

Havant Energy Strategy Report by Sustainability Adviser

FOR DECISION

Economy, Planning and the Built Environment Cabinet Lead: Councillor Guest

Key Decision – No

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is to provide Cabinet with a draft version of an Energy Strategy for Havant and agree if it can proceed to Council for approval.

2.0 Recommendation

That Cabinet recommends to Full Council that:

1. the Energy Strategy for Havant set out in Appendix 1 to this report be approved;
2. the next steps highlighted in section 4.4 of the report be agreed.

3.0 Summary

- 3.1 The council has in the past worked with partners to lessen the impact of rising energy costs, reduce fuel poverty and reduce our own energy use internally. We have also looked at the feasibility of a district energy system for the Havant Plaza. However, this work has been reactive with no long-term vision.
- 3.2 The Energy Strategy provides a framework to deliver energy projects across Havant Borough. It is concise and clearly and positively outlines the council's direction of travel until 2020. The Energy Strategy is designed to deliver the environmental sustainability action set out in the Council's Corporate Strategy and supports delivery against the other four operational priorities.
- 3.3 A draft energy profile infographic has been produced to set out the current energy position in Havant (appendix 2)

4.0 Subject of Report

- 4.1 There are a number of timely opportunities, which have triggered the development of an Energy Strategy:

- Responding to the Environmental Sustainability priority within the Corporate Strategy.
- Adding value to the Prosperity Havant Initiative by enabling the Council to lever in funding and investment into the borough.
- Changes in planning policy such as the National Planning Policy Framework and the emerging PUSH Spatial Strategy Review
- Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Strategic Economic Plan
- The PUSH Solent Energy Strategy
- The Governments new statutory target to raise as many fuel poor homes in England as is reasonably practicable to Band C by 2030¹. Havant has some of the highest levels of fuel poverty in Hampshire (third highest district in Hampshire)
- Building on the delivery of the Cosy Havant Project which has shown that sufficient need exists that the council should be intervening in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects to improve the lives of its residents. This project will run until September 2016

4.2 The strategy has been developed through input from services across the council; Economy and Planning, Community and Marketing. Business plans across the council have been reviewed, current regional and government priorities identified and input from community stakeholders. The strategy outlines three energy principles.

1. Improving energy efficiency
2. Increasing low carbon energy generation
3. Demonstrating council leadership

4.3 Within each principle there are clear objectives, next steps to demonstrate how this work will progress initially and what success will look like. An implementation plan will be developed following the strategy being agreed.

4.4 The programme for the continued development and delivery of the Energy Strategy is provided below:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Proposed timeline</u>
Await decision on DECC's Heat Fund	February 2016
Publication of the agreed Energy Strategy	31 st March 2016
Develop an implementation plan	31 st March 2016
Deliver Energy Strategy Implementation Plan	April 2016 onwards

4.5 The Energy Strategy includes exploring opportunities for heat networks. The

¹ Cutting the cost of keeping warm – a fuel poverty strategy for England, March 2015

Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has made funding available this financial year to local authorities. The funding can be used to investigate the feasibility of heat networks. Through the development of the Energy Strategy and the Prosperity Havant Initiative, the Council was in a good position to apply to the Heat Fund in November 2015 to further its aims to support decentralised heat networks across the borough. The Council is currently waiting for a decision from DECC on the success of our application.

5.0 Implications

5.1 Resources

This will be delivered by the Sustainability Adviser (2 days a week). Support is available from the Environmental Sustainability Lead for East Hampshire District Council. Time spent on project delivery will need to be built into future business cases and funding applications.

£5000 will be required for Energy Strategy publication and communication and seed money for funding bid development, this will be built into the budget for 2016/17

Further resource will be required on a Business Case basis. The strategy will aim to facilitate activity and attract funding from other sources such as the Solent LEP, Government and European Union. The ambition is for this strategy to be cost neutral to the council. A funding plan will be developed to align funding opportunities with the implementation plan.

5.2 Legal:

Some of the proposed activities described in the Energy Strategy will need further detailed examination, particularly during the development of project proposals. This will be outlined within the implementation plan once developed.

5.3 Strategy:

The Energy Strategy is designed to directly reflect the aspirations of the Council's Corporate Strategy. The strategy specifically delivers the environmental sustainability priority and supports delivery against the other four operational priorities. This is reflected within the content of the strategy.

This work will support and maximise any opportunities that arise from our work with Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH), Future Solent and Solent LEP to deliver the Energy Strategy for the Solent region, enabling Havant to work more effectively with its partners and establish its own energy priorities within the sub-region.

5.4 Risks:

The Council is committed to delivering the Energy Strategy with partners. There are risks that insufficient resources will be available to deliver the strategy. This risk will be minimised through the development of the implementation plan and supporting decision gateway process and funding plan. Portsmouth City Council (PCC) has been identified as a key stakeholder who own 374 hectares of land in Havant Borough including social housing stock. Partnership working is crucial to achieve our vision. This risk will be minimised with Political support from PCC

and continued collaboration with officers who are currently working on their own emerging energy strategy.

5.5 Communications:

Communicating both internally and externally is critical to the success of Energy Strategy for Havant Borough. Outcomes will be achieved through a tailored and targeted approach using Customer Insight and the emerging Customer Relationship Management tool. Marketing will also be essential to success and a marketing plan will be developed.

5.6 For the Community:

By improving energy efficiency and promoting renewable energy across Havant, this will improve energy security and the local economy. It will prevent future fuel poverty and other health related issues and produce a better housing stock within Havant. This builds in more resilience into our communities. A good example is the Council's delivery of Cosy Havant, which provides an incentivised energy efficiency scheme; this will run until September 2016.

5.7 The Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has been completed and concluded the following:

The Energy Strategy has positive impacts on a number of the areas highlighted within the IIA; in particular this will have a positive impact on the sustainability issues on reducing energy use within the borough and improving the Health & Wellbeing of the community by reducing fuel poverty. There are no negative impacts identified. How these positive impacts can be enhanced will be explored through the development of an implementation plan.

Agreed and signed off by:

Legal Services: Sara Bryan 7th December 2015

Executive Head of Governance & Logistics: Jane Eaton 4th December 2015

Relevant Executive Director: Gill Kneller 4th December 2015

Cabinet Lead: Cllr Guest 7th December 2015

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