farmers wishing to establish anaerobic digestion units and the Committee recognised that more detailed investigations were needed on the Council's part to take such an initiative forward.

Would the land at New Years Green Lane require special permission from Central Government for anaerobic digestion?

The land at New Years Green Lane is designated contaminated land and under the control of the Environment Agency as a Special Site. The Council would need the consent and approval of the Environment Agency if consideration was given to the introduction of a small-scale anaerobic digestion project. In addition, the land is within the Metropolitan Green Belt and therefore, along with the normal planning application, the Council would have to apply to the Secretary of State for permission to change the use of the land.

The Committee was also made aware of the implications of the proposals by the Department of Transport for the High Speed Rail (HS2) and the likely implications on parts of the land close to New Years Green Lane.

The Committee acknowledged that generating waste was a highly efficient way of meeting a number of objectives. It reduces the amount of waste to landfill, which minimises exposure to penalties and rising land fill tax. It could help the Council exploit revenue from the growing renewable energy market and it demonstrates environmental sensitivity at a time when local authorities are under pressure to meet the climate change challenge.

With a view to this the Committee recommends to Cabinet:

4	**That the Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Business Services considers whether to ask officers to undertake further discussions and research with a view to supporting a small scale Anaerobic Digestion project in the New Years Green Lane area, if financially viable for the Council.**

BACKGROUND READING

The following information is provided in order to signpost readers to useful contextual information to this review:-

The Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change (as signed 2007)

The Local Government Group and Department of Energy and Climate Change Memorandum of Understanding May 2011

Heat Networks Funding Stream: “Application and Guidance pack for Local Authorities to gain financial assistance from the Heat Networks Delivery Unit” Version 3.1, December 2013

DECC Webpage https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heat-networks-funding-stream-application-and-guidance-pack accessed 04/03/14

Bunhill Energy Centre and Heat Network - http://www.islington.gov.uk/services/parks-environment/sustainability/energy-services/Pages/bunhill-heat-power.aspx

Civic Centre electricity and gas consumption reports

Local Government Association Document - Climate Local - Information Pack for Councils

Forestry Commission England - "The Case for Trees in Development and the Urban Environment".

More information from the witness sessions for this review can be found in the minutes to the meetings of the Policy Overview Committee which took place on:- 17 September 2013, 15 October 2013, 12 November 2013, 14 January 2014, 4 February 2014 and 14 March 2014.

These can be found here:
http://modgov.hillingdon.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=243&Year=2014