

Date: 10/12/18	Item No.	Type of report:
Report title:	General summary of Sustainability for Scrutiny discussion 17/12/18	
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Introduction

1. This briefing paper sets out some background regarding sustainability in its widest sense, and also the role of Sustainability & Business Development (S&BD) within the Environment & Leisure Department.

Council wide Sustainability

2. There is a wide range of activity across the council that could be considered part of Sustainability for example:
 - Energy and carbon management
 - Regeneration, place and wellbeing
 - Housing renewal and asset management
 - Planning
 - Air quality improvements
 - Development of green spaces
 - Biodiversity
 - Waste management and recycling
 - Transport planning
 - Decentralised energy
3. All of these areas have current or draft policies and action plans in place, and the Sustainability team in S&DB are working on an overarching policy that summarises these collectively, and sets out some shared targets and demonstrates how Sustainability contributes to the Fairer Future Promises.
4. S&BD are also forming a sustainability group in order to coordinate the cross-departmental activity to deliver better outcomes, and also to manage action plans, reporting and consultation.
5. The council support the aims of the GLA London Environment Strategy, and submitted a detailed response to the consultation.

Energy procurement

6. The Sustainability and Energy team within S&DB manages our energy contracts and billing. We are currently in a contact with LASER (Kent County Council) which is due for renewal in 2020.
7. We are also in partnership with LEP (London Energy Partnership) to procure a new contact for post 2020. LEP represent the majority of London Boroughs, the Police, LFP, NHS and TFL and Southwark has representation on the board.

8. This current contact covers the supply of gas and electricity to the Council's operational estate, parks and street lighting, as well as to the communal elements of the Council's housing estates including supply of gas to the boiler houses and district networks.
9. We currently spend around £50.3m over a 4 year contact on gas and electricity, and through the LASER contract and on average, those sites that utilise our energy contracts are currently saving 38% on gas prices (operational), 41% on gas prices (housing), and 17% on electricity prices (housing) and 11% on electricity prices (operational) compared to individual procurements.
10. Energy costs are predicted to rise over the next four years, and we are working with LEP to maintain the excellent cost and performance we have achieved for the new contact.
11. Energy suppliers are under an obligation to offer assistance to residents at risk of fuel poverty and Southwark has published a statement of intent that allows residents to access funding under the "Energy Company Obligation Flexible Eligibility scheme" and qualify for the GLA's Warmer Homes Fund offering up to £4,000 funding for vulnerable owner occupiers. We are in partnership with Lewisham to deliver this scheme.
12. S&DB manage the contractual elements for the waste to energy supply with SELCHP (South East London Combined Heat and Power) run by Veolia. This plant produces heating and hot water that supplies approximately 2,600 properties of nearby Southwark housing estates (fed from boiler houses at Abbeyfield, Clements Road, Pedworth and Tissington).
13. The expansion of this network is being considered as part of a wider decentralised energy strategy and the regeneration of the Old Kent Road.

Carbon

14. In 2005 the Council set itself the highly ambitious target of an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050. The Council agreed the Energy and Carbon Reduction Strategy in 2011 (shown in appendices) which set out the two distinct roles the Council has in reducing CO₂ emissions in the borough and how they would achieve this:
 - to lead by example and reduce its own energy use
 - to encourage others within Southwark to reduce their use
15. The targets in that strategy have since been superseded by the latest Council Plan targets to become carbon neutral as a borough by 2050, and to reduce the emissions from our own operations by 50% by 2022, based on our existing Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) baselines (The CRC scheme is coming to an end in 2019. Consultation is still ongoing about any replacement scheme). The 2008 CO₂ baseline taken for the CRC was 41,306 tonnes per year. Against the same baseline, the figure for 2017-18 was 25961 tonnes. This is a 36.7% reduction on 2008.
16. Proposals are being developed to reduce our CO₂ further largely through capital investments to improve the efficiency of our buildings, and through the procurement of renewable energy.
17. To coincide with the ending of the CRC scheme, a refresh of the Energy and Carbon Reduction Strategy is being carried out and is due to be published in 2019.
18. Electricity supplies to our housing estates via the LASER contact are for the communal areas only: the individual properties purchase their own supplies. In terms of CO₂ reduction, improvements to the fabric of the properties and energy efficiency measures within the properties are likely to yield the highest reductions and cost savings for individuals.

Capital Investments

19. S&BD holds a capital budget of £2.2m for investment into the operational estate in order to meet our carbon reduction commitments. A number of schemes are being looked at, and will be delivered by 2022.

20. Currently £80k had been identified for improving efficiency in the new Grove Vale Library.
21. A scheme for installing efficient and controlled LED lighting in the Tooley Street office is due to commence in early 2019 at an expected cost of £1.5m. This efficiency project is projected to deliver a 75% reduction in consumption, which equates to £110K saving and a 572 tonne CO₂ reduction per year.
22. A programme has been commissioned from facilities management to look at the feasibility of similar LED lighting projects across the whole operational estate.

Other considerations

23. Work has begun on a decentralised energy strategy for the borough, and there are a number of projects looking at this and commissioning heat mapping and feasibility studies.
24. A proportion of Southwark's housing blocks are supplied by district heating systems. The current infrastructure is inefficient and requires significant investment.