

BRECKLAND COUNCIL

At a Meeting of the

GREEN AGENDA DEVELOPMENT PANEL

**Held on Wednesday, 17 June 2009 at 2.00 pm in
The Batty Shaw Room, Norfolk Rural Community Council, Signpost House,
Ambassador Way, Greens Road, Dereham NR20 3TL**

PRESENT

Mrs J. Ball	Mr P.J. Duigan
Mr S.G. Bambridge	Mr R.G. Kybird
Mr J.P. Cowen	

In Attendance

Sarah Bruton	- Environmental Services Manager
Julie Britton	- Senior Member Services Officer
David Green	- Corporate Projects Manager
Andrew Grimley	- Principal Environmental Health Officer
Stephen James	- Policy and Performance Manager
Gordon Partridge	- Principal Environmental Health Officer
David Spencer	- Principal Planning Policy Officer
Mark Stokes	- Strategic Director (Services)
Sarah Simpson	- Environmental Awareness Co-ordinator

1/09 CHAIRMAN (AGENDA ITEM 1)

It was proposed and seconded that Mr R Kybird should be elected as Chairman for 2009/10.

RESOLVED that Mr Robert Kybird be elected as Chairman of the Green Agenda Development Panel for 2009/10.

2/09 APOLOGIES (AGENDA ITEM 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Fanthorpe and Mr M Stanton.

3/09 DECLARATION OF INTEREST (AGENDA ITEM 4)

The Chairman declared a broad interest in one particular green energy company which concerned power conversion.

4/09 TERMS OF REFERENCE (AGENDA ITEM 6)

At full Council on 23 April 2009, it had been agreed to set up a new Green Agenda Development Panel, to examine environmental issues and review the Council's Environmental Strategy.

Members supported the approach that was proposed by the Chairman to run through the items on the Agenda first to get a better understanding of what the Council was doing with regard to environmental issues before agreeing the Terms of Reference.

Action By

(a) Green Agenda Development Panel (Agenda item 6a)

RECOMMEND to Council that the Terms of Reference for the Green Agenda Development Panel be as follows:-

- 1) To monitor the Council's progress towards achieving the environmental commitments set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy, Business Plan and Environment Strategy.
- 2) To review best practice in climate change and make recommendations to the Council on improvements to services or activities of the Council.
- 3) To review and scrutinise the policies and practices of the Council, its partners and other key stakeholders, in relation to climate change.
- 4) The Environmental Services Manager to provide the Panel with quarterly progress reports.
- 5) Adhoc meetings to take place to discuss specific subjects.

(b) Green Agenda Officer Group (Agenda item 6b)

Members were informed that the Green Agenda Officer Group had already met twice. The aims and objectives were highlighted and it was agreed that the aim of the Group should be changed to reflect the first point of the GADP Terms of Reference.

RESOLVED that the Terms of Reference for the Green Agenda Officer Working Group be as follows:

Aim – To provide a co-ordinated council approach to the Environment Agenda, to achieve the outcomes in the Sustainable Community Strategy, Business Plan and Environment Strategy.

Objectives

- 1) To review and drive forward the Environment Strategy/Action Plan.
- 2) To act as a forum for discussion on environmental matters to ensure Department's within the Council are 'joined up'.
- 3) To review best practice and new legislation, making recommendations as necessary.
- 4) To be accountable to the Green Agenda Development Panel (GADP), reporting progress on the Environment Strategy.
- 5) To raise the profile of the Environment Agenda corporately and to promote good environmental practice with the council offices.
- 6) To develop environmental projects (including

Action By

Mark
Stokes,
ITV

Action By

costings/outcomes) and make recommendations to the GADP.

- 7) To work with external partners (including the LSP Environment Group) to develop joint solutions to reducing the impact of climate change in the district.

5/09 COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT (CAA) (AGENDA ITEM 7)

Presentation attached.

The purpose of the presentation was to provide a brief overview of CAA and its origins, present the basic principles of CAA methodology and to highlight some questions to consider that might assist with progress.

The Policy & Performance Manager explained that the CAA had emerged from the Local Government White Paper – Strong and Prosperous Communities and was a new inspection regime which had replaced Comprehensive Performance Assessment.

The CAA had been made up of two elements: Organisational Assessment, which considered outcomes from individual organisations and Area Assessment, which considered the outcomes for an area as a whole.

In summary the important element of CAA was in terms of outcome:

- **Did we understand what needed to be done and why we needed to do it?**
- **Did we understand how our current activity aligned to and was it delivering our priorities?**
- **Did we have the capacity and capability to ‘fill’ any gaps that might be identified?**
- **Did we understand what outcomes this activity would actually deliver?**

6/09 ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE (AGENDA ITEM 8)

Officers had been asked to provide Members with a 5 minute update/presentation on achievements from their Year One Action Plan.

(a) Environmental Protection - Scientific Team

Presentation attached.

Although not directly linked to the Environmental Strategy, the Principal Environmental Health Officer explained that the Environmental Protection Team dealt with contaminated land, private water supplies, air quality and industrial pollution.

Two bids for funding had been successfully gained from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to assist in the investigation of contaminated land issues. In response to a question as to why there were two different amounts of funding, Members were informed that the £29k and the £14k were for two specific sites.

Action By

There were 800 individual private water supplies in Breckland and the Officer was asked if the Council had a duty to test. It was pointed out that it was not a statutory requirement to monitor sources supplying a single household (Category 1 F); it was up to the individual to contact the Council to carry out this particular service. Private water supplies for premises used for food production or preparation and accommodation, and all supplies that served more than one household, were and had to be regularly monitored by local Environmental Health Officers. A Norfolk Private Water Supplies Liaison Group had been set up which met every quarter to share best practice.

A question was asked about whether the Council received any information/results from Anglian Water with regard to bore holes. Members were informed that Anglian Water produced an annual report and that regular liaison meetings were held with them.

A further question related to a concern about Anglian Water using an increasing amount of water from Sparham and whether this would have a detrimental effect to the water supply to the North of the area. The Principal Environmental Health Officer stated that this information should be held by Anglian Water or the Environment Agency; however, the information would be found and would be reported back.

Andrew
Grimley

Whilst discussing air quality issues, particularly with regard to biomass plants having a potential impact on air quality, a Member asked if this resource was going to be encouraged, taking into account the amount of homes that had to be built in Breckland that might have to have such boilers installed. He emphasised the need for such matters to be questioned at the planning application stage. It was pointed out that a biomass plant was just a boiler by another name and that the design must and should be interrogated to ensure that the air quality would not be affected.

The Principal Environmental Planning Officer advised that through the Local Development Framework, an increasing number of schemes were going to be encouraged to provide green energy statements. Whether the Council had the capacity or the capability to cope with the assessment of these statements was a genuine issue in itself. Members were informed that a lot of knowledge had been developed from the Fibrothetford Power Station.

Members felt that more information was required from the Planning Department about whether a condition should be applied at the application stage.

RESOLVED that the above matter be presented to a future meeting.

David
Spencer

(b) REV Project

Presentation attached.

The Environmental Services Manager presented this item on behalf of the Economic Development Manager who had sent his apologies.

	<u>Action By</u>
<p>The Economic Development Manager would be providing the Panel with a more detailed presentation at the next meeting.</p>	Mark Stanton
<p>The key objective of the REV Project was to engineer growth in the local and regional economy whilst improving social and business infrastructure, with a minimal detrimental effect on the environment.</p>	
<p>A Member wanted to know the types of infrastructure, initiatives and drivers that were needed to enable REV to move forward in a constructive way. He asked if Breckland Council and other bodies would be contributing to costs.</p>	
<p>The Chairman asked about thermal imaging costs. In response, the Strategic Manager for Services advised that a thermal imaging report had been presented to the Executive Board. The Chairman suggested that the said report be brought to this Panel for discussion.</p>	Mark Stanton
<p>A question was asked about who would be picking up the cost for the free environmental assessments being offered to businesses. If Breckland paid, and the business involved did not carry out the necessary improvements, could the Council claim the money back? The Chairman felt that a better understanding on the whole issue was required.</p>	Mark Stanton
<p>(c) Private Sector Housing</p>	
<p>Presentation attached.</p>	
<p>The Principal Environmental Health Officer explained that Private Sector Housing was part of the Strategic Housing Team.</p>	
<p>The Team's statutory duties were explained and the achievements from 2008/09 year were highlighted.</p>	
<p>Members were informed that the Decent Homes standard target of 75% had already been met.</p>	
<p>Referring to the slide on grants and loans particularly with regard to the new equity release product, it was explained that this was about unlocking money from your home to bring your house up to a decent home standard. A report on this matter would be presented to Cabinet in due course. A Member asked about timescales as he felt it would be useful if the report came through this Panel first. The Principal Environmental Health Officer explained that unfortunately this new scheme was about six months behind schedule. A problem had arisen at the source and the scheme was currently being renewed.</p>	
<p>It was noted that Breckland was one of a few Councils in the country who were still offering such grant and loans as listed.</p>	
<p>Other initiatives included funding for a Community Energy Saving Programme for work on the Abbey Estate in Thetford in conjunction with Moving Thetford Forward. A Member asked whether this</p>	

Action By

funding could be spread across rural areas. Members were informed that the money had only been available for the Abbey Ward.

Referring to the Codes for Sustainable Homes being built all to a minimum of level 3, a Member asked how much it would cost the developer to increase the level to a 4 or a 6. It was explained that there were all different ways of achieving a higher level but a balance had to be struck. Barrett Homes had been the only developer to achieve a level 6. This developer had built an affordable dwelling for less than £60k, further information could be found on the Communities and Local Government (CLG) website.

Although developers should be encouraged to provide efficiency measures for new dwellings, a Member felt that the challenge should be about tackling existing buildings as this would be where the vast majority of energy would be lost; with this in mind, thermal imaging would be a great help.

(d) Environmental Services

Presentation attached.

The Environmental Awareness Co-ordinator provided Members with an overview of where the Team was with regard to dealing with climate change.

A Member asked how the amount of residual waste per household was measured, and how the Council was going to improve on the average by encouraging those households who were inefficient. In response, Members were informed that it was measured by the number of households in the District. Breckland Council was bucking the national trend as the amount of waste was being reduced.

The Strategic Director for Services highlighted other solutions that should be taken into account such as lobbying for retailers to reduce packaging, and/or adding conditions to S106 Agreements to provide recycling banks on the larger housing estates. He pointed out that a number of authorities were already considering issuing smaller bins on new developments to reduce waste capacity.

Referring to the amount of glass content in bins, it was agreed that a compositional analysis should be carried out. A Member felt that it would be a good idea to have a town by town or village by village analysis as this would inform Ward Members where any 'black spots' were.

A question was asked whether paper towels could be recycled. In response, the Environmental Awareness Co-ordinator explained that an outlet had not yet been found that could dispose of such a product. Members were informed that a Dyson hand air-drier was currently being tested; if successful, these could be installed in Elizabeth House. These driers had been accredited as far as eliminating bacteria was concerned. It was noted that the Council spent over £3k per annum on paper towels.

Sarah
Simpson

Action By

The Environmental Awareness Co-ordinator reported that the Team was working with Mattishall on an Eco School programme led by ENCAMS (Environmental Campaigns), best known as Keep Britain Tidy. A crucial element for any school entering the programme was local help and advice. Many local authorities recognised this and had adopted Eco-Schools as a performance indicator.

Authorities which had done this had cited the programme as having a very positive effect on many of their own priorities e.g. waste minimisation and recycling targets, litter and even a reduction in anti-social behaviour. Schools worked towards gaining one of three awards – Bronze, Silver and the prestigious Green Flag award, which symbolised excellence in the field on environmental study.

The Chairman endorsed the idea as he felt that if Mattishall became an exemplar school it would be a good way to get the environmental message across at a very young age.

RESOLVED that a glass analysis report would be presented to a future meeting.

Sarah
Bruton

(e) Environmental Planning

Presentation attached.

The Principal Planning Policy Officer explained the statutory duties of the Team.

In response to a question as to what was meant by new development to provide Green infrastructure in the Policy Framework, Members were informed that it covered a raft of features such as allotments, cemeteries, ponds, trees and play areas. A Member felt that the Council's Planning Policies were its Green Agenda in a broader context.

Another issue raised was flooding. Members were of the opinion that flood risk assessments were based on rivers and not drainage. Councils did not have any control over people or developers filling in ditches and tarmacing drive-ways but these issues did and would create serious problems in the future. The Principal Planning Policy Officer was asked to look at how the tarmacing of driveways could be monitored.

David
Spencer

The Chairman felt that historical mapping should be used to establish where ditches and ponds used to be situated. A Member pointed out that the whole flood risk problem was about the right decisions not being made 20/30 years ago. He mentioned the many streams in his Ward that nobody owned. The Principal Environmental Health Officer said that as a result of the floods in Gloucestershire, a consultation had been carried out called the PITT Review. Sir Michael Pitt had been asked by Ministers to conduct an independent review of the flooding emergency that took place in June and July 2007. The Government had asked that the process should be both thorough and independent; a fair assessment of what happened and what might be done differently. The Principal

Action By

Environmental Health Officer explained that this was being led by Norfolk County Council and was linked to the Environment Agenda but was very much at the consultation stage.

Members were informed that the Environmental Planning Team had carried out its own strategic flood risk assessment. All the information had been fed into a District-wide map to determine where the flood risks were, including all flooding sources (i.e. rivers, flash-floods on clay, sewers etc). The assessment existed but it needed to be updated regularly to take account of when new events unfolded.

RESOLVED that flooding issues and the PITT Review should be added as a future work project.

Andrew
Grimley,
David
Spencer

7/09 THE WIDER AGENDA (AGENDA ITEM 9)

Presentation attached.

Copies of the Environment Strategy were circulated.

The Environmental Services Manager presented this item.

Members noted that the Strategy required updating to include recent changes in legislation.

Referring to National Indicator (NI) 185 – percentage of CO2 reduction from local authority (LA) operations – it was noted that it was a requirement for each authority to calculate its CO2 emissions, from analysis of the energy and fuel use in their buildings and transport, including where these services had been outsourced. Members were informed that Breckland Council had just received its baseline figures.

Referring to NI 186 - per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in the LA area, in respect of Members mileage being calculated, it was pointed out that not all mileage would be picked up as Members were not allowed to claim for visiting parishioners etc. The Environmental Services Manager stated that these figures could not be used as they were not auditable, and had not been included in the base line figures for 08/09.

A Member asked at what stage was the proposed wind-turbine at Elizabeth House going to be discussed. The Strategic Director for Services stated that an update from Ralph Burton would be provided at the next meeting. He explained that the intention was to collate all the information and feedback on this matter to this Panel. It was agreed that the whole document with the relevant data would be circulated to Members of the Panel before the next meeting.

Sarah
Bruton

Referring to NI 186 – road transport – the Environmental Services Manager explained that the Team was preparing an Action Plan at a Norfolk-wide level which would be reported on a Norfolk-wide basis; public transport improvements would be a big part of that Plan. The Chairman did not believe the target figure for Breckland (8.8 t CO2 – 3.4% reduction) and asked to see evidence to back this figure up.

Action By

The Strategic Director for Services said that an appropriate person/agency would be invited to a future meeting to explain how this figure had been calculated. The Environmental Services Manager agreed to send the spreadsheet to the Chairman with regard to these target figures.

NI188 had been designed to measure progress in preparedness in assessing and addressing the risks & opportunities of a changing climate. The aim of this indicator was to embed the management of climate risks and opportunities across all levels of services, plans and estates. Breckland Council had made a public commitment to identify and manage climate related risk by signing the Nottingham Agreement.

The Chairman asked why sea defences had not been included in the Strategy. The Environmental Services Manager said that although this matter had been acknowledged, it was not a significant threat for all districts. It was pointed out that there was a separate indicator for flooding and coastal erosion.

In response to a request, it was **RESOLVED** that the Environmental Team should focus on the following matter:

- Evidence and stats to be supplied for the baseline figures as mentioned above.

It was further **RESOLVED** that the Wind Turbine document and all relevant data to be supplied to Members before the next meeting.

Ralph
Burton

8/09 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT OF THE STRATEGY AND YEAR 2 ACTION PLAN (AGENDA ITEM 10)

As well as the Year 2 Action Plan, Members were provided with the details and an explanation behind the Business Plan programme that was presented to the meeting (attached for Members to view only).

The Business Plan programme was a useful visual tool to help link all of the Council's environmental projects together by connecting activities with outcomes.

The Panel was asked to bear in mind that there was more operational supporting activity across the organisation, including research and advice in addition to environmental connections from other objectives.

The Council also had partnership working commitments such as the Local Area Agreement that had indicators that needed to be responded to.

The Council also had to be mindful of the Corporate Area Assessment (CAA). Understand how it fitted into the bigger picture and how the Council was going to strive to improve its outcomes.

A Member felt that the Council, as a landlord, should address its own energy inefficiencies first by using the thermal imaging equipment to reduce its energy wastage. He pointed out that by increasing efficiency would reduce demands on supply. The Member explained

Action By

that the Nottingham declaration set the targets in terms of energy usage; therefore, Breckland Council needed to display leadership in the community by addressing climate efficiencies etc. He felt that this Authority needed some very easy quick wins to get it on its way.

A Member asked for the meaning of output on the programme. In response, the Corporate Projects Manager explained that this simply showed in what year those projects would be delivered within the Business Plan period. He asked Members to refer to the Action Plan (attached to the Agenda) which had much more detailed information with regard to projects and timescales, the Business Plan programme provided the global view.

The Strategic Director for Services felt that based on the aforementioned discussions it would be reasonable to suggest that the Officer Group furnish the Panel with suggestions, priorities and actions before the next meeting.

The following ideas were put forward:

- Wind Turbine project – should the Council continue to pursue with the one proposal
- To take advantage of the Thermal Imaging equipment to reduce the Council's own energy usage.
- To ensure all policies going through the Local Development Framework were correct (this would be considered as a 'quick win').
- Procurement of any matter – e.g. whether the Council continued to purchase paper towels from a local or regional supplier.

It was agreed that the above ideas would provide the Panel with some 'quick wins'. This would then provide Members with a better understanding before moving on to more difficult matters.

The Corporate Project Manager advised that the next stage would be to identify any outcomes.

9/09 FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS (AGENDA ITEM 11)

See Minute No. 08/09 above.

Other items that were agreed for the next meeting were as follows:

- Glass recycling
- Wind Energy (report to be sent to Members before the next meeting (printed version only))
- REV
- Energy Studies
- Outcomes
- Infrastructure at Victory Park, Attleborough
- Best practice in other authorities
- Electric vehicles trial (Serco)
- Minutes of the Officer Working Group meetings

Mark
Stokes

10/09 NEXT MEETING (AGENDA ITEM 12)

It was agreed that the Strategic Director for Services would provide Members with the dates for future meetings.

Action By

Mark
Stokes,
Julie
Britton

The meeting closed at 5.05 pm

CHAIRMAN



Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)



Purpose

The purpose of this presentation is to:

1. Give a brief overview of CAA and its origins
2. Present the basic principles of CAA methodology
3. Highlight some questions to consider that may help shape our progress



Background

- Emerges from the Local Government White Paper – Strong and Prosperous Communities

CAA is a new inspection regime which:

- is about people and places
- will give people a snapshot of life in their local area each year
- will help local services improve quality of life in their area
- will help people understand if they are getting value for money



Elements

- CAA is made up of two elements, separate but connected.

These are:

1. Organizational Assessment
Considers outcomes from individual organisations
2. Area Assessment
Considers outcomes for the area as a whole



Organisational Assessment

- Is based on key lines of enquiry assessed across four themes.

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Managing finances 2. Governing the business 3. Managing resources 	}	Use of Resources	}	Organisational Assessment Score
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Managing performance 				



Organisational Assessment

- Use of Resources

1. Managing finances
2. Governing the business
3. **Managing resources**

↓

Does the organisation:

- Understand its use of natural resources?
- Manage performance to reduce its impact on the environment?
- Manage the environmental risks it faces?



Organisational Assessment

- **Managing Performance**
- How well is the organisation delivering its **priority services, outcomes and improvements** that are important to local people?
- Does the organisation have the **leadership, capacity and capability** it needs to deliver **future improvements**?

Area Assessment

- **Looks at the wider priorities, initially at a countywide level, and asks three 'key overarching questions':**
 1. How well do local priorities express community needs and aspirations?
 2. How well are outcomes and improvements that are needed being delivered?
 3. **What are the prospects for future improvement?**

Summary

- Do we **understand** what we need to do and why we need to do it?
- Do we understand how our current activity **aligns** to and is delivering our priorities?
- Do we have the **capacity and capability** to 'fill' any gaps that are identified?
- Do we understand what **outcomes** this activity will actually deliver?



Environmental Protection

Scientific Team

Breckland Council

Environmental Protection

What does the Scientific Team do for us?

Environmental Protection Scientific Team

	Kay Wilcox Contaminated Land		Lindsay Arnold Contaminated Land
	Rosemary Moore Private Water Supplies		Zandra Waterford Air Quality Industrial Pollution

- Environmental Protection Scientific Team**
- Under the umbrella of Environmental Protection we are the team dealing with;
 - Contaminated Land
 - Private Water Supplies
 - Air Quality
 - Industrial Pollution

- Environmental Protection Scientific Team**
- **Contaminated Land**
 - We have produced Land Contamination Reports Advice for Consultants and Developers
 - Successfully bid for £29,000 and £14,000 from DEFRA to assist in the investigation of a contaminated site and used this funding to appoint agents to carry out the work
 - Produced systems for taking contaminated land into account with the new 1APP system
 - Identified & adopted a new efficient method of prioritising potentially contaminated sites to enable real progress in physically assessing sites once funds become available.
 - Working in partnership with Development Control to enable the safe development of numerous brownfield sites.
 - Contributed first-hand in a CIEH workshop to produce clean-up levels which will be used nationally by the land contamination industry

- Environmental Protection Scientific Team**
- **Private Water Supplies**
 - We have set up the Norfolk Private Water Supplies Liaison Group. This consists of staff who work with Private Water Supplies from all the Local Authorities in Norfolk, who now meet every quarter to share best practice.
 - Drafting plans on how to deal with the forthcoming new Regulations that will require a risk assessment of many more supplies
 - We test drinking water from Private Water Supplies (private bores and wells which are not mains water supplies): we have over 800 in the district
 - We test for possible contaminants of these water supplies: bacteria, nitrate, iron and manganese are the common contaminants
 - When water is found to be contaminated, we investigate, take further samples & give advice on remedial action
 - We can reduce the impact of our office work on the environment by:
 - Attaching all letters, emails & results to records on the Flare database for Environmental Health, which will reduce the need for paper files.
 - Minimise the amount of travelling (carbon footprint) by grouping together the premises to be tested by similar locations as much as possible.

Environmental Protection Scientific Team

- **Air Quality**
- We measure air quality (especially traffic pollution) across the district using continuous analysers and diffusion tubes to produce annual air quality progress reports for DEFRA and tube holders
- We continually review the district for changes that may affect air quality such as new roads, industries or larger developments and update our monitoring programme accordingly to ensure air quality remains as good as possible
- The 3 yearly in depth Updating and Screening Assessment for 2009 required by DEFRA is currently looking at a range of processes with potential for impact on air quality including –
 - Poultry farms
 - Biomass plants
 - Traffic on busy roads

Environmental Protection Scientific Team

- **Industrial Pollution**
- We issue Environmental Permits and carry out annual inspections for a range of factories and industrial installations to ensure they meet strict emission limits
- We report annually to DEFRA on inspection rates
- The scheme for controlling emissions from larger industrial processes is now risk based for all installations with an Environmental Permit
- We have produced, and are trialling, an Environmental Management Scheme for smaller operators with Environmental Permits – this will help operators look at aspects of their business that the Permit doesn't address, such as energy and water usage and waste reduction and help them reduce their environmental impact still further

Environmental Protection Scientific Team

- We also work with the other half of our team – the Nuisance Officers – to reduce the environmental consequences of noise and pollution from unpermitted sources, serving Notice where appropriate
- We work with our immediate colleagues and the Planning Department to prevent possible future problems by identifying likely issues with noise, air pollution or land contamination at the development stage
- We also work with outside agencies with a view to joint working and development of best practices
- We are often involved in Government working groups to develop guidance and changes to national legislation



The REV project...

Key Objective

To engineer growth in the local and regional economy whilst improving social and business infrastructure, *with a minimal detrimental effect on the environment*

Activity will focus on the A11 corridor between Thetford and Norwich

Project is currently in development and recent activity includes:

- Identifying and engaging with potential stakeholders including UEA, The Carbon Trust, EEDA and Renewables East
- Surveying key businesses in the target area to test initial concepts and establish business needs
- Questions cover the following areas:
 - Would businesses be interested in a free environmental assessment
 - How would businesses feel about thermal imaging photography to highlight energy loss
 - Would businesses be interested in a resource efficiency club
 - What opportunities are there for collaborative working?



Private Sector Housing

Environmental Achievements



Breckland Council

Statutory duties

- Housing Health and Safety Rating System
- Hazard of Excess Cold
- Most common hazard
- 7 Improvement Notices (08/09)
- Improves energy efficiency but also improves health and well being

Decent Homes Standard

- Decent Home must not have a Category 1 Hazard
- Must have reasonable degree of thermal comfort
- Which means:
Efficient heating and effective insulation
- Target is 75% of vulnerable households in decent homes by 2021. We have met that target already

Fuel Poverty

- Household spending 10% or more on energy costs deemed to be in fuel poverty
- Government target “as far as reasonably practicable no household to be in fuel poverty by 2018” – unlikely to be met
- High priority for Breckland PSH
- NI 187 reduction in vulnerable households in fuel poverty – LAA adopted target to reduce by 5% per annum

Grants and Loans

- Enhance grant (up to £2500 as a grant or £20,000 as a loan)
- New Equity Release product (hopefully)
- Domicile loan (up to £20,000)
- 2008/09 £33,140 “Fuel Poverty” grant assistance to vulnerable households
- One of few councils still giving assistance

Levered in funding

- British Gas Council Tax Rebate Scheme
£75 rebate – 7 in 2008/09
- Warm Front £737,863 – 595 vulnerable households – average saving of 1.2tonnes CO₂ per household per year
- Norfolk HEAT £215,350 - 514 households
- Solutions4Energy, EnergyAware and Norfolk Warmer Walls Project

Other initiatives

- Partner in Norfolk Energybus
- Help staff Energybus at Royal Norfolk Show
- Produced energy efficiency wallchart for 3 years at no cost to BDC – distributed to every household
- Organised Renewables Seminar (with Planning, Building Control and Renewables East

And....

- Green Village Initiative (Mattishall)
- Attended environment day at Mattishall Primary School
- Responded to 3 major consultations on energy efficiency from DECC
- Staff trained to give energy efficiency advice to householders, tenants and landlords

More....

- Regular articles in Voice
- Presentations given to landlord's forum on energy efficiency
- Bookmarks
- Leaflets
- Thermometers
- Bugs

Enabling

- 256 affordable homes delivered in 08/09
- All to minimum Code for Sustainable Homes level 3 at least
- Future developments will be to Code level 4 at least
- John Room House redevelopment to high level including "green roof", water recycling and enhanced energy saving

Future

- More targeted, one-to-one work with households in fuel poverty
- Have indicated expression of interest in Community Energy Saving Programme funding for work on Abbey Estate Thetford in conjunction with Moving Thetford Forward



Environmental Services

Achievements to date



National Indicators

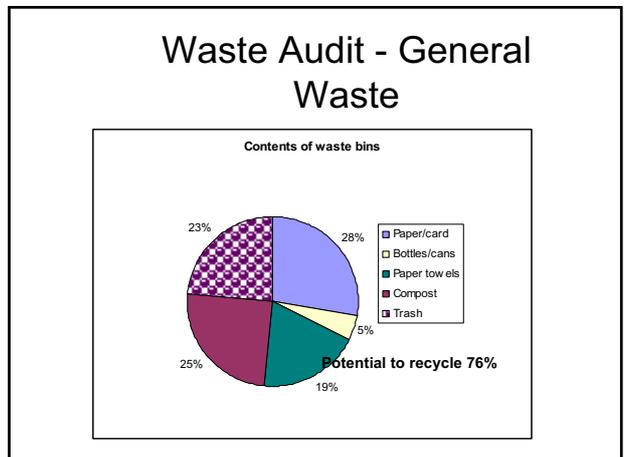
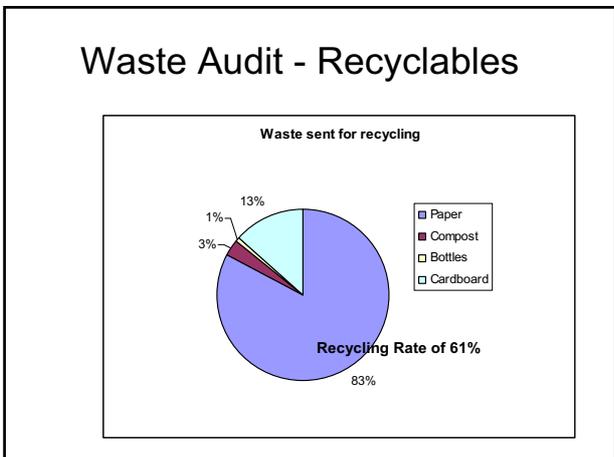
- NI185 CO2 reduction from LA operations
- NI186 Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in the LA area
- NI188 Planning to adapt to Climate Change
- NI192 % of household waste sent for recycling and composting
- NI 191 Residual household waste per household

Environmental Services Team

- Environmental Awareness team lead on co-ordination and development of strategy
- Lead team on waste management
- Assist Housing with general energy efficiency education

Estate Manager

- Energy Audit of Elizabeth House by the Carbon Trust
- Package purchased to monitor printer usage
- Food waste generated by the Committee Suite is composted
- Councils CO2 emissions baselined for 2008/09



Service Provider

- Serco have undertaken a route optimisation review
- Installation of new recycling banks
- Warning card scheme to advise residents when they contaminate their recycling bin

Bespoke Recycling solutions



Community Leader

Education

- Litter education work
- Roadshows
- Crucial Crew

Crucial Crew enabled 1000 children to learn about the dangers of litter

Community Leader Cont'd

Activities

- Community litter picks
- Litter picking equipment loan scheme
- Craft workshops

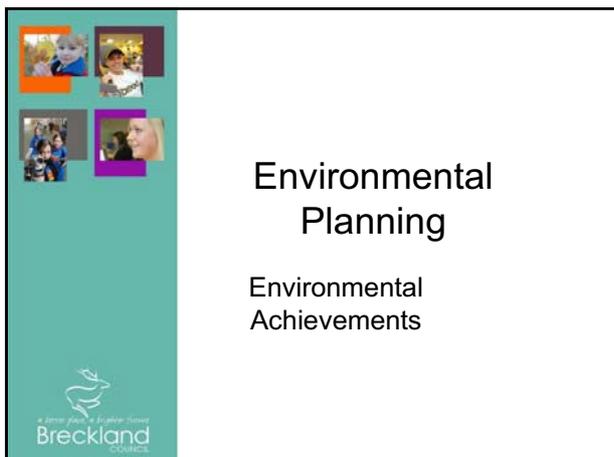
Borrowing our litter picking equipment has enabled 45 community litter picks to take place

Community Leader Cont'd

Incentivise

- Recycling credit payment to parishes
- Competitions
- Supporting properties to take part in an energy trial

Over £25,000 paid to 74 community groups for recycling



Environmental Planning

Environmental Achievements

Breckland

- ### Statutory duties
- Preparation of Local Development Framework
 - Protect trees that are under threat
 - Protecting historical hedgerows
 - Consider biodiversity and geodiversity (section 40, NERC)

- ### Local Development Framework
- Spatial Strategy to 2026
 - Accommodating growth in a sensitive environment
 - Creating Sustainable Communities
 - Delivering the Sustainable Community Strategy

- ### Policy Framework
- Growth directed to locations with services and employment and protecting rural services – reducing the need to travel
 - New development to provide Green Infrastructure
 - Support renewable and low-carbon technologies (10% on-site on schemes of >10 homes or 1,000sqm commercial)
 - Innovative design supported
 - Protection of trees / landscape / protected species
 - Flood risk

- ### Achievements 2008/9
- LDF policy framework submitted and being Examined – if found 'sound' will be the starting point for determining planning applications from early 2010
 - Green Infrastructure Study delivered with Dereham Town Council
 - Significant research (3 year project) into European Birds Species
 - Historic Environment Survey completed for Thetford

- ### Links to NIs
- NI154 & NI159 – Supply of housing sites – in delivering the growth regard must be had to NI 186 per capita CO2 emissions and NI 188 Planning to adapt to climate change.
 - NI 197 Improved local biodiversity through active management of local sites



Environment Strategy - The wider agenda



Climate Change Act 2008

Legally binding targets

- Green house gas reductions through actions in the UK and abroad of at least 80% by 2050 and reductions in CO2 emissions of at least 26% by 2020 (1990 baseline)
- A duty on local authorities to report on how they are addressing the risks associated with climate change.




Carbon Reduction Commitment

- UK's forthcoming new mandatory emissions trading scheme covering around 5,000 large businesses and public sector organisations.
- Any organisations that have mandatory half-hourly metered electricity consumption greater than 6,000 MWh per year fall under the scheme.
- You will have to buy an emissions allowance for each tonne of CO2 you emit and surrender these to the Government. You will be able to buy these allowances from the Government or on a secondary market.




Local Performance Framework

- From 2009 the new Local Performance Framework will judge how well councils are:
 - preparing for the impacts of climate change
 - reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- The assessment is based on 3 climate change PIs and the new Comprehensive Area Assessments
- A Climate Change Action Plan is evidence that the council is systematically addressing these issues.




NI185 Percentage CO2 reduction from LA operations

Requires each local authority to calculate its CO2 emissions, from analysis of the energy and fuel use in their relevant buildings and transport, including where these services have been outsourced




NI185 Percentage CO2 reduction from LA operations

Areas included:

- Elizabeth House
- ARP
- Business miles undertaken by staff and members
- Outsourced services – Serco depots & transport
- Leisure Centres

The first reporting year will record CO2 emissions from April 08 to March 09




NI185 – actions to date

Elizabeth House

- Energy and waste audits carried out
- Approval at cabinet to install turbine

Serco

- Route optimisation carried out
- Environmental enhancements to depot

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NI185 – future plans

- Undertake a staff awareness campaign to improve energy efficiency
- Implement a recycling scheme in council offices alongside an education campaign
- Seek to reduce business travel (Environmental Services to lead)
- Develop a process for ensuring all key decisions within the council are assessed on the basis of their environmental impact

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NI 186 Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in the LA area

The indicator relies on centrally produced statistics to measure end user CO2 emissions in the Local Area from:

- Business and Public Sector
- Domestic housing
- Road transport

Targets

Norfolk LAA target of 11% CO2 - 8% from national measures only and 3% from local authorities

Breckland **8.8 t CO2** – 3.4% reduction

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NI 186 Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in the LA area

Reporting

- List all actions – for audit purposes
- Norfolk Climate change group looking at an accountable way to meet these targets and monitor progress due to delays with DEFRA figures being reported
- Norfolk Climate change group working together to prepare an action plan to reduce CO2 emissions within the transport, business and housing sectors.

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NI 188 Planning to adapt to Climate Change

The aim of this indicator is to embed the management of climate risks and opportunities across all levels of services, plans and estates.

It will measure progress in preparation for assessing and addressing the risks & opportunities of a changing climate.

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NI 188 Planning to adapt to Climate Change

Levels of achievement

- Level 0 Begun process of assessing
- Level 1 Public commitment and impacts assessment
- Level 2 Comprehensive risk assessment
- Level 3 Comprehensive action plan
- Level 4 Implementation, monitoring and continuous review

Norfolk Wide Target

2008/09 - Level 1 2009/2010 – Level 2 2010/11 – Level 3

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Summary of KLOE requirements

- How well priorities are being delivered
- Capacity for delivery and clear leadership
- Council has a strategy for reducing its own resources and its impact on the environment
- Can evidence working with others across its area in developing its strategy
- Is focussing on reducing its own Co2 emissions including
- Knows where most of its carbon is being produced and is targeting these areas as a priority

Norfolk Climate Change Strategy

The strategy sets two high level goals which aim to deliver the targets in the Norfolk Local Area Agreement:

1. To cut carbon emissions by reducing energy consumption and promoting a shift to low-carbon technology (mitigation)
NI 186 – Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions
2. To improve Norfolk's resilience to the changing climate, including reduction of the socio-economic and environmental risks associated with flooding and coastal erosion (adaption)
NI 188 – Adapting to climate change

Norfolk Climate Change Strategy

The 5 key strategic priorities highlighted in the report are as follows:

- Travel and transport
- Economy and business
- Energy
- Thoughtful development
- Housing

Sustainable Community Strategy

Priorities

- Minimise the impact on climate change by all those living and working in the district
- Raise environmental awareness in local communities
- Minimise the impact of waste production and increase recycling rates
- Reduce the environmental impact of travel to all those living and working in the district

Business plan commitments

Priority - To contribute to reducing the causes of climate change

- We will significantly reduce the Council's carbon emissions by 2014
- We will implement risk management measures, reduce the impact of climate change and become a high performing council in the way we work
- We will reduce the amount of fuel consumed by the Council's vehicles

Environment Strategy

- Environment Strategy published in 2008
- Year 1 action plan completed
- Year 2 action plan developed
 - Estate manager
 - Service provider
 - Community Leader

The Strategy moving forward

- Changes to legislation / NI's
- Have robust baseline information - specific targets now required
- CAA - Clear links to commitments in the sustainable community strategy and Business plan
- Clear aims and objectives – what are our priorities?

Business Plan Programme 2008-2014													
AIM: Environment													
PRIORITY: To contribute to reducing the causes of climate change													
Activity (linked to Business Plan)	Service related project	Owner	Target March						Measures				
			2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Baseline Indicators	Performance Indicators	National Indicators	
We will significantly reduce the Council's carbon emissions by 2014	Review systems with a view to reviewing the use of vehicles and electric vehicles	Environmental Services	annual report to MCC	Annual report to MCC	Annual report to MCC	Annual report to MCC	Annual report to MCC						
	Undertake a staff awareness campaign to improve energy efficiency within Council buildings	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	LA 4.1 Environmental Services				
	Undertake a feasibility study for installing a renewable energy source for Council houses	Asset Management	feasibility report	output	output	output	output	output	LA 4.3 Environmental Services				
	Submit the Council's Heat Plan as required in the Energy Strategy and Development Plan as well as 'Waste' (Energy) and 'Planning' (Energy) sections of the Council's Energy Strategy	Environmental Services	annual report to MCC	Annual report to MCC	Annual report to MCC	Annual report to MCC	Annual report to MCC						
	Develop year 2 of the Energy Strategy Action Plan	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	LA 4.1 Environmental Services				
	Develop year 3 of the Energy Strategy Action Plan	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	LA 4.1 Environmental Services				
	Develop year 4 of the Energy Strategy Action Plan	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	LA 4.1 Environmental Services				
	Develop year 5 of the Energy Strategy Action Plan	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	LA 4.1 Environmental Services				
	Develop year 6 of the Energy Strategy Action Plan	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	LA 4.1 Environmental Services				
	Develop year 7 of the Energy Strategy Action Plan	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	LA 4.1 Environmental Services				
We will implement risk management measures, reduce the amount of waste generated and become a high performing council in the way we do the work	Develop a Home Insulation Scheme where the Council's Council Tax payer will be able to claim a 20% rebate	Strategic Housing	annual report to MCC	Annual report to MCC	Annual report to MCC	Annual report to MCC	Annual report to MCC						
	Provide British Gas Council Tax rebate scheme for householders implementing energy efficiency measures	Strategic Housing	output	output	output	output	output	output	LA 4.1 Environmental Services				
	Provide funding availability for home insulation	Strategic Housing	output	output	output	output	output	output	LA 4.1 Environmental Services				
	Work on a one to one basis with householders to help them improve energy efficiency of property	Strategic Housing	output	output	output	output	output	output	LA 4.1 Environmental Services				
	Continue 'Green Village' initiative to encourage residents to improve energy efficiency of their homes	Strategic Housing	output	output	output	output	output	output	LA 4.1 Environmental Services				
	Apply for the Energy Saving Trust Local Authority One to One support programme	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	LA 4.1 Environmental Services				
	Develop a Climate Change section on the Council website	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	LA 4.1 Environmental Services				
	Develop a process for ensuring all key decisions within the council meet their environmental impact	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	LA 4.1 Environmental Services				
	Support householders to take part in a DEA funded trial to examine the changes in energy behaviour and whether householders are provided with immediate and operational feedback of their energy use	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	LA 4.1 Environmental Services				
	Promote 'green' products through building and renovation	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	LA 4.1 Environmental Services				
We will reduce the amount of fuel consumed by the Council's vehicles	Undertake a water resource campaign to raise awareness amongst residents and the business community	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	LA 4.1 Environmental Services				
	Undertake a water resource campaign to raise awareness within Council buildings	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	LA 4.1 Environmental Services				
	Work with the LEP to set up an Environment and Green to focus on climate change	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	LA 4.1 Environmental Services				
	Energy: Undertake a residents awareness campaign - regular view articles, leaflets, newsletters	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	LA 4.1 Environmental Services				
	Schools: Provide a support mechanism for schools to work towards their Eco Schools awards	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	LA 4.1 Environmental Services				
	Undertake a Thermal Imaging project to establish potential heat loss across the district	Economic Development	output	output	output	output	output	output	LA 4.1 Environmental Services				
	Undertake an awareness campaign to highlight local upcycling needs and the business community	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	LA 4.1 Environmental Services				
	Develop a Local Energy Plan	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	LA 4.1 Environmental Services				
	Develop a Local Energy Plan	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	LA 4.1 Environmental Services				
	Develop a Local Energy Plan	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	LA 4.1 Environmental Services				

Business Plan Programme 2008-2014													
AIM: Environment													
PRIORITY: To protect and improve the local environment													
Activity (linked to Business Plan)	Service related project	Owner	Target March						Measures				
			2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Baseline Indicators	Performance Indicators	National Indicators	
We will demonstrate year on year improvements in the cleanliness of Bracknell's streets and open spaces	Support Southam community to become a dog free town	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output
	Support Southam community to become a dog free town	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output
	Support Southam community to become a dog free town	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output
We will promote ecologically friendly development in the district back as sustainable homes	Develop a Local Development Framework (LDF) to encourage developers to build eco-friendly homes	Environmental Planning	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output
	Develop a Local Development Framework (LDF) to encourage developers to build eco-friendly homes	Environmental Planning	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output
	Develop a Local Development Framework (LDF) to encourage developers to build eco-friendly homes	Environmental Planning	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output
	Develop a Local Development Framework (LDF) to encourage developers to build eco-friendly homes	Environmental Planning	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output
We will address a "very effective" rating for the way the Council takes action to reduce fly tipping and generate waste which breaks the law	Undertake a waste recycling campaign with schools in conjunction with ECW LEP action campaign	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output
	Undertake a waste recycling campaign with schools in conjunction with ECW LEP action campaign	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output
	Undertake a waste recycling campaign with schools in conjunction with ECW LEP action campaign	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output
	Undertake a waste recycling campaign with schools in conjunction with ECW LEP action campaign	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output
	Undertake a waste recycling campaign with schools in conjunction with ECW LEP action campaign	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output
We will reduce the amount of household waste that each resident of a household produces each year	Identify households who create extra waste and develop a related action plan	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output
	Identify households who create extra waste and develop a related action plan	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output
	Identify households who create extra waste and develop a related action plan	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output
	Identify households who create extra waste and develop a related action plan	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output
We will reduce the amount of waste produced and disposed of by the Council	Undertake a waste reduction campaign to Bracknell Office	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output
	Undertake a waste reduction campaign to Bracknell Office	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output

Business Plan Programme 2008-2014													
AIM: Environment													
PRIORITY: To plant and protect trees													
Activity (linked to Business Plan)	Service related project	Owner	Target March						Measures				
			2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Baseline Indicators	Performance Indicators	National Indicators	
We will reduce the amount of waste produced and disposed of by the Council	Undertake a waste reduction campaign to Bracknell Office	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output
	Undertake a waste reduction campaign to Bracknell Office	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output
	Undertake a waste reduction campaign to Bracknell Office	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output
	Undertake a waste reduction campaign to Bracknell Office	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output
	Undertake a waste reduction campaign to Bracknell Office	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output
	Undertake a waste reduction campaign to Bracknell Office	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output

Business Plan Programme 2008-2014													
AIM: Environment													
PRIORITY: To plant and protect trees													
Activity (linked to Business Plan)	Service related project	Owner	Target March						Measures				
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	Undertake a waste reduction campaign to Bracknell Office	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output
	Undertake a waste reduction campaign to Bracknell Office	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output
	Undertake a waste reduction campaign to Bracknell Office	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output
	Undertake a waste reduction campaign to Bracknell Office	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output
	Undertake a waste reduction campaign to Bracknell Office	Environmental Services	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output	output