

Public Document Pack

Lancashire County Council

Cabinet Committee on Climate Change and the Environment

Wednesday, 8th December, 2010 in Cabinet Room 'B' - County Hall, Preston, at 2.00 pm

Agenda

Part 1 (Open to Press and Public)

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

Members are asked to consider any Personal/Prejudicial Interests they may have to disclose to the meeting in relation to matters under consideration on the Agenda.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on the 13th October 2010** (Pages 1 - 6)
4. **Support for Schools to Manage Impact of the Carbon Reduction Commitment Scheme** (Pages 7 - 10)
5. **Carbon Reduction Commitment - Update on Implications of Comprehensive Spending Review** (Pages 11 - 14)
6. **Verbal Update on Awards**

To receive a verbal update
7. **Local Market development from the waste streams resulting from The Lancashire Waste Partnership PFI Project** (Pages 15 - 26)

To receive a PowerPoint Presentation and verbal update
8. **Carbon capture and Peat bogs**

To receive a PowerPoint Presentation and Verbal Update
9. **'Our Moors our Planet Project' Update and the Peat Partnership** (Pages 27 - 36)
10. **Urgent Business**

An item of urgent business may only be considered under this heading where, by reason of special circumstances to be recorded in the Minutes, the Chairman of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency. Wherever possible, the Chief Executive should be given advance warning or any Member's intention to raise a matter under this heading.
11. **Date of Next Meeting / Schedule of Future Meetings**

The next meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Climate Change and the Environment will be held on Tuesday 15 March 2011 at 2.30 pm. Cabinet Room B, County Hall Complex, Preston

I M Fisher
County Secretary and Solicitor

County Hall
Preston

Agenda Item 3

Lancashire County Council

Cabinet Committee on Climate Change and the Environment

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 13 October 2010, 2pm at County Hall, Preston

Present:

County Councillor Michael Green (In the Chair)

County Councillor Tim Ashton
County Councillor Mike Calvert
County Councillor Susie Charles
County Councillor Janice Hanson
County Councillor Mark Perks

Co-Opted Members

Anne Selby – Lancashire Wildlife Trust

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were also received from Liz O'Neill – Environment Agency

Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None were declared.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th July 2010

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 20th July 2010 were presented.

- 8. Resolved:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 20th July 2010 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

Andy Mullaney provided an update on resolution 3 from the previous meeting to confirm that an awards scheme for Schools regarding sustainability and energy use was being developed and information would be circulated to members of the Committee in the next few weeks.

Introduction / What is Adaptation

Joanne Hudson introduced the subject Adaptation and gave a PowerPoint presentation (circulated) of the key points, Joanne explained that the presentation highlighted issues relating to adapting to climate change and extreme weather conditions. Joanne's presentation highlighted predicted climate changes, what the potential impacts of these changes are and

adaptation actions being taken to try and reduce some of the potential impacts.

Joanne went on to explain that climate change will affect some more than others and that adaptation is about assessing the local risks and opportunities and taking appropriate action.

Joanne summarised her presentation by outlining why we need to adapt to climate change and that adaptation action by local authorities is essential and National Indicator 188 measures performance of local authorities in achieving targets.

9. Resolved: The Committee noted the presentation.

Progress so far and next steps on adaptation and NI188

Joanne Hudson presented the report and described progress on adaptation and work to support meeting the requirements of National Indicator NI188 that has been undertaken. Joanne explained that the County Council had achieved Level 1 – Assess current and future vulnerabilities to extreme weather and climate change – in 2009. Level 2 – Undertake a comprehensive risk based assessment had also been achieved in 2010. Currently work was being undertaken to progress towards Level 3 with a target of 2011 set to complete this level.

Joanne highlighted some of the priority risks identified from completing a comprehensive risk assessment and updated on progress on the developing adaptation action plan and emerging strategic objectives (as detailed in the report).

Joanne also explained that in terms of action plans, currently the County Council has its own individual action plan, as do each of the District Councils which are considered at a District Working Group. At some point in the future these plans could be joined together if resources allow, and if there is sufficient commonality.

Members of the Committee raised questions about the recent hose pipe ban imposed on the North West region and also decisions by United Utilities to sell reservoir supplies before the recent hose pipe ban. After some discussion County Councillor Ashton advised that he had written to the chair of Scrutiny Committee to request that they invite United Utilities to attend a Scrutiny Committee meeting to discuss recent events and how to develop a joined up approach. Officers agreed to investigate and report back at a future Committee meeting.

10. Resolved: The Committee noted the report and requested to be updated on the outcome of United Utilities attendance at the Scrutiny Committee meeting to be held on 11 February 2011 and for officers to report to a future Committee meeting on the disposal of surplus reservoir water supplies.

Lancashire County Council response to Environment Agency presentation 'lessons learnt from Cumbria floods'

Bernard Kershaw presented the report (circulated) and outlined the key issues relating to planning for and responding to emergencies and the wider aspects of flood management arising from the Pitt Report and the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

Bernard explained that within Lancashire generic "multi-agency" arrangement exist for the response to all major incidents. It is accepted practice, reiterated from the Cockermouth floods, that the "think big – act early" principle should be applied. In more formal language this is known as the "precautionary principle" recognising that it is more effective to establish the multi- agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group sooner rather than later. Similarly it is recognised that the response to major incidents can only be effective if it is based on accurate and update information.

In a wider context the process of "learning lessons" from the Cockermouth floods of November 2009 is set in the emergency planning framework provided by the Lancashire Resilience Forum (LRF - a statutory body established under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004) within which Lancashire County Council is a key member along with emergency services, health authorities, all local authorities in the County and the Environment Agency.

Following the Sir Michael Pitt report on flooding of 2007 and the enactment of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, (March 2010) has substantially changed. There is now a statutory basis to the co-ordination of flood risk management with the Environment Agency providing a national strategic overview and upper tier local authorities required to take on a leadership role for the management of flood risk within their areas, particularly surface and groundwater flooding and ordinary watercourses that do not fall within the Environment Agency's remit.

In February 2009 the County Council Executive Leadership Team appointed the Director of Highways and Environmental Management to oversee the strategic implementation of the Pitt recommendations and the Flood and Water Management Act. Subsequently the Lancashire Chief Executives agreed that the County Council should take the lead role, in liaison with other local authorities in the County, to establish appropriate partnership arrangements between local authorities and with the Environment Agency. To achieve this each local authority has nominated a liaison officer to act as a single point of contact and regular meetings are now held. Work is now ongoing to develop surface water management plans and a County wide preliminary flood risk assessment is to be completed by June 2011.

The Committee commented on the quick response provided in the instance of the Cumbrian floods and discussed how businesses were affected directly and some of the lessons learnt from how to assist and help businesses recover in these circumstances.

11. Resolved: The Committee agreed to note the report.

Highways – adaptation

John Thorp gave a PowerPoint presentation on adapting to climate change and the impact on the Highways in Lancashire. John explained that due to changes in climatic conditions, i.e. hotter drier summers, milder wetter winters and more extreme rainfall events that highway maintenance was more challenging.

John described the Key Highway Service areas, which included winter service, trees and vegetation, materials and resurfacing, drainage and structures and how these services are adapted to address the challenges in meeting expectations and unpredictable natural of climatic conditions. In responding to questions from the Committee John described techniques used to repair pot holes and surface roads and also described specific winter services such as road gritting and the differences in road construction techniques and materials.

In summary John described the measures being taken by the County Council to effectively provide Highway Services whilst adapting to climate change, including:

- Surface Water Management Plan.
- Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment.
- Local watercourse management.
- Introduction of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS).
- Introduction of permeable surfaces.
- Changing materials to cope with flooding.
- Adapting Gulley emptying frequency.
- Increasing capacity at bridges and culverts.
- Increasing inspections to at risk structures from scour.
- Introducing risk management to landslips.

12. Resolved: The Committee noted the presentation.

Adaptation in Wyre – a District perspective

Councillor May Gandhi and Mark Broadhurst, Housing Services Manager from Wyre Borough Council gave a PowerPoint presentation on a District perspective to adapting to climate change.

Mark explained that Wyre Borough Council agenda was driven by the Climate Change Strategy 2008 (2010 refresh) and National Indications 185, 186, 187 and 188 which have all been adopted. Mark went on to highlight some of the projects Wyre Borough Council have undertaken to cut carbon emissions, including, own estate Carbon Trust Multisite Opportunity Assessment Surveys, Green Fleet Review, Sustainable Procurement Strategy and Domestic energy efficiency. Mark highlighted some of the milestones Wyre

Borough Council has now achieved, including achieving Level 2 of National Indicator 188, completing adaptation risk assessments for all service areas and the completion of Local Climate Impact Profiles.

Mark described the successful Cleveleys Sea Defence and Promenade Scheme project and how this had created new sea defences, and also regenerated the whole area for the community.

Mark also described work being done regarding home energy initiatives to insulate homes, and home heating initiatives.

Mark finished his presentation by highlighting to work being done in partnership with Lancashire County Council and in particular Lancashire Energy Officers Group in coordinating activity and sharing home energy efficiency best practice across Lancashire.

The Committee members thanked Councillor Gandhi and Mark Broadhurst for their presentation. County Councillor Susie Charles asked if the presentation could be given to other District Councils, including Lancaster City Council to promote further joint working.

13. Resolved: The Committee noted the presentation.

Protecting vulnerable people from the impacts of climate change – Lancashire County Council - Adult Disability Service

Helen Edmondson presented the report (circulated) and explained that the primary role of the in House Adult Disability service within the Adult and Community Services Directorate is to support the needs of adults with disabilities to live the lives they want by getting involved with their local communities through leisure, learning, employment and housing. They also provide support to carers by offering respite services. Their services provide high quality, specialised, person centred supports as directed by the customer or their family members / carers, via support staff delivering day time supports, within resource centres, short break houses and domiciliary services (24 hour supported living for people in shared tenancies).

Helen stated that they support around 800 people with learning disabilities and around 580 people with physical disabilities.

Helen highlighted some of the risks to the people supported by Adult Disability services such as risks to being exposed to extremes of temperature and risks of slips and falls in icy conditions. Helen also highlighted some of the service business continuity issues involved with supporting the needs of adults with disabilities such as a reduction in the ability of staff to reach people during prolonged periods of ice and snow.

Helen also highlighted what actions the County Council are taking to reduce our vulnerability or increase service resilience such as ensuring individual care plans are in place. The team continue to monitor their business continuity

plans and raise issues and lessons learnt from past experiences with other services and partners to ensure that services remain resilient in the future.

Members of the Committee asked that officers in the Adult Disability Services team be thanked for their work to deliver continuous services, in particular during last winter when extreme weather conditions made service delivery challenging.

- 14. Resolved:** The Committee noted the presentation and asked that officers in the Adult Disability Services team be thanked for their work to deliver continuous services during last winters extreme weather conditions.

Urgent Business

None.

Date of the Next Meeting

It was reported that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Wednesday 8 December 2010, 2pm, Cabinet Room 'B', County Hall Complex, Preston.

Ged Fitzgerald
Chief Executive

County Hall
Preston

Agenda Item 4

Cabinet Committee on Climate Change and the Environment

Meeting to be held on 8th December 2010

Part I - Item No. 4

Electoral Division affected:
All

Support for Schools to Manage Impact of the Carbon Reduction Commitment Scheme

Contact for further information:

Matthew Tidmarsh, (01772) 533243, Resources Directorate

matthew.tidmarsh@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

This report seeks to inform the Committee of the decisions made by the Lancashire Schools' Forum with regard to supporting schools' participation in the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme; namely:

- The decision to use the CYP centrally held reserve to hedge against penalty payments arising from carbon trading and recycling of revenue.
- The provision of a loan fund, also supported from the CYP centrally held reserve of £600,000 in 2011/12 to help schools achieve carbon and energy savings.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Committee on Climate Change and the Environment is asked to note the report and support the decisions of the Lancashire Schools' Forum with regard to schools' participation in the CRC scheme and the contribution thereby made to the County Council's overall duties as a participant in the scheme.

Background and Advice

The CRC scheme came into force on 1st April 2010 requiring the County Council to register as a participant by the end of September 2010. The County is obligated to include the carbon emissions from and consequently purchase carbon allowances for, schools as well as retained buildings. The scheme does not allow the Council to pass these costs back to schools.

The recycling of revenue from the sale of allowances based upon performance and a league table position compared to other participants, means that there are potential bonus or penalty payments. The rules of the CRC scheme do allow for these amounts to be passed back to schools.

Schools' active participation in the CRC scheme is therefore vital to ensure the potential risk from any financial penalties is managed effectively.

A report was consequently taken to the Lancashire Schools' Forum asking that they co-operate with and support the Council's participation in the CRC Scheme.

The Forum was asked to consider two elements of support:-

1. Payment of penalty charges.
2. Investment in carbon and energy reduction measures.

It was resolved that the CYP centrally held reserve for schools be utilised in two ways. Firstly an allowance would be made to 'hedge' against possible penalty payments so that these could be dealt with centrally. This would avoid the administrative costs of passing hundreds of relatively small contributory charges to individual schools and would also protect the more vulnerable schools against additional expenditure against their budgets.

Secondly the Forum resolved to allocate a sum of £600,000 starting in 2011/12 and reviewed regularly, to provide loan funding as part contribution to schools to help them invest in energy and carbon reduction measures. The Property Group's Energy Team was asked to draw up a prioritised list of schemes to be recommended to schools for them to borrow against.

The Forum was very supportive of the need for schools in Lancashire to be active participants in the County's drive to reduce carbon emissions, energy consumption and therefore cost.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

If no action had been taken by Schools' Forum the County Council would remain wholly liable for carbon emissions from schools with no mechanism for recovering costs and or achieving a partnership approach to managing costs. The actions taken should be recognised as a positive step towards achieving this.

The Committee should note that the CRC scheme has been modified by the recently announced Comprehensive Spending Review. This impacts upon the actions described in this report and forms the basis for a separate item on the Agenda for this meeting.

Financial

The bonus/penalty value at stake for the Council in the first year of the original scheme (2011/12) was plus or minus £180,000 (this included schools). This would have risen to plus or minus £900,000 in the fifth year of the scheme.

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
Carbon Management for Schools and practical help available from the Council's Property Group	20 th July 2010	Matthew Tidmarsh/ Resources Directorate/ 01772 533243
Carbon Reduction Commitment	20 th July 2010	Matthew Tidmarsh/ Resources Directorate/ 01772 533243

Agenda Item 5

Cabinet Committee on Climate Change and the Environment

Meeting to be held on 8th December 2010

Part I - Item No. 5

Electoral Division affected:
All

Carbon Reduction Commitment – Update on Implications of Comprehensive Spending Review

Contact for further information:

Matthew Tidmarsh, 01772 533243, Resources Directorate,

matthew.tidmarsh@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

The Committee will recall the report of July 2010 on the implications for Lancashire County Council of the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) energy Efficiency Scheme. This further report seeks to inform the Committee of the likely implications of the changes to the CRC scheme brought about as a result of the Government's recent Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR).

Recommendation

The Cabinet Committee on Climate Change and the Environment is asked to:

- a. Note the content of this report and the likely impact the changes to the CRC scheme will have on the County's participation.
- b. In addition the Committee is asked to approve the proposal to respond to the current consultation by Government on the operation of the amended scheme and to directly address passing the cost of purchasing carbon allowances to schools.
- c. Note that the Committee will receive further reports as details on the changes to the CRC scheme are made available.

Background and Advice

The CRC scheme came into effect on 1st April 2010. The County successfully registered as a participant by the deadline of 30th September 2010. Preparations are now underway to collate the 'Footprint' report and the first monitoring year report to be submitted after the end of March 2011. In addition work is underway to begin the 'Evidence Pack' necessary for external audit.

An internal cross directorate officer team has been set up to develop participation strategies covering finance, legal, procurement, property and audit issues. It is proposed that this team will periodically report to the Committee for ratification of proposed actions.

The major concern of this report however, are the changes to the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme brought about by the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR).

The CSR document states that:-

"Revenue raised from the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme will be used to support public finances (including spending on the environment), rather than being recycled to participants".

The Government expects to raise approximately £1 billion per annum by doing this.

The key (currently understood) changes to the CRC affecting Lancashire County Council arising from the CSR announcement are:-

1. The first sale of carbon allowances will take place at the end of 2011/12 (From April 2012 to July 2012) instead of at the end of 2010/11. This will be based upon actual rather than anticipated emissions and therefore remove the opportunities for carbon trading.
2. There will be no recycling of the cost of purchasing allowances.
3. There is still no means for the Council to charge schools for purchase of carbon allowances for their emissions.
4. The introductory phase will be extended until the end of March 2014 from March 2013.
5. The price of carbon in the introductory phase will be set by HM Treasury in the budget statement (currently set to be £12 per tonne but this may change).
6. League table will be retained although this will have reputational impact only.
7. Evidence Pack, Footprint Report, Annual Report and auditing arrangements remain a requirement.
8. Retrospective purchase of allowances may be changed in future to make carbon trading a possibility again. This would require 'double' purchasing of allowances in some future year with the attendant cash flow implications.

Clearly the two most significant changes are firstly the cancelling of recycling payments which turns the CRC scheme into a direct tax on carbon and means the Council will now, instead of having a value at risk of plus or minus £180,000 in year 1 of the CRC scheme, have an additional revenue charge to meet of £1.8 million pounds. Secondly the £900,000 or so of this that relates to schools will have to be borne directly by the Council with no means of being able to pass it on. A slight mitigating factor is that the first payment year has been delayed by 12 months.

It is proposed to report to the Committee on any future developments.

Consultations

The Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) launched a consultation on the changes to the CRC scheme on 17th November 2010. Crucially this consultation does **not** concern the removal of recycling payments **nor** the ability (or otherwise) for the Council to pass the cost of allowances to schools.

It is proposed that a response to the consultation be submitted to DECC by the deadline of 17th December 2010.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

The CRC scheme now represents a revenue liability to the Council with no prospect of bonus payments from recycling. This makes carbon and energy reduction measures more important than ever. Although it must be remembered that the cost of carbon per kWh of energy is still currently far less than the cost of the energy itself. It is recommended that carbon and energy reduction activities should continue to be supported as a priority.

Finance

The County will face a cost of approximately £1.8 million in 2012/13 for the purchase of carbon allowances although, as this relates to emissions in 2011/12 it will have to be accounted for in 2011/12. £900,000 of this will be for schools with currently no way of recharge. There is therefore, currently no incentive for schools to reduce their carbon emissions (although energy efficiency is still an effective means of reducing revenue running costs). It is proposed that this matter be raised with Government and they be urged to consider allowing participant Councils to pass the cost of purchasing carbon allowances to schools to restore the incentive element of the CRC scheme.

Reputation

The league table of participants will still be published to act as a reputational driver for change. However, if there remains no incentive for schools to reduce their emissions this may jeopardise league table position.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
Carbon Reduction Commitment	20 th July 2010	Matthew Tidmarsh/ Resources Directorate/ 01772 533243

Local Market Development & the Waste Streams Resulting from the Lancashire Waste PFI Project

Page 15

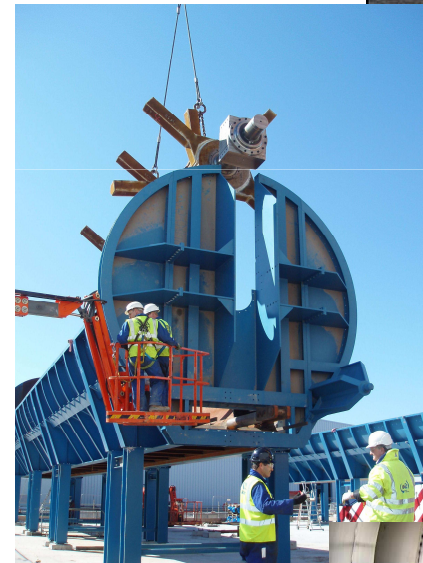
Sarah Holliday
Principal Waste Management Officer
Waste Management

Waste PFI Project

Mechanical Biological
Treatment (MBT),
In-vessel composting and
Material Reclamation Facility
(MRF)

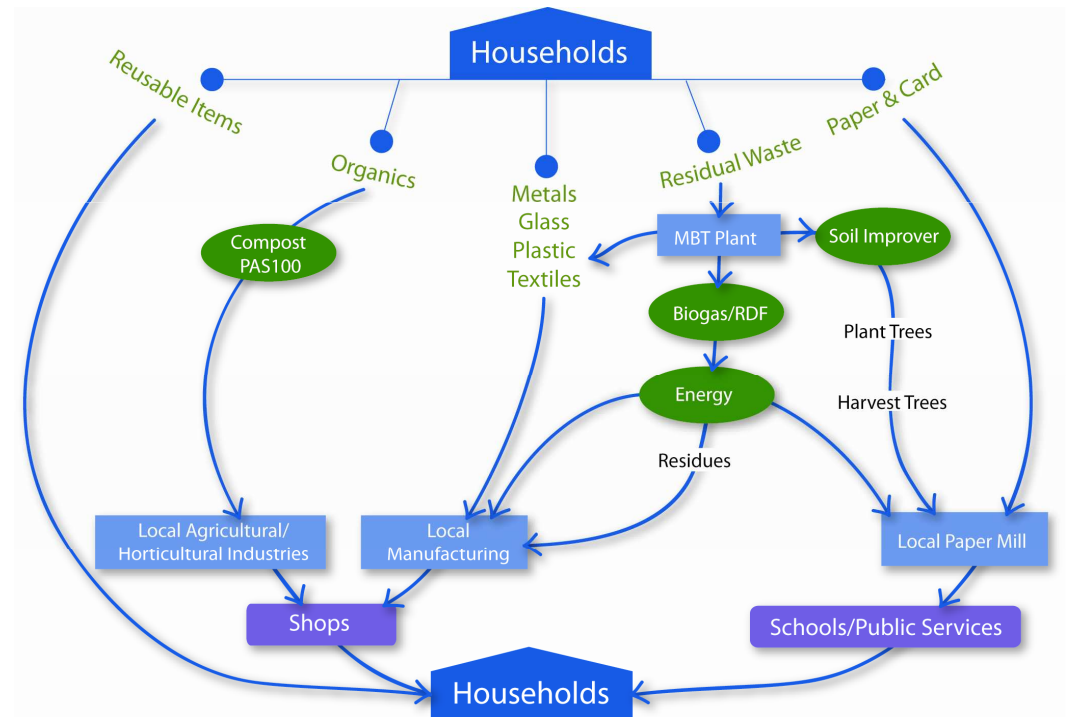
Provided the WDAs the best
value maximum diversion model

Total integrated services divert
88% of waste away from landfill



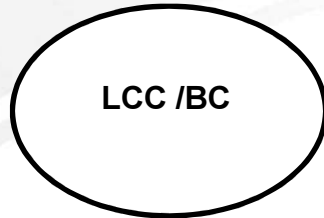
Local Market Development

Looks at establishing
‘closed loop’ recycling
e.g. Lancashire waste
to Lancashire product



Context of Work

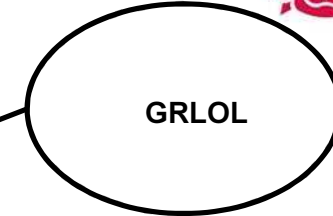
Mutual Benefit



LCC / BC

Objectives

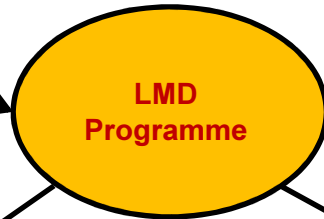
- Diversion
- Savings
- Products
- New Business
- Revenue
- Environmental B P



GRLOL

Objectives

- Diversion
- Maximise recyclate values
- Revenue
- Operational efficiency

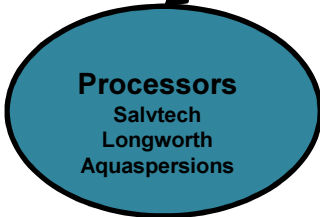


LMD Programme



Universities
UCLAN
/MMU/Liverpool

- R&D
- Material analysis



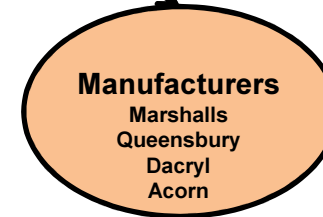
Processors
Salvtech
Longworth
Aquaspersions

- Material & Process trials
- Performance analysis
- Process costing



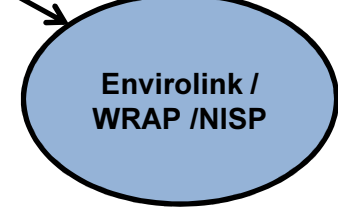
Off takers
Sevenside
Greenstar
Glass UK

- Improving quality of recyclate
- Addressing contamination
- Developing local markets



Manufacturers
Marshalls
Queensbury
Dacryl
Acorn

- Fabrication tests
- Implementation trials
- Production cost analysis
- Supply chain assessment



**Envirolink /
WRAP / NISP**

- Best practice guidance
- Funding
- Commercialisation

Projects that are in Development

- Eureka moments!
- Investigating through research & development
- Low Grade Mixed Waste Plastic (MWP) Pellet to make plastic products such as kerbs & posts
- Bus Shelters
- Paper Products
- Mattresses
- Paving



MWP Pellet

- Pellet has successfully been made from low grade mixed waste plastic.
- Using the pellet a prototype kerb has been manufactured
- Further 100 kerbs being made including low grade mixed waste plastic/film plastic generated from the Lancashire facilities.
- Other products could be made which could be used by the Authority
- Potential for the pellet making aspect to be located close to the Farington Waste Recovery Park
- Need to drive offtake deals with GRL for the raw material – GRL could potentially get more income by sending material to energy from waste facilities
- Lancashire Business Park does have suitable units soon to become available – Strategic position being clarified



Bus Shelters

- Potential cost savings to Authority if Lancashire provides raw material (rPET) which can be off set against cost of Bus Shelter fabrication
- Fabrication of sheet could be achieved locally
- Potential to establish localised manufacture of bus shelter (Queensbury based in Portsmouth)
- Identified local demand could facilitate the introduction of a local rPET sheet extrusion process
- Local Closed loop solutions achievable
- Shelter fabrication could be carried out utilising services at HMP Garth to provided added value



Paper Products

- 2009/10 Feasibility concluded non viability of establishing a new or re-commissioned paper mill in Lancashire
- Focus 2010/11 on identifying viable local market for Lancashire waste paper utilising local mill and manufacturing infrastructure
- Libraries Project



Mattresses

Mattress Deconstruction

- New business start up in S.Ribble
- Seeks to process 36,000 mattresses from municipal waste stream and a further 23,000 from commercial waste stream
- Working with business to facilitate access to municipal waste stream and general business set-up.



Paving Slabs

- Project developing paving slabs from 90% construction & demolition waste including fly ash waste material to provide an architectural paving slab
- Partners: Marshalls, Jacksons (Preston), Liverpool University, Grundys & Veolia (Community Fund)



LCC Landscape Architects
onboard to trial the
new paving slabs

Future Opportunities

- Ramp-up phase for the Waste Recovery Parks at both Thornton and Farington
- Starting to see the scope for future waste diversion
- Focus on improving diversion from landfill of the waste streams from the facilities that currently have no viable end market at present eg Enval (Luton) eg cat food pouches, toothpaste tubes
- Economic opportunities – business start ups, spin offs?
- Education links through Universities and R&D
- Closing the Loop

Agenda Item 9

Cabinet Committee on Climate Change and the Environment

Meeting to be held on 8th December 2010

Part I - Item No. 9

Electoral Division affected:
All

'Our Moors, Our Planet' – Completion Report (Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

Elliott Lorimer, 01772 533979, Environment Directorate,
elliott.lorimer@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

'Our Moors, Our Planet' was established by the County Council (as part of its climate change agenda) to support the restoration and re-wetting of blanket bog and lowland raised bog habitats in Lancashire. These habitats are recognised internationally as vitally important carbon stores (or sinks).

At the completion of the initiative in March 2010, the County Council has supported five peatland projects across the county delivered by public, private and voluntary sector organisations. These projects have helped to:

- Restore and re-wet 94.5ha. of blanket bog and lowland raised bog habitats
- Re-profile and re-vegetate 5.2km of gully edges
- Block 3.1km of moorland grips (or ditches)

These habitat improvements will help to reduce carbon loss (in the short term) and promote carbon capture (in the longer term). In addition, these priority habitats and associated species will now be more likely to be able to adapt to future climate change. The projects will also help to reduce downstream flood risk and moorland wild fires.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Committee on Climate Change and the Environment is requested to note and comment on the completion report for 'Our Moors, Our Planet'.

Background and Advice

Peatlands in the UK hold more carbon than forests of the UK and France combined. They cover a significant area of both the uplands and lowlands of Lancashire. However, during the last two centuries, peatlands were drained in an attempt to lower the water table, dry the land and make it more productive. Other factors, such as peat extraction, overgrazing, inappropriate burning and recreation, coupled with

the drainage have contributed to significant loss and degradation of peatlands over many years. (Appendix 'A' shows the nature of this degradation, for example, bare peat and eroding moorland grips.) This habitat loss and degradation has resulted in reduced capacity to retain and capture carbon; increased wildfire risk due to drier conditions; reduced capacity to moderate flooding; biodiversity loss and a poorer countryside recreation experience.

The Cabinet Committee on Climate Change and the Environment approved the establishment of 'Our Moors, Our Planet' in January 2008. Approval was given for a budget of £30,000 per year over three years (total £90,000) from the County Council's Climate Change budget to implement the initiative.

The aim of the initiative was to:

- Avoid carbon loss and capture (or sequester) carbon
- Moderate flash flooding
- Reduce the incidence and severity of moorland fires
- Improve wildlife habitats
- Leverage external funds for projects

Completion Report

At the completion of 'Our Moors, Our Planet' in March 2010, Lancashire County Council had supported five peatland projects across the county, as follows:

1. Edgerton and Bentley Moss (West Pennine Moors) – grip (or ditch) blocking and gully re-profiling to re-wet blanket bog habitat.
2. Far Pike Lowe (West Pennine Moors – grip (or ditch) blocking and gully re-profiling to re-wet blanket bog habitat.
3. Healey Nab (West Pennine Moors) – blockage of underground drains to re-wet mire habitat.
4. Heysham Moss (Heysham) – hydrological surveying, scrub woodland clearance, bunding of drainage channels and installation of polythene sheeting to retain water on lowland raised bog habitat.
5. Langden Head (Forest of Bowland AONB) – installation of geotextile and lime and heather brush treatment to re-vegetate bare peat, alongside "drip-edge" re-profiling to restore and improve blanket bog habitat.

This initiative has helped to:

- Restore and re-wet 94.5ha. of blanket bog and lowland raised bog habitats
- Re-profile and re-vegetate 5.2km of gully edges
- Block 3.1km of moorland grips (or ditches)

Appendix 'A' shows some images of this habitat restoration work and results.

Also, the investment of £90,000 from 'Our Moors, Planet' has unlocked additional 'match-funding' of over £345,000 for these projects.

In relation to carbon and climate change, these habitat improvements will help to reduce carbon loss (in the short term) and promote carbon capture (in the longer term). Also, these priority habitats and associated species will now be more likely to be able to adapt to future climate change. The improvements will also potentially help improve biodiversity, water quality and moderate flash flooding.

In November 2010, 'Our Moors, Our Planet' was short-listed (from over 250 projects nationally) for the Environment Agency's Environmental Pioneer Awards, in the 'Pioneering Biodiversity Programme' category. The category winners were announced on 24th November and unfortunately "Our Moors, Our Planet" was not among these.

Post-completion developments

In anticipation of the completion of 'Our Moors, Our Planet', the County Council led the formation of the Lancashire Peat Partnership (in November 2009) to help continue the progress made by 'Our Moors, Our Planet' in restoring Lancashire's peatlands.

The partnership (comprising representatives from the County Council, Environment Agency, Natural England, Forest of Bowland AONB, Pennine Prospects, United Utilities, West Pennine Moors and the Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Greater Manchester and North Merseyside) seeks to co-ordinate planning, delivery and monitoring of peatland restoration projects within Lancashire and its border areas. It is intended that through this co-ordination and prioritisation work, partners can avoid duplication and maximise increasingly limited resources.

The Cabinet Committee is requested to note the completion report for 'Our Moors, Our Planet' and to confirm its agreement to the County Council continuing its involvement in the Lancashire Peat Partnership in order to assist co-ordination and monitoring of peatland restoration in Lancashire.

Consultations

N/A.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

There are no significant risks relating to this completion report.

Financial

There are no financial implications.

Continuation of limited officer involvement in the Lancashire Peat Partnership steering group to assist with partnership activities (approximately 1 day per month).

Any representations made to the Cabinet Committee prior to the issue being considered in accordance with the Public Notice of Forward Plans

Name:	Organisation:	Comments:
-------	---------------	-----------

N/A.

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
-------	------	-------------------------

N/A.

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A.

**Report to the Cabinet Committee on
Climate Change and the Environment
8 December 2010 - Item 9**

Appendix 'A'



Bare peat on Langden Head, illustrating extent and nature of erosion.



Eroding moorland grip, showing how peat is lost and habitat degraded.



Geo-textile being installed at Langden Head on steeper slopes of bare peat to promote re-vegetation.



Heather brush being lifted on to project site at Langden Head



Re-vegetation of bare peat with "nurse-crop" at Langden Head.





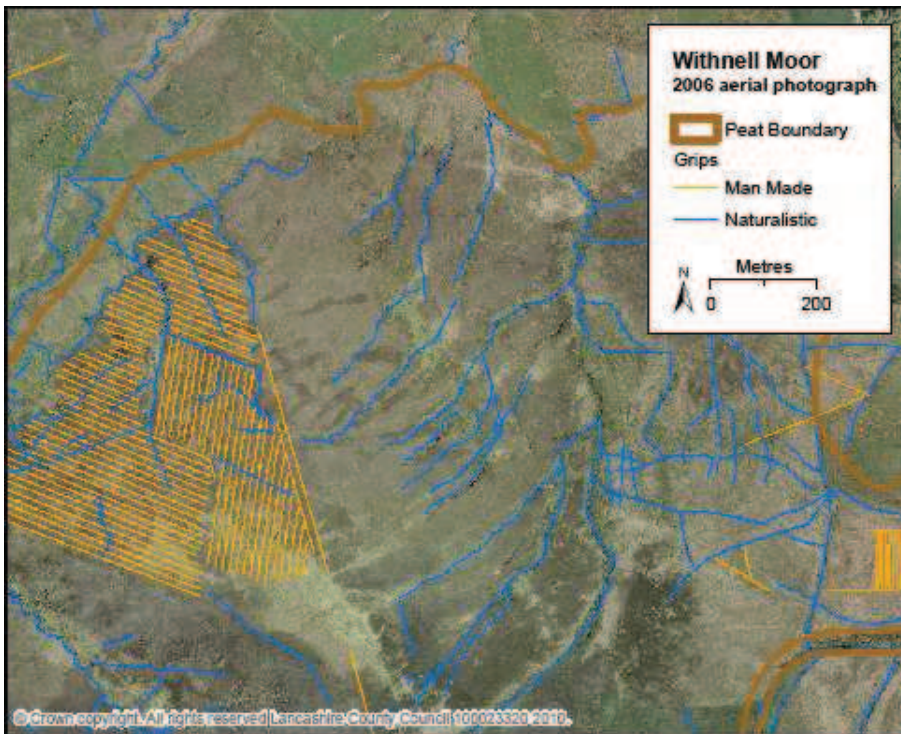
Clearance of scrub woodland at Heysham Moss.



Installation of plygene sheeting at Heysham Moss.



Bog pools forming behind installed bunds at Heysham Moss.



Mapping of moorland grips and watercourses being developed by Lancashire Peat Partnership.

