

Local Agreement for Wiltshire - Progress by Ambition

Protecting the environment

- **Reduce Wiltshire's carbon footprint**

A number of initiatives are underway to reduce the carbon footprint from public sector business and households in Wiltshire, with a particular focus on reducing fuel poverty. Good progress is being made against this objective as set out below.

- **Prepare Wiltshire for the consequences of unavoidable climate change**

The Wiltshire Environmental Alliance has discussed steps needed to ensure that we develop a climate change adaptation strategy for Wiltshire and reach our LAA target against NI188. WEA has joined forces with the Local Resilience Forum to ensure that current and future weather-related risks are addressed.

South West RIEP has approved funding for a graduate to undertake a detailed climate change impacts profile for several authorities in the south west, including Wiltshire. This will be a key step in developing an adaptation strategy by providing an evidence base to support our work on NI188 and a way to engage all relevant partners on the issue of vulnerability.

- **Protect Wiltshire's natural environment and biodiversity**

Wiltshire Council is currently recruiting an officer to undertake the survey, monitoring, advisory and liaison work necessary to meet the National Indicator (NI) 197 second and third year targets of 5 % per annum increases in the number of local sites that are in positive management.

Continued support of the Wiltshire Biodiversity Partnership (Wiltshire Council Chairs the Partnership) and implementation of the Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan.

Continued protection of wildlife (habitats and species) in Wiltshire through the work of the Council's ecology service; consideration of the Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan and South West Nature Map in the land-use planning system; and provision of high quality up to date biodiversity information from and to the Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Record Centre.

The Council represents the issue of biodiversity on the Wiltshire Environmental Alliance, a thematic delivery partnership reporting to the Wiltshire Strategic Partnership.

- **Improve the reduction, re-use and recycling of household waste**

www.recycleforwiltshire.com and www.wiltshirewildlife.org as well as YouTube.

The WRAP subsidised home composting scheme came to an end in September 09. Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and Wiltshire Council have shifted efforts to promoting the food waste digesters and hot composters (Green Cone / Green Johanna) instead. This will also link in with a regional Love Food Hate Waste campaign to be run in Q3.

At the end of July, Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust staff carried out an intensive educational and awareness raising campaign at the West Wiltshire Show.

Recycling Update

The new Warminster household recycling centre (HRC) was opened at the end of Q2.

The first two quarters tend to be the strongest in the year while the last two quarters tend to see lower levels of performance. Q1 and Q2 are at a similar performance level to the same periods last year. Therefore, while total household waste is slightly lower than previously, people are not increasing their recycling efforts.

The effectiveness of behavioural change campaigns relies on repeated reminders to people to take action. We will, therefore, monitor the situation closely to ensure that we do not face decreased performance on this priority target.

An Environmental Select Committee Task Group has begun to consider how recycling services across Wiltshire should be brought into harmonisation.

The batteries recycling compliance scheme members have been finalised. Our contractor, Hills, will now select an appropriate scheme for collection of batteries from our household recycling centres.

Compared to figures for the same quarters last year, total household waste is slightly lower, while recycling rates are roughly the same.

NB These figures are not final, and may be subject to slight variation.

Waste Minimisation Update

The real nappies campaign has stepped up its promotional activities. A dvd has been produced and 1,000 distributed. The video is also viewable online on www.recycleforwiltshire.com and www.wiltshirewildlife.org as well as YouTube.

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The effectiveness of behavioural change campaigns relies on repeated reminders to people to take action and since the forming of the unitary authority, Wiltshire's capacity to carry out educational and behavioural change work on waste minimisation and recycling has decreased. We will, therefore, monitor the situation closely to ensure that we do not face decreased performance on this priority target.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has begun to consider how recycling services across Wiltshire should be brought into harmonisation.

- **Use planning policies to make new developments environmentally friendly and better manage the use of land and space**

A number of opportunities exist to increase the use of sustainable energy measures, principally low carbon, renewable energy and renewable heat technologies, in new development and delivered through planning Development Control decisions. New policies will be developed in the emerging Wiltshire Council Core Strategy being progressed during 2009/10 but not programmed for adoption until mid 2011. Policy within the Core Strategy may need to be supplemented with an associated Planning Document, to be either a Development Planning Document (DPD) or Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The policy approach will be designed to supplement Building Regulations and will be based on a robust locally specific evidence base as described below.

Consultants will be appointed in October 2009 to undertake a Planning Policy Statement 1 Supplement on Planning and Climate Change Evidence Base Study. This work will address four key tasks which are:

1. Background information about current and future energy use.
2. The capacity and potential for sustainable energy generation in Wiltshire .
3. Recommendations and options for policies and targets relating to sustainable energy that meet the requirements set out by the PPS 1 Supplement on Planning and Climate Change
4. Further policy recommendations, analysis and support for the targets/ policies.

The work is being undertaken in consultation with South West Council's and RegenSW who are carrying out a similar regionally focussed study. The Wiltshire work will be fully integrated into the wider study and will be focused at a local Wiltshire level. The work will report in March 2010.

In the interim period, prior to the adoption of the Core Strategy in 2011, it is unclear if the Draft South West Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) can be used to provide a policy framework for delivering renewable heat and energy through the Development Control system. The legal status of the RSS is currently in doubt, and it may not be practicable to use it in Development Control decisions. It is hoped that training can however still be arranged for Development Control to ensure any opportunities for the implementation of renewable heat and energy are maximised.

NI	NI Name	2007/08 Full Year	2008/09 Full Year	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Q2	On Target	2010/11 Target	Comment (if 'on target' is N) (Note: trend is 3 year unless only 1 year's previous data available)
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LAA designated targets

NI 188	Planning to Adapt to Climate Change.	-	NI Level 0	risk based assessment and prioritised action NI level 1/2	-	Y	Action plan and monitoring in place NI level 3/4	Progress during Q1 & 2: * joint presentation to Wiltshire Environmental Alliance on development of an adaptation strategy with the Local Resilience Forum. * We have secured SWRIEP funding for a dedicated 3 month secondment to develop a Local Climate Impacts Profile for Wiltshire starting in December, to feed into our adaptation strategy. * We are currently reviewing Wiltshire plans and strategies against climate related risks and will be attending all DMTs to take this work forward.
NI 191	Residual household waste per household.	-	663.6kg	690.19kg	167.47kg		663.11kg	<u>Below</u> target performance is good, because we are measuring non-recycled waste per household. Compared to figures for the same quarters last year, total household waste is slightly lower, while recycling rates are roughly the same.
NI 197	Improved Local Biodiversity – proportion of Local Sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented.	39.50%	43.20%	47.50%	43%		52.50%	Wiltshire Council is currently recruiting an officer to undertake the survey, monitoring, advisory and liaison work necessary to meet the National Indicator (NI) 197 second and third year targets of 5 % per annum increases in the number of local sites that are in positive management. Continued support of the Wiltshire Biodiversity Partnership (Wiltshire Council Chairs the Partnership) and implementation of the Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan. Continued protection of wildlife (habitats and species) in Wiltshire through the work of the Council's ecology service; consideration of the Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan and South West Nature Map in the land-use planning system; and provision of high quality up to date biodiversity information from and to the Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Record Centre. The Council represents the issue of biodiversity on the Wiltshire Environmental Alliance, a thematic delivery partnership reporting to the Wiltshire Strategic Partnership

LAA local targets

NI 186	Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in the LA area.	-	8		-	-		Data produced by Defra on annual basis only. 2007 data published Sept 2009 and previous year's data revised. South West average is 7.3 tonnes per capita
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Other LAW indicators

NI 167	Congestion - average journey time per mile during the morning peak.				-	-		This indicator is calculated by DfT - expected to be available November 2009
NI 185	CO2 reduction from local authority operations.		61,986		-	-		Result for 2008-09 is 59,117 tonnes CO2 (weather-corrected). Information collected annually only; 2008-09 is baseline year. This is the final figure validated by Defra in Oct 2009.
NI 194	Air quality – % reduction in NOx and primary PM10 emissions through local authority's estate and operations.	-	Baseline figures NOx 92923 PM10 2909		-	-		Weather-corrected NOx and PM10 emissions for 2008-09 are reported annually. This was a new indicator, so we can't calculate a % reduction figure for 08/09. These figures will be used as the baseline. These are the final figures validated by Defra in Oct 2009, which are different to those previously submitted.