

**ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
18 OCTOBER 2011**

**SCHOOLS ENERGY MANAGEMENT - BRIEFING NOTE
Executive Member for Education**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

This briefing note is to update the Overview and Scrutiny Panel on the current position regarding energy management in schools.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Environment, Culture and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel considers and notes this briefing in respect of schools energy management.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Panel requested a briefing update in respect of energy management in schools.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Energy Procurement

- 5.1 All schools have signed up to buy energy through the Council's corporate energy procurement Service Level Agreement (SLA). This includes centralised reporting and supplier management. This is a popular and successful SLA and this also benefits the Council by giving it access to key billing and energy consumption data.

Energy Performance

- 5.2 Schools are ranked for energy performance in the Schools Annual Environmental Management Report. The report benchmarks schools by energy cost, consumption and environmental impact (CO2 emissions) against each other and against national benchmarks published by the Department for Education. The report is produced annually and is posted on the public website at:

<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schools-annual-environmental-management-report-2009-to-2010.pdf>

Display Energy Certificates (DECs)

- 5.3 DECs have been provided to all schools by the Energy Manager in the Environment Culture & Communities Department (ECC). These are also posted on-line on the schools Asset Management database. These include DEC reports which set out energy saving measures in each school. Schools and governors can access and download this information over the internet.

Energy Audits

- 5.4 A third of schools, including the highest energy consumers, have been the subject of more detailed energy audits. These provide more in depth analysis of energy consumption and usage along with further recommendations for works and management measures to reduce consumption. These reports have been passed to the schools.

Carbon/Energy Use in Schools Working Group

- 5.5 This working group was established in May 2011 under the Chairmanship of the Executive Member for Education. It includes representatives from Headteachers, Governors and Local Authority officers. It has a remit to analyse and prioritise the options available in order to reduce carbon emissions and energy use in schools. The Group meets termly and has already identified a number of areas to progress.

Engagement with Schools

- 5.6 Separate presentations have been given by the Climate Control Team Manager from ECC to recent meetings of School Bursars, Chairs of Governors and Headteachers. This was to promote awareness of the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) tax and to open a dialogue for further work with schools on specific energy projects. Following this a number of schools have contacted the Council for further advice on energy saving measures.
- 5.7 In addition, the Sustainable Energy Officer from ECC has undertaken group work on energy and environmental management directly with children in primary schools to raise awareness and to get pupils involved in switching off lights, closing windows etc.

Current/Recent Energy Projects

- Automatic Meter Readers (AMRs) have been fitted to approximately two thirds of all gas and electricity meters in schools to provide more accurate and detailed data on energy consumption for use in energy management. Reports are emailed to sites, and irregular consumption patterns can now be identified and addressed.
- Solar Photovoltaics are currently being evaluated for use by schools including leasing and purchasing options.
- Sub Meters have been installed at various schools to ensure effective management of energy and apportionment of costs between buildings and key users.
- Edgbarrow and Sandhurst Schools are to be subject of works to provide Voltage Optimisation which is intended to reduce overall electricity consumption.
- Easthampstead Park, Wooden Hill and Brakenhale schools will be subject of works to install intelligent lighting controls to reduce consumption.
- Kennel Lane Special School will be provided with a thermal cover for the swimming pool to reduce heat loss.
- Meadow Vale school will be the subject of insulation works to reduce heat loss.
- Crowthorne School will be fitted with heating control valves to enable the area being heated to be reduced/zoned for out of hours use.
- Holly Spring Infant school has received a new plant room which has been built large enough to accommodate heating plant sufficient to run both the infant and junior schools

rather than operating with separate boilers in separate plant rooms. The installation of combined heating plant will be undertaken as part of the ongoing boiler replacement cycle.

- There has been a significant amount of new school building work over the last 2-3 years including Garth Hill College (13,000m²), Jennett's Park Primary (2,444m²), Holly Spring (1,000m²), Sandy Lane (732m²), and Crown Wood (1,325m²). All of these areas have been built to/brought up to current Building Regulations standards for energy efficiency.
- A Ground Source Heat Pump was installed at Edgbarrow in the new Post 16 Centre in September 2010.
- The new Garth Hill College has a biomass boiler as an alternative to the gas fired heating system.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

No advice was sought from the Borough Solicitor, the Borough Treasurer or Other Officers or sought in terms of Equalities Impact Assessment or Strategic Risk Management Issues.

7 CONSULTATION

None.

Background Papers

None

Contact for further information

David Watkins - 01344 354061

e-mail: david.watkins@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Doc ref: DW/ct/jw – 7 Sept 11