



# DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

<b>REPORT REFERENCE NO.</b>	<b>DSFRA/09/22</b>
<b>MEETING</b>	<b>DEVON &amp; SOMERSET FIRE &amp; RESCUE AUTHORITY (ORDINARY MEETING)</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>14 JULY 2009</b>
<b>SUBJECT OF REPORT</b>	<b>CARBON MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	<b>HEAD OF PHYSICAL ASSETS (AS SERVICE CARBON MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME SPONSOR)</b>
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<i>That the success of the Service in its application to join the Carbon Trust's 2009 Management Programme be noted.</i>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<p>All SW FRSs have been successful in applying to take part in the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme for 2009.</p> <p>This paper explains the background to the Carbon Management Programme, the benefits to the FRA in taking part on the programme, the risks and the next steps.</p>
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	At present the resource implications associated with this initiative will be contained from within existing resources. Should this position change this will be subject to further reports to the Authority as required.
<b>EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b>	An initial assessment has revealed that there are no equality issues arising from this report.
<b>APPENDICES</b>	Nil.
<b>LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	Reports to previous meetings of the South West Regional Management Board.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Climate change presents a wide range of challenges for the Fire and Rescue Service. These challenges can be divided into mitigation and adaptation activities. The scope of these challenges cut across all aspects of the Fire and Rescue Service.

## **2. COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENTS**

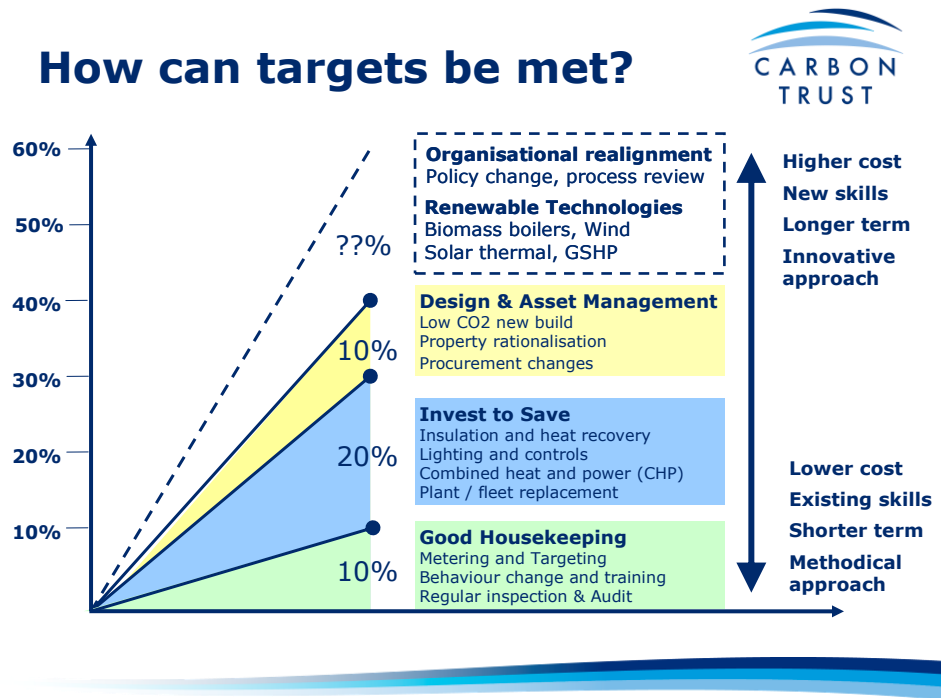
- 2.1 The Authority will have to report their performance against the following National Indicators as part of Comprehensive Area Assessment:
- NI185 is reducing carbon emissions of the Local Authority.
  - NI 186 is reducing carbon emissions from the whole community in the Local Strategic Partnership area;
  - NI 188 is adaptation to Climate Change (responding to a changing climate)
- 2.2 The Audit Commission has yet to finalise the Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE) in relation to NI 188. It has, however, indicated that adapting to climate change would form part of the “Managing Resources” theme of the “Use of Resources” assessment, with a headline KLOE of:
- “How well does the organisation manage its natural resources, physical assets, and people to meet current and future needs and deliver value for money?”
- 2.3 This KLOE includes the following key question:
- “3.1 - Is the organisation making effective use of natural resources?”
- 2.4 A key issue is which of the indicators have been adopted by the relevant Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) under their Local Area Agreement (LAA). Any LSPs will need to know fire and rescue authority performance for those indicators. For example in Dorset there are 3 LAA agreements in place - Dorset County, Poole and Bournemouth. If all three of these have adopted the national indicators relating to climate change then the Dorset Fire and Rescue Authority will need to provide that information to all the LSPs.
- 2.5 All of the local strategic partnerships within this Authority’s area have included NI 186 (reducing carbon emissions for the whole community) in their local area agreements. Some have also adopted NI188 and NI185.

## **3. CARBON TRUST’ CARBON MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME**

- 3.1 All six fire and rescue services in the South West have successfully applied as a region to take part in the Carbon Trust prestigious Carbon Management Programme for 2009.
- 3.2 The Carbon Management Programme was launched in 2003 and is designed to deliver improved energy management of vehicle fleets and accommodation. The programme is supported by a bespoke toolkit – a web-based manual that gives detailed guidance on the programme’s process and technical advice. It also facilitates the sharing of best practice between participants, enabling them to learn from each other’s experience, thereby optimising results. The Carbon Trust provides specialist support to the authorities over a 10 month period to help each of them to develop a Carbon Management Action Plan, which sets out the actions that the authority will take to achieve an agreed target for reduction in carbon emissions over the following four years.

3.3 Most local authorities that have taken part in the programme have reduced their carbon emissions and hence energy bills by 30% by a combination of quick wins and investment in long term measures. Figure 1 shows how reductions have been made by local authorities that have taken part in the Carbon Management Programme in the past.

**Figure 1**



3.4 The researching, baselining, prioritising projects, drafting and agreeing our Carbon Management Plan needs to be completed by the end of March 2010. A range of loans, grants and other support is then available from the Carbon Trust to help the authority deliver its plan but continuing support is dependent on progress in achieving the targets for CO<sub>2</sub> reductions set out in the agreed plan.

3.5 This is the seventh phase of the programme, which in the past as focused mainly on the larger local authorities. Only three fire and rescue authorities (London, Manchester and Merseyside) have taken part in the programme in the past. South West fire and rescue authorities are the first to have successfully applied as a region to join the programme: we would have been too small in terms of energy use to have been accepted individually.

3.6 Most fire and rescue services will face similar issues and challenges in developing their Carbon Management Plans. To avoid re-inventing wheels, the South West Regional Management Board has agreed to fund a regional climate change project leader post who will work closely each FRS and the Carbon Trust. The aim is to produce a series of regional templates and frameworks that each FRS can tailor to its own circumstances.

3.7 The collaborative programme is being overseen by a regional programme board chaired by CFO Darran Gunter. Each fire and rescue service is represented on the programme board. Progress monitoring reports will be shared with each Service and communicated onwards as appropriate.

#### **4. BENEFITS TO THE DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**

4.1 The potential benefits to the Devon & Somerset of the collaborative approach and taking part in the Carbon Management Programme include:-

- Reduced energy bills;
- Advice and support from the Carbon Trust and the regional project leader in developing our Carbon Management Plan;
- Sharing of best practice with other south west fire and rescue services;
- Compliance with the Climate Change Act;
- Opportunities for financial support to implement our Carbon Management Plan, once approved by the Carbon Trust. The Carbon Management Plan is likely to include contributions to carbon reduction through effective and appropriate fire fighting techniques and tactics, as well measures to reduce the energy consumption of buildings etc.; and
- Improved CAA score.

#### **5. NEXT STEPS**

5.1 Next steps include:

- creation of an internal team to take forward the programme (this has already commenced with myself as Programme Sponsor);
- raising awareness of the programme within the FRS;
- agreeing a project plan with the carbon Trust by mid-July;
- establishing a baseline for energy and fuel use;
- identifying and costing potential projects, including quick wins. This will be done using a tool developed by the Carbon Trust;
- agreeing the Service Carbon Management Plan with both the Authority and the Carbon Trust by the end of March 2010; and
- securing funding and implementation of the Plan over the next four years.

5.2 The Authority, at its meeting on 6 May 2009, appointed a Member Climate Change Champion (Minute DSFRA/99 refers) and this features as one of the appointments to be reconsidered – along with appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies – at the Authority's Annual Meeting in 2009

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